

## 2090th meeting

Wednesday, 14 December 1977, at 3.30 p.m.

President. Mr. Ladislav ŠMÍD (Czechoslovakia).

E/SR.2090

### AGENDA ITEM 34

#### Nomination of members of the World Food Council

1. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) said that the various regional groups had presented the candidacies of the following countries for the 12 seats on the World Food Council which would become vacant on 31 December 1977: for the Group of African States, Gabon, Malawi and Morocco; for the Group of Asian States, Iran, Japan and Sri Lanka; for the Group of Latin American States, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela; for the Group of socialist States of Eastern Europe, the German Democratic Republic; for the Group of Western European and other States, Denmark, Italy and the Netherlands.

2. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council decided to transmit the candidacies of those 12 States to the General Assembly with a view to filling the vacancies on the World Food Council.

*It was so decided* (decision 291 (LXIII)).

### AGENDA ITEM 2

#### Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (concluded)

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE APPLICATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO DEVELOPMENT (concluded)\* (E/6060, E/L.1793)

3. Mr. MUNGAI (Kenya), introducing draft resolution

E/L.1793, said that there was no need to dwell on the draft resolution, the reasons for which would be clear to all members of the Economic and Social Council. The debate in the Second Committee had shown that there was wide support for enlarging the membership of the Advisory Committee from 24 to 28. When the Council had taken up the question at the 2088th meeting, it had been unable to agree on the 24 persons nominated by the Secretary-General in his note (E/6060). Accordingly, in the draft resolution the Secretary-General was requested to submit his nominations for 28 members to the Council, and the term of the present members of the Advisory Committee would be extended until the end of the organizational session for 1978. That extension would not have any financial implications. He announced that Senegal and Zaïre had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

4. The sponsors had consulted as many members of the Council as possible and hoped that the proposal that the Advisory Committee should be enlarged from 24 to 28 members would not raise any serious problems. The Secretariat had indicated that it was prepared to accept that figure.

5. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) said that the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979 included appropriations for the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development, mainly to cover the travel expenses and per diem of its members, for the annual sessions of the Committee and for meetings of its working groups. If the member-

\*Resumed from the 2088th meeting.

ship of the Advisory Committee was enlarged from 24 to 28, the costs would increase in the same proportion or, in other words, by one sixth. There would be no increase in staff costs.

6. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt draft resolution E/L.1793 without a vote.

*The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 2130 (LXIII)).*

## AGENDA ITEM 8

### Restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system (concluded)\*

REPORT OF THE *Ad Hoc* COMMITTEE ON THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SECTORS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM (E/L.1794, A/AC.179/L.11 and Add.1/Rev.1 and Add.2 and 3, A/C.5/32/86)

7. Mr. GREET (Australia), Rapporteur of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System, said that, as indicated in document E/L.1794, the *Ad Hoc* Committee had that morning adopted its draft report to the General Assembly on its fifth and sixth sessions (A/AC.179/L.11 and Add.1/Rev.1 and Add.2 and 3). It should be noted that the Committee's conclusions and recommendations, divided into eight sections, had been adopted without objection. However, some delegations had made formal reservations once the report had been adopted, and those reservations would be reproduced *in extenso* in an annex to the report, to be issued later.<sup>1</sup>

8. Mr. FREYBERG (Poland), speaking on behalf of the delegations of the socialist countries of Eastern Europe, said that, in view of the consensus which had been reached on the question of restructuring, the socialist countries would have no objection if the draft report of the *Ad Hoc* Committee was transmitted to the General Assembly without a vote; however, account must be taken of the reservations, particularly on the administrative and financial implications of the draft report (A/C.5/32/86), expressed by the delegation of the German Democratic Republic when the latter had been adopted by the *Ad Hoc* Committee at its 39th meeting.<sup>2</sup> The Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly should respect the consensus which had emerged on the question, so that the recommendations contained in the report could be implemented.

