

questions should be regrouped and combined. For instance, the question of the impact of multinational corporations on the development process and on international relations should be considered in the context of the general question of economic and social development. He also supported the suggestion that greater use should be made of the Council's subsidiary organs.

55. In the view of his delegation, population questions were among the priority questions which should engage the Council's attention and be considered in depth. Consequently, the report of a conference as significant as the World Population Conference should be considered directly by the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session. There was a precedent for that procedure, since the report of the third session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development had been transmitted directly to the General Assembly. That procedure would make it possible both to lighten the workload of the Council and to deal with the item with all due care.

56. Mr. CABRIC (Yugoslavia) agreed with the view expressed by the Secretariat in paragraph 17 of document E/5437 and Corr.1 that the time had come for the resumed summer session to be discontinued. The question of when the reports of the international financial institutions would be taken up could be studied at either the fifty-sixth or the fifty-seventh session. Moreover, as had been suggested, it did not seem appropriate to consider the report of the World Population Conference, which would unquestionably contain extremely important recommendations, at the resumed fifty-seventh session. It would be preferable to include that question in the agenda for the 1975 spring session.

57. He wondered why the question of the establishment of an international fund or financial institution for human settlements was envisaged in connexion with item 3 (Housing, building and planning) and not in conjunction with the item on the environment. Furthermore, he felt that the Council should have the report on the situation in the Sahel and the report on assistance to Zambia before it at one of its 1974 sessions.

58. Two suggestions had been made concerning questions for consideration in connexion with item 2 proposed for the fifty-seventh session. The Secretariat had suggested the question of the impact of multinational corporations and some delegations had proposed the question of collective economic security. His delegation considered that the two questions were closely related; they were in fact two aspects of the same ques-

tion and should therefore be taken together in connexion with item 2.

59. His delegation supported the Secretariat's suggestion that the item on tourism should be deferred until the following year. However, it would like to have a progress report on the statutes of the World Tourism Organization in 1974.

60. Items 14 and 15 concerning the special session of the General Assembly and the World Food Conference envisaged for the fifty-seventh session in Conference Room Paper No. 1 should appear at the beginning of the agenda, in the third and fourth places, since they were new and important. His delegation was gratified that the Secretariat had undertaken to prepare a report on the special session of the General Assembly in time for the fifty-seventh session of the Council.

61. Mr. YAMADA (Japan) said that, generally speaking, he supported the suggestions in document E/5437 and Corr.1, and in particular those appearing in paragraph 14, subparagraphs (a) to (f).

62. His delegation supported the suggestion made in paragraph 17 to discontinue the resumed summer session; it reserved its position with regard to the time when it would be appropriate to consider the report of the World Population Conference.

63. The question of review of machinery for review and appraisal of progress in implementing the International Development Strategy, referred to in paragraph 20 (b), should be transferred to the fifty-sixth session of the Council, so that it might be considered under the heading "Rationalization of the work of the Council". However, consideration should be given to the possibility of reviewing that question again at the summer session in conjunction with the examination of the item concerning the Second United Nations Development Decade (item 4).

64. In connexion with item 11 planned for the fifty-sixth session, he recalled that at the recent United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Far East, held in Tokyo, a number of delegations, including his own, had deplored the absence of closer links between that conference and the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE). Since ECAFE would consider the report of the Conference at its next session, it would perhaps be better for the Council to defer its consideration of the item until its fifty-seventh session, when it would have before it the comments from ECAFE.

*The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.*

## 1889th meeting

Wednesday, 9 January 1974, at 4.30 p.m.

*President:* Mr. KARHILO (Finland).

E/SR.1889

### AGENDA ITEM 6

#### Calendar of meetings (E/L.1578)

1. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council), introducing the draft decision prepared by the Secretariat on the calendar of meetings (E/L.1578), said

that most of the changes and additions suggested in it were explained in the annotated provisional agenda (see E/5439).

