

2085th meeting

Thursday, 4 August 1977, at 3.40 p.m.

President: Mr. L. ŠMÍD (Czechoslovakia)

E/SR.2085

AGENDA ITEM 23

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (*concluded*)

1. Mr. ECHEVARRÍA (Cuba) said that, as he had had to attend another meeting, he had been absent from the 2084th meeting, when resolution 2100 (LXIII) concerning assistance to the Palestinian people had been adopted, but he would of course have voted in favour of that resolution if he had been present.

AGENDA ITEM 3

General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments (*concluded*) (E/L.1787/Rev.1)

2. Mr. da MOTA (Portugal), introducing the revised draft resolution on consumer protection (E/L.1787/Rev.1), said that, while he was happy to submit a text which could gain unanimous support, he regretted that the draft resolution fell far short of the original intentions of its sponsors, in both quantity and quality. He deplored the fact that the Council was adopting the habit of postponing consideration

of questions or referring them to other bodies instead of taking a decision itself at the end of a discussion. That practice ran counter to the desire to strengthen the Council's role. Yet in the not so distant past the Council had been a much respected body in which great statesmen such as Pierre Mendès-France and Adlai Stevenson had represented their countries.

3. Draft resolution E/L.1787/Rev.1 was the result of a compromise on several points, following intensive consultations. It had seemed that the question of consumer protection, which concerned the whole world, had to be the subject of a consensus. The survey requested of the Secretary-General in operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, should not entail any extra expenditure. The content of that paragraph had been considerably amended in comparison with the original draft. Moreover, two preambular paragraphs had been deleted.

4. Because the scope of the text had been reduced, Mexico and Venezuela had considered that they could no longer be numbered among the sponsors, but the Netherlands and Zaire had decided to join the sponsors.

5. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would consider that the Council wished to adopt draft resolution E/L.1787/Rev.1 without a vote.

Draft resolution E/L.1787/Rev.1 was adopted [resolution 2111 (LXIII)].

6. Mr. ASTAFYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, although his delegation had not opposed the adoption of the resolution without a vote, it was not sure that the Council was the appropriate body to deal with such a question. Moreover, there were so many more urgent problems that it might be asked why a text which had not been made available to delegations 24 hours in advance and which did not exist in all the working languages should be adopted on the final day of the session, without respect for the basic rules of procedure, as though it were a question of concern to peace and security.

7. Mr. NAKAMURA (Japan) said that he had participated in the consensus on the resolution, which was based on the idea that consumer protection was of great concern to the international community. His delegation was not convinced, however, of the need to take action on that question, at least not before a number of questions had been considered. At all events, measures for consumer protection should not lead to protectionism in international trade.

8. Count YORK (Federal Republic of Germany) said that he agreed with the representative of the Soviet Union with respect to the circumstances in which the text just adopted had been submitted to the Council. If there had been a vote, his delegation would have had to abstain, since his Government had not had time to study the text and take a position. He stressed that, far from impairing its authority, the Council would strengthen its authority by taking time to give proposals a thorough study. The issue under consideration was complex; the concept of consumer protection must not serve as a pretext for placing obstacles in the way of international trade.

9. Mr. MARTÍNEZ (Argentina) considered that the resolution which had just been adopted was far too concerned with consumer protection in developing countries. The problem was of even greater concern to consumers in developed countries, who were the victims of protectionism and the excessive prices that resulted from it. Consequently, combating protectionism helped to protect consumers in the developed countries, as well as to provide access to stable markets for exports from the developing countries.

10. Mr. QADRUD-DIN (Pakistan) agreed with the comments of the representative of Argentina and stressed the importance of eliminating obstacles to the exports of developing countries.

AGENDA ITEM 10

Development in human settlements and follow-up to Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements

REPORT OF THE AD HOC SESSIONAL COMMITTEE (E/6049)

11. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the report of the *Ad Hoc* Sessional Committee (E/6049). In paragraph 8 of its report, the Committee recommended to the Council the adoption of two draft decisions, which it had adopted without a vote. In view of that, he thought that the Council might wish to do the same.

Draft decision A: Institutional arrangements for international co-operation in the field of human settlement
The draft decision was adopted [decision 262 (LXIII)].

Draft decision B: Report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on activities of the United Nations system in human settlements
The draft decision was adopted [decision 263 (LXIII)].

12. Mr. KINSMAN (Canada) considered that the Council, in handing over to the General Assembly the responsibility for taking a decision on that question, had shown itself incapable of fulfilling the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly. He hoped, however, that other delegations would abandon their original position, as Sweden and Canada had done, so that it would be possible to reach a compromise solution at the thirty-second session of the General Assembly. The objections of some delegations were not unfounded and would be taken into consideration, but, 18 months after the holding, at Vancouver, of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, concern for good management and effectiveness on the part of the United Nations demanded that a compromise solution should be found.

13. Mr. ASTAFYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) pointed out that at the end of the Russian text of draft decision A, the Russian word used to translate the word "text" in the original English was inappropriate and must be replaced.

14. The PRESIDENT replied that the Secretariat would have the correction made.

AGENDA ITEM 12

International co-operation on the environment

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE (E/6030)

15. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the report of the Economic Committee on agenda item 12 (E/6030), in paragraph 5 of which the Economic Committee recommended to the Council the adoption of a draft resolution and a draft decision. As the Committee had adopted those drafts without a vote, he suggested that the Council might do the same.

