UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
Resumed Twentieth Session
OFFICIAL RECORDS

899th (Closing) Meeting
Thursday, 15 December 1955, at 3.20 p.m.
NEW YORK

CONTENTS

President: **Sir Douglas COPLAND (Australia).**

Present:

The representatives of the following countries: Argentina, Australia, China, Czechoslovakia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, France, India, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela, Yugoslavia.

The representative of the following specialized agency: International Labour Organisation.

AGENDA ITEM 21

Question of the admission of new members to the Economic Commission for Europe (E/2684, E/L.634, E/L.680, E/L.695) (*concluded*)

1. The PRESIDENT said that, because of the General Assembly's decision (General Assembly resolution 995 (X)) regarding the admission of Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Spain to membership in the United Nations, part of the agenda, including the USSR draft resolution,[1] had become redundant.

2. He asked the Council to consider the joint draft resolution (E/L.695), which proposed the inclusion of the Federal Republic of Germany as a member of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE).

3. Mr. GINEBRA HENRIQUEZ (Dominican Republic) observed that, following the decision of the Security Council and of the General Assembly regarding the new Members, no further action was required on the joint draft resolution of Ecuador and the Dominican Republic[2] as Spain would become a member of ECE automatically.

4. Sir Alec RANDALL (United Kingdom) stated that the situation regarding membership had changed since the joint draft resolution (E/L.695), of which his delegation was a co-sponsor, had been submitted. By virtue of their admission to membership in the United Nations, Spain, Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania had also become members of ECE. In addition, Austria, Finland, Ireland and Portugal, which had not elected to accept membership in ECE, although invited to do so under Council resolution 517 B (XVII), would, he hoped, also now decide to participate. But ECE could hardly be expected to deal with all the various economic problems of Europe satisfactorily in the absence of one of the most economically important countries of Europe, the Federal Republic of Germany. It was therefore in the interest of ECE that the Federal Republic should be admitted as a member.

5. Mr. PSCOLKA (Czechoslovakia) said that the admission of the sixteen new Member States had enhanced the prestige and authority of the United Nations and had contributed to the peaceful co-operation of all countries, irrespective of their economic and social systems. He extended a particular welcome to Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania, the new members of ECE, with which his country maintained close friendly relations in many fields.

6. So far as the joint draft resolution (E/L.695) was concerned, he recalled that the Czechoslovak delegation had supported, at the ninth and tenth sessions respectively of ECE, the Polish draft resolution[3] and the USSR draft resolution[4] regarding the simultaneous admission to membership of the German Democratic Republic and of the Federal Republic of Germany. Czechoslovakia had frequently stressed the important role of Germany in the European economy. At the 896th meeting his delegation had outlined the great economic, social and cultural achievements of the German Democratic Republic during the short period of its existence since 1949 and had stressed that, by the end of 1954, the industrial output of the Republic had been almost double that of 1936.

7. Representatives of both parts of Germany had participated in the auxiliary and technical bodies of ECE. Much better results could have been expected had they been able to play a full part in the activities of ECE.

8. The unfortunate fact that there was as yet no united democratic Germany did not justify the exclusion of the two German republics from their rightful role in ECE. He therefore proposed that the first paragraph of the preamble of the joint draft resolution (E/L.695) should be replaced by the following text:

> "*Taking into account* that the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany play an essential part in the European economy,".

The words "the German Democratic Republic and" should be inserted after the words "the presence of" in the second paragraph of the preamble, and again in paragraph 1 of the operative part after the words "to include" and in paragraph 2, after the words "the agreement of", with the consequential drafting changes.

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Eighteenth Session, Annexes,* agenda item 5, document E/L.634.

[2] *Ibid., Twentieth Session, Annexes,* agenda item 2, document E/L.680.

[3] *Ibid., Eighteenth Session, Supplement No. 3,* para. 148.

[4] *Ibid., Twentieth Session, Supplement No. 3,* appendix I.