2. First, it was suggested that the third special session of the Population Commission should be held in New York instead of Geneva, in accordance with the recom-

mendation by the Commission at its seventeenth session.<sup>1</sup> That change had no financial implications. Secondly, it was suggested that the dates on which the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Group on Youth would meet should be moved back so as not to coincide with those of the World Population Conference, since a number of members of the Secretariat would be involved in both meetings. Similarly, it was suggested that the session of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination should be postponed until after the Conference of European Statisticians, which referred items to it for consideration annually.

3. Paragraph 1 (d) of the draft decision should be added to the calendar of meetings for 1974, in accordance with the decision of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council to convene the World Food Conference in 1974. The Preparatory Committee was to meet fairly early in the year to finalize the agenda of the Conference so that the Secretariat could begin preparing the documentation without delay. The dates scheduled, namely 11 to 15 February, would allow the Preparatory Committee to report to the Council at its spring session; the Council would then decide when the Committee should meet again.

4. In paragraph 2, the words "and place" should be inserted after the words "the date". Since the Economic Commission for Western Asia had begun its work only on 1 January 1974, there had not been enough time to consult member States regarding the date and place of its first session. The Secretary-General intended to suggest that it should be held in April; the Commission would thus be able to establish its work programme and submit its report to the Council at its fifty-seventh session.

5. In paragraph 3, it was suggested that the Third Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration should be postponed to 1975 in order to take account of the programme budgeting procedure. No specific dates had been suggested, since the Council was merely taking note of the calendar for 1975.

6. Mr. OLIVERI LOPEZ (Argentina) said that the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Food Conference was of great importance, since the Committee, in drawing up the agenda for the Conference, would be determining its scope and its tasks. The fundamental question of the tasks of the Conference had been the subject of informal negotiations at the last session of the General Assembly, and the draft resolution adopted as a result of those negotiations spelt out the position of the developing countries on that point, namely, that the Conference should deal not only with the question of the different aspects of food assistance, but also with additional measures for increasing food production, consumption and trade in developing countries. Since the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was to participate in the deliberations in order to take account of that objective, it would be preferable, for reasons of convenience, to hold the first session of the Preparatory Committee in Geneva.

7. He requested that the decision on the calendar of meetings should be deferred until the following day's meeting to enable consultations to be held.

8. Mr. HOSNY (Egypt) felt that the Preparatory Committee should meet either at Geneva or in Rome, in order to be near the secretariats of UNCTAD and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). He suggested more specifically that the first two sessions should be held at Geneva and the third in Rome.

9. Mr. FASLA (Algeria) and Mr. BARCELO RODRÍGUEZ (Mexico) supported the proposal of the representative of Argentina that a decision on the question of the calendar of meetings should be deferred until the following day.

10. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, in accordance with the position it adopted in similar cases, his delegation felt that the meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the World Food Conference should be scheduled in such a way as to involve a minimum of expenditure. They should therefore be held at United Nations Headquarters or in Geneva.

11. The General Assembly, in its resolution 3180 (XXVIII), had made it very clear that the World Food Conference was to be a United Nations conference. For instance, in paragraph 4, the Secretary-General was requested to set up a small Conference secretariat; it would therefore be logical for the secretariat to be at United Nations Headquarters. That would also enable delegations to keep in touch with the Conference secretariat, as was particularly necessary in view of the relatively little time available to prepare for the Conference. His delegation, like others, considered that the secretariat should be set up with due regard to the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

12. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) said that he would contact Conference Services at Geneva in order to ascertain whether it would be possible to hold the session at Geneva and, if so, what the financial implications would be.

13. Mr. HOSNY (Egypt) suggested that the Secretariat should obtain the same information from the FAO secretariat in case the reply from Geneva was negative.

14. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he would like to have a detailed statement of the financial implications of holding the meetings in the various cities which had been suggested, together with a precise explanation of any differences.

15. Mr. VAN GORKOM (Netherlands) said he was surprised that the question where the Preparatory Committee was to meet should give rise to controversy. It seemed to him that it would be particularly well-advised to hold the session in New York, since the Conference was to be held under the auspices of the United Nations; it was also likely that administrative and financial considerations militated in favour of New York.

