

2089th meeting

Friday, 2 December 1977, at 3.40 p.m.

President: Mr. Ladislav ŠMÍD (Czechoslovakia).

E/SR.2089

AGENDA ITEM 2

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*)

WORLD CONFERENCE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (E/L.1792)

1. Mr. LAWSON (Togo), introducing draft decision E/L.1792, said that the draft decision reflected a consensus which had been reached after an exchange of views among regional groups. The African Group had endorsed that consensus, and his own delegation appreciated the efforts which had been made to ensure the participation of non-governmental organizations in the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. The sponsors hoped that the draft decision would be adopted by consensus.

Draft decision E/L.1792 was adopted (decision 290 (LXIII)).

2. Mr. PEDERSEN (Denmark), speaking on behalf of the six members of the European Communities which were members of the Council, said that those delegations had participated in the consensus on the draft decision and were pleased to note that under the criteria to be applied in accordance with that decision, all non-governmental organizations which had a special interest in the matter were entitled to participate in the Conference. As to the amendment to rule 57 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Conference (E/L.1792, para. (b)), it was their understanding that representatives of non-governmental organizations would be accorded all the rights which derived from their status as observers. They would, in conformity with the practice followed at similar conferences, be entitled to make all statements on questions on which they had a special competence, upon the invitation of the presiding officer of the body concerned and subject to the approval of that body.

It was on the basis of that understanding that they had participated in the consensus on the draft decision.

3. Ms. MATTESON (United States of America) said that she wished the summary record to reflect the fact that her delegation had not participated in the vote just taken.

4. Mr. KINSMAN (Canada) said that his delegation had associated itself with the consensus on the understanding that had been expressed by the representative of Denmark.

5. Mr. LAWSON (Togo) said that it was the understanding of the African Group that the decision just adopted meant that the participation of non-governmental organizations in the Conference would take the form of the submission of written statements through the Secretariat rather than oral statements, although the final decision would be made by the Conference itself.

CHANGE OF VENUE OF THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES (A/32/3, annex III)

6. The PRESIDENT drew the attention of the members of the Council to the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1978 and 1979 (A/32/3, annex III), according to which the sixth session of the Committee on Natural Resources was to be held in New York from 12 to 23 February 1979, and where it was also indicated (*ibid.*, foot-note *j*) that the Government of Turkey had offered to act as host to the sixth session of the Committee in 1979.

7. Mr. AKTAN (Observer for Turkey) said that his country had always shown a keen interest and participated actively in the Council's work on natural resources. His Government had invited the Committee, at its fifth session, to convene its sixth session at Istanbul, and the Committee

had taken note with appreciation of that offer.¹ He was authorized to confirm that invitation.

8. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) said that under General Assembly resolution 31/140, the additional costs of holding the session at Istanbul rather than at Headquarters would be borne by Turkey and that there would therefore be no financial implications for the regular budget. Consultations at the technical level between the relevant services of the Secretariat and the Turkish authorities had already taken place and arrangements for the session were proceeding satisfactorily.

9. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council accepted the invitation of the Government of Turkey to act as host to the sixth session of the Committee on Natural Resources at Istanbul during the spring of 1979.

It was so decided (decision 293 (LXIII)).

10. Mr. AKTAN (Observer for Turkey) said that his Government understood that under the provisions of General Assembly resolution 31/140 it would bear the additional costs involved. He thanked the Council for accepting his country's invitation and assured it that the Turkish authorities would do their utmost to ensure a successful session for the Committee.

The meeting rose at 3.55 p.m.

¹See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 24 (E/6004)*, para 108.