9. Mr. SAUNDERS (Jamaica) recalled that at the 39th meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Committee the representative of Jamaica, on behalf of the members of the Group of 77, had said that the statement of administrative and financial implications of the *Ad Hoc* Committee's draft report was not satisfactory, since it contained a number of elements and observations which had nothing to do with the *Ad Hoc* Committee's recommendations. He hoped that the document would be revised as necessary when it came before the General Assembly for consideration. He noted in particular that, on the question of the establishment of a new high-level post referred to in section VIII, paragraph 5, of the *Ad Hoc* Committee's conclusions and recommendations (A/AC.179/L.11/Add.1/Rev.1), mention had been made of

three alternatives, for each of which separate projections should have been made in the statement of financial implications submitted by the Secretary-General.

10. Mr. KJELDGAARD (Denmark) said that no country or group of countries could be entirely satisfied with the results achieved by the *Ad Hoc* Committee after two years of work. Since time was short, he would simply refer members of the Council to the comments made in the *Ad Hoc* Committee by the representative of Belgium on behalf of the States members of the European Economic Community.

11. Mr. HACHANI (Tunisia) endorsed the comments made by the representative of Jamaica on the statement of administrative and financial implications. That document should be revised because in paragraphs 39 and 40, for instance, it took an approach different from that adopted by the *Ad Hoc* Committee, particularly where operational activities for development were concerned. The idea was not that all programmes and funds should be integrated, but that certain very specific measures should be taken with regard to existing programmes and funds. In addition, the Secretary-General made suggestions for the future although, as the *Ad Hoc* Committee had stated in its draft report, it was for the General Assembly to take the requisite decisions. The *Ad Hoc* Committee had also stressed that the official responsible for operational activities for development at the country level should be designated in consultation with the Government concerned.

12. Mr. MAHGOUB (Sudan) supported the comments made by the representatives of Jamaica and Tunisia on the statement of administrative and financial implications which was not in keeping with the spirit of the draft report. For instance, as the representative of Jamaica had rightly pointed out, consideration had been given to only one of the three alternatives in connexion with the establishment of a new post at a high level to assist the Secretary-General in the economic and social fields (A/C.5/32/86, paras. 111 and 112). The competent authorities must therefore make the necessary corrections.

13. Mr. MWANGAGUHUNGA (Uganda) endorsed the comments made by the delegations of Jamaica, Tunisia and the Sudan. Document A/C.5/32/86 would have to be corrected when the question was discussed in the Second Committee.<sup>4</sup>

14. Mr. ADENIJI (Nigeria) endorsed the comments of the representative of Jamaica concerning the administrative and financial implications. The document in question went into matters which were not within the competence of the Secretary-General, and it should be revised.

15. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should take note of the report of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System (A/AC.179/L.11 and Add.1/Rev.1 and Add.2 and 3) and transmit it to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session together with the comments made thereon.

*It was so decided (decision 292 (LXIII), subparagraph (a)).*

16. Mr. MAHGOUB (Sudan) pointed out that a formal request had been made for the revision of certain parts of the document on the administrative and financial implications of the *Ad Hoc* Committee's draft report.

17. Replying to a question put by Mr. BAKER (United States of America), Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) said that he had transmitted to the Secretariat the

\* Resumed from the 2088th meeting.

<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 34 (A/32/34), annex 1*

<sup>2</sup> The summary records of the meetings held at the fifth and sixth sessions of the *Ad Hoc* Committee were subsequently issued as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 34A (A/32/34/Add.1)*

<sup>3</sup> A corrigendum relating to these paragraphs was circulated as document A/C.5/32/86/Corr.1, of 16 December 1977.

<sup>4</sup> At its 64th meeting, on 16 December 1977, the Second Committee had before it an amendment, circulated as document A/C.5/32/86/Amend.1.

comments made on that document, but was not yet in a position to say when the revisions requested would be ready.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON THE RATIONALIZATION  
OF ITS WORK (E/L.1791)

18. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should approve the report on the rationalization of its work (E/L.1791) and submit it to the General Assembly at its

thirty-second session,<sup>5</sup> in accordance with Assembly resolution 3341 (XXIX) and decision 31/142 A.

*It was so decided* (decision 292 (LXIII), subparagraph (b)).

*Closure of the session*

19. After an exchange of courtesies, the PRESIDENT declared the sixty-third session of the Economic and Social Council closed.

*The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m*

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<sup>5</sup> The report was submitted as section B of document A/32/3/Add.1 (part V).