Draft resolution: Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its fifth session

The draft resolution was adopted [resolution 2112 (LXIII)].

Draft decision: Specific measures to meet the need for a decent living environment for the most vulnerable groups of society

The draft decision was adopted [decision 264 (LXIII)].

AGENDA ITEM 13

Industrial development co-operation

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE (E/6046)

16. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the report of the Economic Committee on agenda item 13 (E/6046). In paragraph 8 of its report, the Committee recommended to the Council the adoption of a draft resolution and a draft decision, both of which had been adopted by the Committee without a vote. He suggested that the Council might do likewise.

Draft resolution: Convening of the conference of plenipotentiaries on the constitution of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization as a specialized agency

The draft resolution was adopted [resolution 2113 (LXIII)].

Draft decision: Report of the Industrial Development Board and report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization

The draft decision was adopted [decision 265 (LXIII)].

AGENDA ITEM 15

United Nations Special Fund

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE (E/6027)

17. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the report of the Economic Committee on agenda item 15

(E/6027), in paragraph 4 of which the Committee recommended to the Council the adoption of a draft decision. As the Committee had adopted the draft decision without a vote, he suggested that the Council should do the same.

Draft decision: Report of the Board of Governors of the United Nations Special Fund

The draft decision was adopted [decision 266 (LXIII)].

AGENDA ITEM 18

Food problems

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE (E/6045)

18. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the report of the Economic Committee on agenda item 18 (E/6045), in paragraph 8 of which the Committee recommended to the Council the adoption of a draft resolution and three draft decisions. He drew attention to an error in the English text of the draft resolution: in operative paragraph 4, the word "urges" should be replaced by the word "urge". Since the four drafts had been adopted by the Committee without a vote, he suggested that the Council might take the same course.

Draft resolution: Manila Communiqué of the World Food Council: A Programme of Action to Eradicate Hunger and Malnutrition

The draft resolution was adopted [resolution 2114 (LXIII)].

Draft decision I: Progress achieved in dealing with food problems

The draft decision was adopted [decision 267 (LXIII)].

Draft decision II: Transmittal of the second annual report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes and draft resolution on the target for World Food Programme pledges for the period 1979-1980

The draft decision was adopted [decision 268 (LXIII)].

Draft decision III: Report of the Secretary-General on co-operation between the African Inter-Ministerial Committee for Food and relevant United Nations organizations and specialized agencies

The draft decision was adopted [decision 269 (LXIII)].

AGENDA ITEM 16

Natural resources

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE (E/6043)

19. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the report of the Economic Committee on agenda item 16 (E/6043).

20. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) said that there were two corrections to be made in draft resolution VII, which appeared in paragraph 20 of the report under consideration. In the English text of operative paragraph 7, the word “and” should be inserted between the word “levels” and the words “to decide”. In subparagraph (a) (i) of operative paragraph 9 the word “preparation” should be replaced by the word “promotion”.

21. He pointed out that draft resolutions I and VII each included a provision which had the same objective, namely, the convening of the Committee on Natural Resources in special session, the reason being that draft resolution I had been adopted on the recommendation of the Committee on Natural Resources, whereas draft resolution VII had been drawn up in the Economic Committee. That might cause difficulties when it came to referring to the decision under which the special session was to be held. He therefore suggested that operative paragraph 7 of draft resolution VII should be amended to read: “Invites the Committee on Natural Resources at its special session convened in accordance with Council resolution ... (LXIII) to review plans and programmes prepared at the national and regional levels and to decide on any further steps necessary to secure the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan”. The number of the resolution to be cited would be the one allotted to draft resolution I after its adoption.

22. Mr. ROSSI (Italy) emphasized the importance of problems of natural resources and energy resources, in particular, and recalled that the Secretary-General, in his statement at the opening meeting of the Council's present session, had outlined objectives and formulated proposals concerning international co-operation in the energy field which warranted the closest attention.

23. His delegation was aware of the grave implications of those problems and knew that they called for serious thought and careful attention. That was why, when its representative had spoken during the discussion of that agenda item, at the 800th meeting of the Economic Committee, he had expressed its agreement to the study of that question being deferred to the resumed thirty-first session and the thirty-second session of the General Assembly. His country considered, however, that the Council was one of the main instruments of international co-operation and the appropriate centre for initiatives and co-ordination in all sectors of development. Accordingly, it should always be in a position to make a decisive contribution to the solution of the problems which arose, instead of confining itself to transmitting them to other bodies, as it did all too often.

24. His country regretted that, in the matter under consideration, the Council had seen fit to ignore the very existence of the problem, whereas that same problem was the central preoccupation of the entire international community, and that it had not deemed it desirable or necessary to take into account, if only in the form of a procedural decision, some interesting elements which had emerged from the discussion and, in particular, stimulating ideas and proposals put forward by the Secretary-General on the subject of international co-operation in the energy field.

25. His delegation hoped that the text of its statement, the aim of which was to draw attention to the importance of the Secretary-General's statement, would appear in the Council's report.

26. The PRESIDENT pointed out that in paragraph 20 of the report under consideration, the Economic Committee recommended to the Council the adoption of seven draft resolutions and a draft decision. Draft resolution I had been adopted by the Committee by 22 votes to none, with 5 abstentions. He invited the Council to vote on that draft resolution.

Draft resolution I: Follow-up to the Mar del Plata Action Plan on integrated water resources development and management adopted by the United Nations Water Conference

The draft resolution was adopted by 41 votes to none, with 5 abstentions [resolution 2115 (LXIII)].