9. Mr. AKANT (Turkey) congratulated the new members of ECE.

10. He supported the joint draft resolution (E/L.695) and was convinced that the Federal Republic of Germany would make an effective contribution to the work of ECE.

11. As Turkey did not recognize the German Democratic Republic, it would be unable to vote for the Czechoslovak amendments.

12. Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) remarked that the essence of the joint draft resolution, of which his delegation was a co-sponsor, was simply that the Federal Republic of Germany should be granted the right, which was its due, of serving as a full member of ECE. As had been emphasized already, the Federal Republic, whose annual exports and imports amounted to $5,500 million and $5,000 million respectively, was a country of primary economic importance in Europe. It had also been officially recognized by sixty-two States, including all the States represented on the Council, and was a member of almost all the specialized agencies. There was every reason to admit the Federal Republic to ECE and no argument had been adduced during the current discussion against its admission.

13. If the Council adopted the draft resolution it would be acting in accordance with past policy. The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE), for example, of which Japan had been a full member for some time, had become fully representative of its region. There was thus a precedent for according membership in ECE to a State which was not a Member of the United Nations.

14. He could not support the Czechoslovak amendments. The Council was at the moment concerned not with the economic importance of countries, but with the question whether a country was sovereign, independent and internationally recognized, and the Council had already established that the German Democratic Republic did not fulfil those qualifications.

15. Mr. NEBOT VELASCO (Ecuador) expressed his delegation's gratification at the admission of the new European States Members of the United Nations, particularly Spain, to ECE. Full membership in ECE should also be granted to the Federal Republic of Germany.

16. He would vote against the Czechoslovak amendments in view of the fact that diplomatic relations had not been established between Ecuador and the German Democratic Republic.

17. Mr. MOROZOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) noted with satisfaction that Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania, having been admitted to membership in the United Nations the previous day, were now full members of ECE.

18. In proposing their joint draft resolution (E/L.695), France, the United Kingdom and the United States had ignored the fact that there were two sovereign States in Germany. Favouring as they did the admission to ECE of only one of those States, the Federal Republic of Germany, they had excluded from their proposal the German Democratic Republic, an independent, sovereign State with a population of 18 million, entitled to membership in ECE on the same basis as the Federal Republic. The joint draft resolution therefore represented a policy of favouritism in respect of one German State and of discrimination against the other.

19. The Government of the Soviet Union maintained its position that both German States should participate actively in the work of ECE. It had submitted a proposal to that effect at the tenth session of the Commission[4] on the ground that both States played an essential part in the European economy and that their presence in the Commission would further economic co-operation in Europe. The proposal had unfortunately been rejected.

20. The Council should base its decision on the factual situation in Germany, the only realistic approach to the question of that country's membership in ECE. Considerations such as the absence of diplomatic relations with the German Democratic Republic, or whether or not the social system in that State was to one's liking, should not be allowed to govern the decision of members of the Council.

21. The Soviet delegation would not oppose the joint draft resolution, provided that the Council adopted the Czechoslovak amendments. Rejection of those amendments would compel it to vote against the joint draft.

22. Mr. EPINAT (France) said that his delegation would vote against the Czechoslovak amendments. The French Government considered it unfortunate that the question of the unification of Germany remained unsolved.

23. Mr. FAHMY (Egypt) said that his delegation was guided by the principle of universality of membership. Since the admission of both the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic would contribute to the effective work of ECE, he would vote for the joint draft resolution and the Czechoslovak amendments thereto.

24. Mr. STANOVNIK (Yugoslavia) observed that Yugoslavia, guided as it was by the principle of universality of membership, proposed to take a realistic approach to the question before the Council. That approach required the setting aside of ideological considerations based on differences in social systems. In point of fact, ECE had so far been unable to fulfil its task thoroughly and effectively because certain European States had not been admitted to membership. That omission had just been rectified in a large measure by the General Assembly's decision on the admission of new Members. In the case of Germany, however, the failure to solve the problem of unification was most unfortunate. The division of Germany had had a harmful effect on economic co-operation within the framework of ECE. The only logical solution, therefore, was to admit both the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic to membership. The Council should consider the future of ECE in that light.