16. The PRESIDENT said that the Council would take a decision on the calendar of meetings at its next meeting in the light of the information to be submitted by the Secretariat.

<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 3*, para. 363.

## AGENDA ITEM 5

**Elections and confirmation of members of functional commissions of the Council (E/5426 and Add.1-4, E/5440, E/L.1570)**

CONFIRMATION OF MEMBERS OF FUNCTIONAL COMMISSIONS OF THE COUNCIL (E/5426 and ADD. 1-4)

17. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to confirm the representatives listed in documents E/5426 and Add. 1-4.

*It was so decided.*

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SUB-COMMISSION ON ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFIC AND RELATED MATTERS IN THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST (E/5440)**

18. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to confirm the members listed in document E/5440.

*It was so decided.*

## ELECTIONS

19. The PRESIDENT suggested that elections should be deferred until the following day, since consultations on the subject were continuing.

*It was so decided.*

*The meeting rose at 5.05 p.m.*

**1890th meeting**

Thursday, 10 January 1974, at 11 a.m.

*President:* Mr. KARHILO (Finland)

E/SR.1890

## AGENDA ITEMS 3 AND 4

**Actions arising from decisions of the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session (concluded)\* (E/L.1573)****Basic programme of work of the Council for 1974 and consideration of the provisional agenda for the fifty-sixth session (continued)\* (E/5437 and Corr.1, E/L.1575, E/L.1579)**

1. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to comment on the draft decision in document E/L.1579.

2. Mr. MEGUID (Egypt) said that it was the view of his delegation that the Council should concentrate during the fifty-seventh session on two important and related items, namely, items 2 and 3 on the proposed list of agenda items as revised during the Council's informal meetings (see E/L.1579) entitled "Collective economic security" and "The impact of multinational corporations on the development process and on international relations". Those two questions should constitute the central theme of the Council's work at its 1974 summer session.

3. His delegation attached particular importance to the interrelationship between the activities of certain multinational, or rather transnational, corporations and the monetary chaos which had had such adverse effects on the developing countries since 1971. The continuing monetary crisis was a real threat to collective economic security. Equally dangerous were the policies of certain Governments with regard to international currencies, whether they took the form of devaluations, floating exchange rates or imposed revaluations. The effect on developing countries of such monetary instability was economic chaos: rapid inflation was spreading from the highly industrialized to the developing countries, producing chronic balance-of-payments deficits and deteriorating terms of trade. In other words, the poor were getting poorer and the rich richer; the

external indebtedness of the developing countries, which was estimated to be well in excess of \$U.S. 80,000 million, was one indicator of the existing situation.

4. Since the monetary crisis of 1971 the situation had steadily deteriorated, with the result that the international currency reserves of the developing countries had been almost exhausted. Many developing countries still faced severe economic difficulties owing to the accelerating rate of inflation in the developed market economies, which was automatically reflected in the developing countries' imports of capital and finished consumer goods. On the other hand, the world market prices of many primary commodities exported by the developing countries had remained almost static for a quarter of a century, while the prices of imports from the developed market economies had risen by between 8 and 12 per cent annually, and even more during the previous two years. In that connexion, his delegation paid tribute to the delegation of Jamaica, whose dedicated efforts at the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly had resulted in the adoption of a very important resolution on index prices.<sup>1</sup>

5. He was confident that the secretariat of the Council would take fully into account the international monetary problem and its impact on the developing countries when preparing the documents and studies to be submitted in connexion with the two items he had mentioned.

6. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that it was quite clear that the prospects for economic, scientific and technological co-operation among countries at different stages of development and having different economic and social systems had improved as a result of the *détente* in international relations during the preceding year. That situation should guide the Council in its decisions.

7. Certain important decisions taken by the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session had a direct bear-

\* Resumed from the 1888th meeting.

<sup>1</sup> Resolution 3083 (XXVIII).