27. The PRESIDENT said that draft resolutions II to V had been adopted by the Committee without a vote, and if there were no objections, he would take it that the Council also wished to adopt them without a vote.

Draft resolution II: Co-ordination of programmes within the United Nations system in the field of natural resources development

The draft resolution was adopted [resolution 2116 (LXIII)].

Draft resolution III: Evaluation of prospects for the development of chromium ores

The draft resolution was adopted [resolution 2117 (LXIII)].

Draft resolution IV: Study, development and use of coal resources

The draft resolution was adopted [resolution 2118 (LXIII)].

Draft resolution V: New and renewable energy resources

The draft resolution was adopted [resolution 2119 (LXIII)].

28. The PRESIDENT said that draft resolution VI had been adopted by the Committee by 24 votes to 1, with 11 abstentions. He invited the Council to vote on the draft resolution.

Draft resolution VI: Permanent sovereignty over natural resources

The draft resolution was adopted by 38 votes to 1, with 11 abstentions [resolution 2120 (LXIII)].

29. The PRESIDENT said that draft resolution VII had been adopted by the Economic Committee by 33 votes to none, with 3 abstentions. If there were no objections, he would take it that the Council agreed to the amendments proposed orally by the Secretary of the Council.

Draft resolution VII: Report of the United Nations Water Conference

The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted by 43 votes to none, with 4 abstentions [resolution 2121 (LXIII)].

30. The PRESIDENT said that, in the absence of any objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the draft decision without a vote.

Draft decision: Report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its fifth session

The draft decision was adopted [decision 270 (LXIII)].

31. Mr. LOAIZA-MARIACA (Bolivia) said that his delegation reaffirmed its support for the report of the Economic Committee on agenda item 16 and stressed the importance of the Mar del Plata Action Plan adopted by the United Nations Water Conference. It wished, however, to point out that the recommendation on regional co-operation in paragraph 86 (g) of the Mar del Plata Action Plan⁵³ had been the subject of serious reservations on its part and on the part of other delegations.

32. Mr. VALLE (Brazil) said that his delegation had supported draft resolution VII in the Economic Committee and in the Council, but his country, like several other developing countries, had voted against paragraph 86 (g) of the Mar del Plata Action Plan.

33. Mr. FARHANG (Afghanistan) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the resolution just adopted, as it had in the Economic Committee, but it had expressed reservations on several decisions, resolutions and recommendations of the United Nations Water Conference. It had repeated those reservations at the 805th meeting of the Economic Committee, when the Committee had considered the agenda item in question, and it now wished to reaffirm them in the Council.

AGENDA ITEM 17

Transnational corporations

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE (E/6048)

34. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the report of the Economic Committee on agenda item 17 (E/6048). In paragraph 11 of its report, the Committee recommended to the Council the adoption of a draft resolution and a draft decision, which it had adopted without a vote. If there were no objections, he would take it that the Council wished to do likewise.

Draft resolution: Corrupt practices, particularly illicit payments, in international commercial transactions

The draft resolution was adopted [resolution 2122 (LXIII)].

⁵³ Report of the United Nations Water Conference, Mar del Plata, 14-25 March 1977 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.77.II.A.12), p. 52.

Draft decision: Report of the Commission on Transnational Corporations on its resumed second session and its third session

The draft decision was adopted [decision 271 (LXIII)].

35. Mr. ONISHCHENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) recalled that at the 807th meeting of the Economic Committee, speaking on behalf of the delegation of Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Poland and the Soviet Union, as well as his own, he had intimated that, if the draft resolution was put to the vote, those delegations would not participate in the vote. They renewed their reservations on the text of the resolution adopted.

36. Mr. EL-FATTAL (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation had already had an opportunity to express its views, reservations, proposals and ideas with regard to the future work of the *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Working Group on the Problem of Corrupt Practices. His country's stand on the matter would therefore be reflected in the summary record of the Economic Committee meeting at which that question had been considered.

37. Mr. ROSSI (Italy) said that, having been unable, in the Economic Committee, to make any comments on the statement submitted by the Secretary-General on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution which had just been adopted (E/AC.6/L.608), he wished to point out that a first session of the *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Working Group on the Problem of Corrupt Practices was scheduled to take place in New York from 12 to 16 September 1977, which would be in the last few days of the resumed thirty-first session of the General Assembly. There would undoubtedly be a number of experts going to New York for the session of the Working Group but, even so, missions would be too busy with Assembly work to ensure for them the necessary support services. In those circumstances, his delegation would like to know whether the first session could not be postponed to the last weeks of 1977, or to the beginning of 1978.

38. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) suggested that the idea put forward by the representative of Italy should be considered in conjunction with agenda item 27, (Calendar of conferences). He could state forthwith, however, that if that first session was postponed, it could be held from 23 to 27 January 1978, in which case the second session would be held from 3 to 14 April 1978. Those dates could be altered slightly if the Council so wished. If that was agreed, the necessary changes would have to be made in paragraph 4 (c) of the resolution just adopted.

39. Mr. HIGUERAS (Peru) said that his delegation's position on the subject of corrupt practices had been expounded at the 801st meeting of the Economic Committee. His country had supported the resolution on corrupt practices, but wished to reaffirm that, in its view, it was essential that any action in that important area should concern the problem of illicit payments and other equally harmful practices of transnational corporations pertaining to prices, transfer, unfair practices etc., and take into account the need for a system of complete and frank information on the activities of those corporations.