25. The Yugoslav delegation was sincerely interested in full European economic co-operation within the framework of the United Nations. Adoption of the joint draft resolution (E/L.695) as it stood might create a dangerous precedent, detrimental to the unification of Germany. The Council should not sanction the division of that country.

26. For the reasons given, he would vote in favour of the Czechoslovak amendments. Consistently with his delegation's policy in the matter, however, he would also vote unconditionally for the joint draft resolution.

27. However, he did not agree with the assertion in the third paragraph of the preamble that the case in point was similar to those dealt with in Council resolution 517 B (XVII). The position of the Federal Republic of Germany could not be compared with that of any one of the five States concerned, including Austria. The United Kingdom representative at the ninth session of ECE had rightly emphasized that while there had been prior agreement by all four occupying Powers in the case of Austria, such agreement was lacking in the case of Germany.[5]

28. He differed with the United States representative about ECAFE: so long as 475 million Chinese were not represented in that Commission, it could not be called fully representative of its region.

29. Mr. HSIA (China) said that, for the reasons he had cited in connexion with the Council's consideration (896th meeting) of the application from the German Democratic Republic for membership in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), his delegation would vote against the Czechoslovak amendments and for the joint draft resolution (E/L.695).

30. Mr. BANNIER (Netherlands) said that he would be happy to support the joint draft resolution (E/L.695). The Federal Republic of Germany was not only the most important trade partner of his country but a vital element in the economic life of Europe in general.

31. He would not be able to vote for the Czechoslovak amendments since his delegation adhered to the position it had taken with respect to the German Democratic Republic's application for membership in UNESCO. The Netherlands Government had not recognized the German Democratic Republic as a sovereign State, and ECE was an organization of independent, sovereign States.

32. Mr. PSCOLKA (Czechoslovakia) thanked the representatives who had expressed support for his amendments. He regretted that certain Western countries and others sought to prevent the German Democratic Republic from becoming a member of ECE. The Soviet representative had refuted the arguments of a juridical nature which they had advanced. It should be recognized by all that two States existed in Germany at the current time, and the application of the German Democratic Republic should be judged by the same criteria as that of the Federal Republic of Germany. The discriminatory position of some delegations with respect to the German Democratic Republic's applications for membership in ECE and other United Nations bodies was not in keeping with the United Nations Charter or with the decisions just taken by the Security Council and the General Assembly on the admission of new Members.

33. Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) said that the unification of Germany was one of the pillars of the foreign policy of his country, which would continue its efforts to achieve that unification. Meanwhile and for the reasons that had been stated, the Federal Republic should be a member of ECE. That did not mean that East Germany would be excluded from taking advantage of certain arrangements that existed for co-operation with the Commission.

34. In citing resolution 517 B (XVII) the sponsors of the joint draft resolution had not had in view the four-Power agreement with respect to Austria, and in order to avoid any misinterpretation they had decided to withdraw the third paragraph of the preamble.

The Czechoslovak amendments were rejected by 13 votes to 5.

The joint draft resolution (E/L.695), as revised by the sponsors, was adopted by 16 votes to 2.

35. Mr. MOROZOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the resolution adopted by the Council revealed a policy—which he considered impermissible—of favouritism towards one German State and discrimination against the other; he had therefore voted against it.

36. Mr. STANOVNIK (Yugoslavia) welcomed the admission of the Federal Republic of Germany and deplored the fact that the German Democratic Republic had not been admitted. He hoped that those who had opposed membership for the German Democratic Republic would agree to its playing a more important part under new arrangements that would be in effect in ECE the following year.

Closure of the session

37. The PRESIDENT thanked the members of the Council and the Secretariat for their co-operation during the session. It was an honour to have been the President of a Council that was destined to become the most important organ of the United Nations.

38. Mr. EPINAT (France) replied on behalf of the members of the Council.

39. The PRESIDENT declared the twentieth session closed.

The meeting rose at 4.50 p.m.

[5] See E/ECE/SR.9/3.

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