40. For those reasons, his delegation considered that the convening, when it was considered appropriate, of a conference of plenipotentiaries in order to conclude an international agreement on illicit payments, would have to be combined with action for the adoption of a code of conduct regulating the activities of transnational corporations. He was glad that the resolution just adopted extended the term of office of the *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Working Group to enable it to complete its task and provided for an expansion of its membership, it being understood that there should be a balanced geographical representation in the Group.

41. Mr. MWANGAGUHUNGA (Uganda) observed that his delegation's views on the question had been set forth in the general debate and in the Economic Committee. With regard to the resolution just adopted, his country would have preferred paragraph 4 (b) to fix the number of new States which would be called upon to participate in the *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Working Group as full members, on the basis of an equitable geographical distribution.

42. Mr. MARTÍNEZ (Argentina) said that, as the Secretary of the Council had suggested that a decision on the dates of the sessions of the *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Working Group should be deferred until agenda item 27 (Calendar of conferences) was considered, he felt that the Council should for the time being refrain from making any changes on that point in the text of the resolution just adopted, since that would be tantamount to taking a substantive decision on the calendar of conferences.

43. Mr. RIEMER (United States of America) supported the suggestion of the Argentine representative.

AGENDA ITEM 14

Science and technology

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE (E/6044)

44. The PRESIDENT asked the members of the Council whether they were prepared to adopt the draft resolution reproduced in paragraph 12 of the report of the Economic Committee on agenda item 14 (E/6044). The Committee had adopted the draft resolution by 43 votes to none.

45. Count YORK (Federal Republic of Germany) drew attention to a mistake in the second preambular paragraph, which should refer to resolution 87 (IV), and not resolution 67 (IV), of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

46. Mr. ONG (Philippines) said that, in the English text of that paragraph, it would be advisable to insert the word "resolution" after the words "as well as".

47. Mr. BARCELÓ (Mexico) said that in paragraph 9 of the Economic Committee's report, the words "and the representative of Venezuela" should be added after the words "At the request of the representative of Mexico".

48. Mr. ASTAFYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking on a point of order, said that he wondered why the President was not following the procedure he had adopted so far, according to which, if a draft resolution had been put to the vote in a committee, it was also put to the vote in the Council.

49. The PRESIDENT, in accordance with rule 59 of the Council's rules of procedure, put to the vote the draft resolution in paragraph 12 of the report of the Economic Committee.

Draft resolution: Preparatory period for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development

The draft resolution was adopted by 46 votes to none [resolution 2123 (LXIII)].

50. Mr. ASTAFYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking on behalf of the delegations of Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Poland and the Ukrainian SSR, as well as his own, said that those delegations had not participated in the voting on the draft resolution because rule 31 of the rules of procedure relating to estimates of expenditure had not been observed during the discussions in the Economic Committee. He was surprised that that was not mentioned in the Committee's report; the Secretariat should take account of all statements made at meetings. Furthermore, some corrections must be made in the Russian text of the draft resolution, which was defective.

51. The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to the draft decision in paragraph 12 of the report of the Economic Committee. If there were no objections, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt it.

Draft decision: Various reports on matters related to science and technology for development

The draft decision was adopted [decision 272 (LXIII)].

52. The PRESIDENT recalled that the Secretary-General had been requested, in paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 31/183, to submit to the Assembly at its thirty-second session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report incorporating further conclusions and recommendations on the establishment of a network for the exchange of technological information. Subject to the Council's agreement, the Secretary-General proposed to submit that report to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session, after placing it before the Council at its resumed sixty-third session.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 11

Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 2626 (XXV) entitled "International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade", 3202 (S-VI) entitled "Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order", 3281 (XXIX) entitled "Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of

States" and 3362 (S-VII) entitled "Development and international economic co-operation" (*concluded**)

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE (E/6047)

53. The PRESIDENT invited the members of the Council to consider the report of the Economic Committee on agenda item 11 (E/6047). In paragraph 14 of that report, the Committee recommended to the Council the adoption of four draft resolutions and three draft decisions. He invited the Council to take decisions on draft resolutions I, III and IV, which the Committee had adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution I: Special measures in favour of the least developed among the developing countries

The draft resolution was adopted [resolution 2124 (LXIII)].

Draft resolution III: Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 2626 (XXV) entitled "International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade", 3202 (S-VI) entitled "Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order", 3281 (XXIX) entitled "Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States" and 3362 (S-VII) entitled "Development and international economic co-operation"

The draft resolution was adopted [resolution 2125 (LXIII)].

Draft resolution IV: Specific action in favour of developing island countries

The draft resolution was adopted [resolution 2126 (LXIII)].

54. Mr. ONISHCHENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that he was surprised that there was no reference in the Committee's report to the fact that the Ukrainian delegation had made a statement with respect to draft resolution III on behalf of the delegations of Bulgaria, Poland, Czechoslovakia and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, as well as its own.

Draft resolution II: Special measures related to the particular needs of the land-locked developing countries

55. The PRESIDENT invited the members of the Council to take a decision on draft resolution II. In accordance with the procedure adopted by the Economic Committee, he put operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution to the vote.

Operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution II was adopted by 19 votes to 3, with 24 abstentions.

56. The PRESIDENT invited the members of the Council to vote on draft resolution II as a whole.

Draft resolution II was adopted by 31 votes to none, with 15 abstentions [resolution 2127 (LXIII)].

57. The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to draft decisions A, B and C, which the Committee had adopted without a vote.

Draft decision A: Review at the Economic and Social Council's organizational session for 1978 of the implications of Council resolution 2079 (LXII)

The draft decision was adopted [decision 273 (LXIII)].

Draft decision B: Role of the public sector in promoting the economic development of developing countries

The draft decision was adopted [decision 274 (LXIII)].

Draft decision C: Reports of the Secretary-General and the International Labour Organisation prepared in response to certain resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council

The draft decision was adopted [decision 275 (LXIII)].

58. Mr. OULD SID'AHMED (Mauritania) said that he wished to give a brief explanation of his vote, since he had been unable to attend the meeting at which the Economic Committee had voted on draft resolution II. As his delegation had stated in other forums, it recognized the seriousness of the problems facing land-locked developing countries; it therefore wished to reiterate that the Mauritanian Government was ready, as it had always been, to grant all its land-locked neighbours transit facilities and facilities of access to and from the sea under bilateral, regional or subregional arrangements. Such facilities, however, would have to be compatible with the exercise of full sovereignty by Mauritania over its territory and its natural resources and with the protection of the interests of its population. Although his country unhesitatingly agreed to grant such facilities, it was unable to undertake to do so in a global context such as that put forward in resolution 2127 (LXIII). Still less was it able to accept the legal significance which that text tended to give to those facilities. To its great regret, therefore, his delegation had had to abstain in the vote on operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution II.

59. Mr. POOLE (United States of America) said that he was surprised that, unlike its reports on other agenda items, the Economic Committee's report on agenda item 11 did not mention the explanations of vote given by various delegations at the 808th meeting of the Committee.

60. Mr. MUNGAI (Kenya) said that he hoped that the explanations of vote would be recorded in the summary record of the present plenary meeting.

61. Mr. KJELDGAARD (Denmark) said that he had made a statement in the Economic Committee on behalf of the countries members of the European Economic Community after the vote in the Committee on draft resolution II. He hoped that the statement in question would be mentioned in the Council's report on agenda item 11.

62. Mr. BINTU'a-Tshiabola (Zaire) recalled the statement that his delegation had made in the Economic Committee, at the time of the explanations of vote, regarding the situation of semi-land-locked countries.

* Resumed from the 2074th meeting.

63. Mr. LI Chih-min (China) said that he, too, hoped that the statement he had made in the Economic Committee on the subject of draft resolution II would be mentioned in the Council's report.

64. Mr. ONG (Philippines) reaffirmed the position of his delegation on the draft resolution, as expressed in the Economic Committee.

65. Mr. KINSMAN (Canada) said that he, too, hoped that the statement he had made on the subject in the Economic Committee would be reflected in the Council's report.

66. Mr. QAAWANE (Somalia) said that he hoped that the Council's documents would reflect the reservations entered by his delegation concerning operative paragraph I of the draft resolution.

67. Mr. NAKAMURA (Japan) recalled that his delegation had given an explanation of its votes on draft resolutions II and III in the Economic Committee.

68. Mr. AMIR-DIVANI (Iran) said that, in his view, the explanations of vote in the Economic Committee concerning draft resolution II should appear in the Council's report but, to save time, he proposed that all such statements should be included in the Economic Committee's report.

69. Mr. OCOKOLJIĆ (Yugoslavia) requested that the statement made by his delegation in the Economic Committee on the subject of operative paragraph I of draft resolution II should be mentioned in the summary record of the 808th meeting of the Economic Committee and in that of the present meeting.

70. Mr. LIONTAS (Greece) said that the reservations expressed in the Economic Committee should appear in the Council's report.

71. Mr. AL-MAHDI (Iraq) reiterated the position his delegation had taken in the Economic Committee on draft resolution II; that position should be reflected in the record of the Council's present meeting and in the report of the Economic Committee.

72. Mr. ASTAFYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) pointed out that he had made a statement in the Economic Committee to explain his vote on the draft resolution.

73. Mr. LOAIZA-MARIACA (Bolivia) said that he, too, had made a statement in the Economic Committee which, he hoped, would be noted in the Council's report.

74. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) said that there had been an omission, which would be remedied. The final version of the Council's report would indicate which delegations had made statements in explanation of vote. Nevertheless, as was customary, the report would specify only that the delegations had reiterated their positions, since it was impossible to include in the report statements which had not been made in the plenary meeting.

75. Mr. POOLE (United States of America) said that, while he noted with satisfaction the explanation given by the Secretary of the Council, he hoped that future reports of the committees would include the list of delegations which had made statements after a vote on a draft resolution.

76. The PRESIDENT asked the members of the Council if they were prepared to authorize the Secretary-General to transmit direct to the General Assembly, at its thirty-second session, his report on economic co-operation among developing countries (E/6016), which had not been submitted in time for consideration by the Council at its sixty-third session.

It was so decided.

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (E/5987 and Corr.1)

77. The PRESIDENT reminded the Council that, at its resumed forty-seventh session, on 27 October 1969, it had decided that the annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees would in future be transmitted to the General Assembly without debate unless the Council decided otherwise, at the express request of one or more of its members or of the High Commissioner at the time of the adoption of the agenda. Since he had not received any such request, he took it that the Council wished to transmit the annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (E/5987 and Corr.1) to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session.

78. Mr. OULD SID'AHMED (Mauritania) said that he wished to enter a formal reservation concerning paragraphs 89 to 94 inclusive of the High Commissioner's report. The fact that his delegation was not opposing the transmission of the report to the General Assembly should in no way be interpreted as a change of its position on the question forming the subject of those paragraphs.

79. He asked that his statement should be recorded in the Council's report.

It was so decided.

The proposal of the President was adopted [decision 276 (LXIII)].

Report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on expenditures of the United Nations system in relation to programmes (E/6012)

80. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should take note of the report of ACC on expenditures of the United Nations system in relation to programmes (E/6012).

The proposal of the President was adopted [decision 277 (LXIII)].

AGENDA ITEM 27

Calendar of conferences

REPORT OF THE POLICY AND PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE (E/6042)

81. The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to paragraph 19 of the report of the Policy and Programme Co-ordination Committee on agenda item 27 (E/6042), which set forth four draft decisions (A, B, C and D), which the Committee recommended to the Council for adoption.

82. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom) said he had some comments to make which, although particularly relevant to draft decision D, applied also to the report of the Policy and Programme Co-ordination Committee as a whole. It was certainly true that the Council was required to establish a calendar of conferences covering two years and, in view of the number of meetings envisaged, the task was undoubtedly a very complex one. However, both the work of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System and the rationalization and reform process undertaken by the Council itself in respect of its own activities were closely linked with that question. It was of course too soon to determine to what extent any decision by the General Assembly on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the system might have an effect on the calendar established by the Council or to determine what impact the Council's own decisions regarding rationalization and reform might have on its work. It was not too early, however, to allow for the possible effects of such decisions, to give the calendar a certain degree of flexibility and, perhaps, to envisage a longer Council session than that scheduled for the beginning of 1978. While making no formal proposals to that effect, he would like any decision on the calendar of conferences to be understood as subject to the need to retain a certain degree of flexibility.

83. Mr. KAUFMANN (Netherlands) said that he endorsed the comments by the representative of the United Kingdom and asked that they should be recorded in the Council's report.

84. The PRESIDENT said that all members of the Council were, of course, aware of the fact that any decision by the General Assembly might make it necessary to amend the calendar of conferences, including the Council's own calendar.

85. He put to the vote draft decision A, which had been adopted by the Policy and Programme Co-ordination Committee by 29 votes to none, with 14 abstentions.

Draft decision A: Arrangements for the review of non-governmental organizations in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 227 (LXII)

Draft decision A was adopted by 32 votes to none, with 15 abstentions [decision 278 (LXIII)].

86. The PRESIDENT put to the vote draft decision B, which the Committee had adopted by 26 votes to 4, with 5 abstentions.

Draft decision B: Procedure for dealing with proposals for changes in the pattern of sessions of subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council

Draft decision B was adopted by 33 votes to 4, with 6 abstentions [decision 279 (LXIII)].

87. Mr. DUMAS (France) said that his delegation had abstained in the vote on draft decision B because it thought it inappropriate for the Council to refer to the Committee on Conferences, which had been established for a 3-year trial period and whose mandate ended in 1977. It would be wrong to prejudge the decision concerning that Committee to be taken by the General Assembly at its thirty-second session and it was rather unwise to give the impression of trying to influence that decision. Moreover, the Committee on Conferences did not meet during the session of the General Assembly and it would be difficult to seek its advice on the calendar. For all those reasons, draft decision B was untimely.

88. The PRESIDENT asked the Council to take a decision on draft decision C, which the Policy and Programme Co-ordination Committee had adopted without a vote.

Draft decision C: Changes in the calendar of meetings for 1977

The draft decision was adopted [decision 280 (LXIII)].

Draft decision D: Calendar of conferences and meetings for 1978 and 1979

89. The PRESIDENT said that, before inviting the Council to decide on draft decision D, he would remind it that in paragraph 4 of resolution 2122 (LXIII) entitled "Corrupt practices, particularly illicit payments, in international commercial transactions", adopted by the Council under item 17 of its agenda, it was provided that the *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Working Group on the Problem of Corrupt Practices was to meet as necessary in 1977 and 1978, if at all possible at United Nations Headquarters in New York. Having obtained further information on the subject, the Secretariat wished to state that it would be possible either to hold the first meeting of the Group from 12 to 16 December 1977 and the second from 21 February to 3 March 1978, or to hold both meetings in 1978.

90. Mr. MWANGAGUHUNGA (Uganda) pointed out that a number of delegations would find it difficult to attend meetings in December 1977, when the work of the General Assembly would be at its height. He, for his part, would like the first meeting of the Group to be held early in 1978.

91. Mr. FASLA (Algeria) said that, although he could, if really necessary, agree to the first meeting of the Group being held in 1977, the dates from 12 to 16 December were not very convenient, since that was the crucial moment in New York when all delegations had to attend a very large number of meetings of the General Assembly. He, too, would prefer the first meeting of the Group to be held in January 1978.

92. The PRESIDENT said that, in the circumstances, the Council might like to consider a second possibility, namely, that of the first meeting of the Group being held from 23 to 27 January 1978 and the second from 3 to 14 April 1978.

93. Mr. AL-MAHDI (Iraq) said that he could accept that suggestion.

94. Count YORK (Federal Republic of Germany) recalled that, at the 628th meeting of the Policy and Programme Co-ordination Committee, he had proposed that the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development should be held in New York, rather than at Geneva, and that its session should begin on 23 January 1978. He wondered whether there would be any practical difficulties if the *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Working Group on the Problem of Corrupt Practices was also to meet in New York on 23 January.

95. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) said that he did not think so, but he would have to consult the services concerned before giving a definite answer.

96. Mr. DUMAS (France) repeated a comment that he had already made in the Policy and Programme Co-ordination Committee: since the preparatory meetings on science and technology required close links to be established with UNESCO in Paris, UNCTAD at Geneva and UNIDO at Vienna, they should be held at Geneva.

97. Mr. RIEMER (United States of America) said that, although he would have preferred the *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Working Group on the Problem of Corrupt Practices to hold its first meeting in December 1977, he quite understood the difficulties of a number of delegations. The best course might be for the Council to fix only the dates for the first meeting of the Group, in January 1978, and decide on the dates of the second meeting at its resumed session in October 1977, since the month of April 1978, appeared rather remote.

98. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) commented that, since the calendar was heavily loaded, it would probably be extremely difficult to provide for a meeting of the Group in January 1978.

99. Mr. ROSSI (Italy), Mr. NAKAMURA (Japan) and Mr. GERBASI (Venezuela) said they preferred the second set of dates suggested by the President.

100. The PRESIDENT accordingly suggested that the Council should adopt the dates 23 to 27 January 1978 for the first meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Group and the dates 3 to 14 April 1978 for the second meeting.

It was so decided.

101. The PRESIDENT recalled that, as was stated in paragraph 5 of the report of the Economic Committee on agenda item 17 (E/6048), it had been requested that the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct for Transnational Corporations should hold its forthcoming session from 6 to 17 February 1978 and should not meet from 29 August to 2 September 1977 as scheduled. The Secretariat had informed him that the Intergovernmental Working Group could in fact meet from 6 to 17 February 1978 and from 20 to 31 March 1978. He suggested that the Council should approve those dates.

It was so decided.

102. The PRESIDENT recalled that, as a result of the adoption by the Council of decision 273 (LXIII) on agenda

item 11, the Council, at its organizational session for 1978, would have to reconsider, in the light of the results of the work of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System, the dates of the session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group of Experts on the Social Development Sector within the United Nations, which was provisionally scheduled for 16 to 20 January 1978.

It was so decided.

103. The PRESIDENT requested the Council, having in mind the changes which had just been approved, to reach a conclusion on draft decision D.

Draft decision D was adopted [decision 281 (LXIII)].

AGENDA ITEM 21

Work programme and budget for 1978-1979 (*concluded*)

REPORT OF THE POLICY AND PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE (E/6041)

104. Mr. JURASZ (Poland) said that, as the Council was about to complete its consideration of the reports of the Policy and Programme Co-ordination Committee, he would like, on behalf of the delegations of Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Soviet Union, as well as his own, to refer back to resolution 2098 (LXIII), adopted by the Council at the 2084th meeting, on programming and co-ordination in the United Nations system. In that resolution, the Council endorsed the conclusions and recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination in chapter I of its report on the work of its seventeenth session (A/32/38). In particular, in sub-paragraph (c) of paragraph 23 of its report, that Committee recommended that the resources budgeted for programme elements concerning social development and humanitarian affairs should be curtailed. The delegations of the socialist countries he referred to, had, however, expressed the opinion, both in the general debate and during the consideration of a number of other agenda items, that social factors played an important role in developing and strengthening regional co-operation. Moreover, many of the decisions adopted by the Council during the session in progress confirmed that opinion. The socialist countries therefore interpreted the recommendation in paragraph 23 (c) of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination to mean that the programme of the Division of Social Affairs at the Office of the United Nations at Geneva should be reorganized according to agreed priorities, but that the Division should certainly not terminate all the activities indicated in that paragraph, since they were based on clear and quite recent mandates. Several elements of the European Social Development Programme, in particular, were of great importance to the socialist countries and could also contribute greatly to the implementation of world-wide projects of special interest to the developing countries. The socialist countries wished, therefore, to reserve the right to raise the matter again at the thirty-second session of the General Assembly, when the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee

for Programme and Co-ordination would be considered in the Fifth Committee in the light of the earlier discussion at the sixty-third session of the Council.

105. Mr. HAJNAL (Observer for Hungary), speaking at the invitation of the President, said that his delegation associated itself fully with the statement made by the representative of Poland on behalf of several socialist countries which were members of the Council. Social factors did indeed play an important part in development. The reorganization of the programme of the Division of Social Affairs at the United Nations Office at Geneva should therefore be carried out with the utmost circumspection.

Summary of programme budget implications of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council during its sixty-second and sixty-third sessions (E/6051)

106. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the report of the Secretary-General on the programme budget implications of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council at its sixty-second and sixty-third sessions (E/6051).

107. Mr. ASTAFYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the Soviet delegation reserved the position that it would adopt at the thirty-second session of the General Assembly regarding resolutions and decisions adopted without a vote which had major, and in many cases unjustified, financial implications. They should be financed from the ordinary budget or through voluntary contributions. The same applied to the establishment of new bodies or the expansion of existing bodies. His delegation was opposed to the holding of special sessions of Council bodies and wished to reaffirm all the reservations it had expressed during the consideration of the draft decisions and resolutions submitted both to the Council and to the Economic Committee, particularly with respect to agenda item 18 concerning food problems.

108. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Council decided to take note of the report of the Secretary-General containing the summary of programme budget implications of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council during its sixty-second and sixty-third sessions.

It was so decided [decision 282 (LXIII)].

Agenda of the resumed sixty-third session of the Council

109. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) informed the Council of the list of items to be considered at the resumed sixty-third sessions:

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (item 2)

(Appointment of members of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to

Development; pending matters concerning the recommendation to be made to the General Assembly on the question of the participation in the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council, and any other matter which might arise)

2. Restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system (item 8)
3. United Nations University (item 9)
4. Science and technology (item 14)

(Consideration of the report to be submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly in pursuance of paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 31/183, which would contain further conclusions and recommendations on the establishment of a network for the exchange of technological information)
5. Policy review of operational activities for development (item 20)

(Target for contributions to the World Food Programme for the period 1979-1980)
6. Technical co-operation among developing countries (item 30)
7. Trade and development (item 31)
8. Preparations for a new international development strategy (item 32)
9. United Nations Conference on Desertification (item 33)
10. Nomination of members of the World Food Council (item 34)
11. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: report of the Human Rights Committee (item 35)

Adjournment of the session

110. The PRESIDENT said that, if no member of the Council wished to speak, he would consider that the Council had completed its work.

111. After an exchange of courtesies and expressions of thanks, in which Mr. GEORGE (Nigeria), on behalf of the African States, Mr. EL-FATTAL (Syrian Arab Republic), on behalf of the Asian States, Mr. BARCELO (Mexico), on behalf of the Latin American States, Mr. ONISHCHENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic), on behalf of the socialist States of Eastern Europe, Mr. KASTOFT (Denmark), on behalf of the States of Western and Northern Europe, and Mr. SAVIĆ (Yugoslavia), on behalf of the States members of the Group of 77, participated, the PRESIDENT said that the Economic and Social Council had met in 1977 at a time of reflection in the history of the United Nations. After a period of intensive negotiations on

the establishment of a New International Economic Order, the international community was preparing for the General Assembly to take stock of the situation at its resumed thirty-first session. Much had happened during the past few years in the evolution of ideas to strengthen the bonds of peace and progress throughout the world, particularly in the developing countries. In that context, reference had been made to the contribution that a sustained policy of détente could make not only to normalization of economic relations among industrialized countries but also to an improvement in the economic and trading position of the developing countries.

112. Many countries were striving to secure, by their own efforts, greater equity and a healthier existence for their populations, but those efforts still needed to be buttressed by unselfish assistance from those who were more favourably endowed. In 1970, a coherent programme of individual and joint action by nations in the cause of development had been put forward in the International Development Strategy. Subsequently, the new dynamic elements which had been injected were to be found in the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. As the Secretary-General had reminded the Council in his opening address, the international community had assumed a historic commitment to tackle resolutely the task of bringing about the structural changes which were required. The role of the United Nations was to help in that process.

113. The Council was expected to deal with vast and complex subjects touching on virtually every aspect of human existence. It was constantly reminded of the continued existence of discrimination by reason of race, sex and other criteria. It was not surprising that conditions in Africa had been uppermost in the minds of many delegations, because it was in Africa that the effects of racist policies and practices were the most pernicious. The Economic and Social Council had added its voice to the appeals addressed to the world community to come to the aid of countries that were victims of those policies and he trusted that the resolutions adopted by the Council, particularly those concerning Botswana and Lesotho, would not go unheeded. The plight of Mozambique and Zambia in their present situation deserved to be relieved by generous offers of material, financial and technical aid.

114. The multifarious and complex tasks within the Council's competence had made it necessary to consider the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, with the object of streamlining the policy-making process and making it more effective. The work had been going on for over two years and was still not completed. The Council needed to make a significant contribution in that regard.

115. The Council's debates had shown the immense range of its interests. It was only natural that some delegations should stress the events that affected their countries closely, while others placed different interpretations on what had happened on the international scene. Many delegations had spoken of the troubles besetting their countries or whole groups of countries, and the pleas of the developing countries had been listened to with deeper understanding. Everyone knew what ravages were wrought in the under-endowed regions of the world by unemployment, under-employment, inflation, poverty, illiteracy, malnutrition and disease. The Governments of some countries of the third world suffering from the repercussions of the recent recession were in a quandary; they could not improve the economic and social conditions in which their populations lived except by borrowing, but they knew full well that such borrowing would swell their already large debt. Little wonder that the representatives of developing countries had called insistently for assistance on liberal terms. Many delegations had expressed disappointment at the outcome of recent efforts by international gatherings—some convened by the United Nations, others of a more restricted nature—to find solutions to formidable problems of international trade in manufactured products and commodities, the international monetary system, the transfer of technology and the production and consumption of energy. The Council had heard with interest the Secretary-General's proposal for the establishment of an international energy institute, which, he had said, should be considered in the wider framework of the over-all development process.

116. The representatives of other countries and the spokesmen of groups of countries had cited the actions taken by their Governments to succour the less fortunate parts of the world at a time when the economic crisis was not sparing even the most highly industrialized regions. Those regions had nevertheless made generous contributions to bilateral and multilateral development assistance programmes for the benefit of the less advantaged. Other representatives had pointed out that, in the context of an environment of peace and cordial international relations, their Governments were pursuing a consistent policy of according assistance of all kinds to the developing countries.

117. It was clear that the discussions and negotiations must go on and that solutions must be found to serious problems. Much would depend on the deliberations of the General Assembly at its thirty-second session. All must do their utmost to ensure a successful outcome.

118. After expressing his thanks to all, he declared the sixty-third session of the Economic and Social Council adjourned.

The meeting rose at 6.55 p.m.