

1977th meeting

Tuesday, 29 July 1975, at 10.50 a.m.

President: Mr. I. A. AKHUND (Pakistan)

E/SR.1977

In the absence of the President, Mr. Longerstaey (Belgium), Vice-President, took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 7

United Nations University (E/5717 and Corr.1; A/AC.169/L.2, A/AC.169/L.5 and Corr.1 and Add.1)

1. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the note by the Secretary-General on the United Nations University (E/5717 and Corr.1), and the reports of the Council of the United Nations University on its fourth and fifth sessions (A/AC.169/L.2 and A/AC.169/L.5 and Corr.1 and Add.1 respectively).

2. Mr. NARASIMHAN (Under Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs and Co-ordination), introducing the reports on behalf of the Rector of the United Nations University, said that they were in fact a progress report on what had been done in the six years since the late Secretary-General U Thant had first proposed the creation of a United Nations University. Some people might think that a great deal had been achieved in a short time, and others that progress had not been as fast as well-wishers would have liked. In his opinion the University had reached an important stage in its work, with the University Centre established in Tokyo and the Rector to assume full-time duties as from 1 September 1975.

3. Whichever view the Council took, he wished to stress two points. First, the present stage would never have been reached without the active co-operation of UNESCO at all stages and in all aspects; indeed, the Director-General of UNESCO had been associated with the University long before he had been appointed to his present position. Valuable co-operation had also been received from the Executive Director of UNITAR, both in his present capacity and as representative of Sierra Leone at the United Nations. Secondly, the University would probably not yet have got off the ground but for the initiative and generosity of Japan, the Government of which was contributing a sum of \$100 million over a period of five years and had already paid a first instalment of \$20 million.

4. As indicated in paragraph 17 of the report of the Council of the University on its fourth session, three main programme areas had been agreed upon as priorities for the early years: world hunger, including population and development problems; management, use and proper distribution of natural resources; and human and social development, including co-existence, inequalities and human rights. The programme had been discussed at the fifth session of the Council, as indicated in paragraphs 15 to 22 of the report on that session, and the Rector would shortly be having further consultations. He was confident that the first

programmes would be well under way by the time the Rector reported to the 1976 summer session of the Economic and Social Council.

5. With regard to finance, the only contributions so far received were from Japan and Senegal, but the Rector of the University and the Chairman of its Council had visited a number of countries and were optimistic. Most of the world's major universities depended both on endowments and on tuition and project fees. In the case of the United Nations University, however, there would be no tuition fees, since students would be paid stipends, and project fees were only a possibility to be considered at a later stage. The main source of income would obviously be the Endowment Fund, for which a target of \$400 million had been set. The Rector would be concentrating on fund-raising as one of his top priorities.

6. Now that a sound start had been made, he hoped that the momentum would be maintained and that good progress would be reported in 1976 – or even at the thirtieth session of the General Assembly.

7. Mr. FERNING (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) said that the Director-General of UNESCO would like to associate himself with the Under Secretary-General's remarks. He himself wished to make a few further points on the present status of the University and the future prospects it offered for the United Nations system and for the academic community at large.

8. In the first place, he stressed the very close and continuous co-operation between the United Nations and UNESCO both in the preparatory stages and now that the University was being launched, as evidenced by decisions of the UNESCO General Conference at its eighteenth session in October-November 1974 and at the ninety-seventh session of the UNESCO Executive Board in the spring of 1975. The General Conference had requested member States to contribute generously to the University's Endowment Fund and to give it all possible moral and material support. Both the General Conference and the Executive Board had invited the Director-General to take all necessary action so that UNESCO fulfilled its responsibilities in the launching and development of the University. In accordance with the University's Charter,¹ which stated that it should function under the joint sponsorship of the United Nations and UNESCO, the Director-General would follow the progress of the University closely. It was in that light that the background information in the annotated agenda (E/5685) should be read.

¹ Adopted by the General Assembly by its resolution 3081 (XXVIII), of 6 December 1973; for the text, see document A/9149/Add.2.

9. He welcomed the comments on co-operation between secretariats: UNESCO had greatly appreciated the positive attitude of the United Nations Secretariat.

10. He paid tribute to the results achieved by the University Council during its one-and-a-half years of existence. The selection of priority areas corresponded closely to UNESCO's trend in programming. UNESCO would be happy to participate in the work of the interim Recruitment Committee.

11. The Director-General had responded to the University Council's request by making an appeal for voluntary contributions to member States and others concerned, which was being favourably considered by some States. He hoped that other Governments would follow the admirable example of the Government of Japan, as also of the Governments of Senegal, Sweden and Venezuela which had stated in writing their intention to follow suit.

12. Several member States, institutions, organizations and academic bodies had indicated their interest in the University and proposals had been received for programmes of study. Centres and institutions of advanced research in about twenty-nine countries, including universities, had suggested setting up a co-operative relationship with the University. Now that the three basic programme priority areas had been identified, he hoped that the University would be able to begin operations without much delay. The Council had authorized the Rector to organize meetings of experts in the autumn on each of the three priority areas and he hoped that the Council would be in a position by January 1976 to approve a programme which would meet the needs and hopes of Member States. The University would be able to avail itself of UNESCO's experience and to make use of its relationships with the academic world.

13. The Director-General commended the proposal made by ECLA at its sixteenth session in its resolution 350 (XVI) concerning work on the transfer of technology (E/5608/Rev.1, part III).

14. In addition to its specific programmes and activities, the University was to be an integral part of the world academic community. Its Charter provided for a variety of institutional relations and also that the University Centre should maintain close co-ordination between the activities of the University and those of the organs and programmes of the United Nations, including UNITAR, and of United Nations agencies. That was an important guideline to keep in mind.

15. Ever since the idea of the United Nations University had first emerged, concern had been expressed in various quarters about the need to avoid duplication and make the best use of available resources. The Director-General of UNESCO in his statement to the present session of the Council (1958th meeting) had stressed the need for the United Nations system to operate truly as a system and had expressed his willingness to participate in all efforts to revitalize it so as to respond better to the needs of Member States and particularly those of the developing countries. The University might do well to benefit from the rich and

varied experience gained by the United Nations in thirty years of dealing with major problems of mankind.

16. UNESCO had consistently emphasized the importance of giving the University a large measure of autonomy within the United Nations system. That implied in particular the fullest respect for academic freedom with regard to choice of subjects and methods of research and training, selection of persons and institutions to share in its tasks, the right of members of the University to express themselves freely and, last but by no means least, the freedom to take decisions on the use of the resources allotted to it. The only limitation on that freedom was the stipulation that the provisions of the United Nations Charter and the Constitution of UNESCO and the fundamental principles of contemporary international law should be respected. UNESCO, while exercising its own prerogatives, would give the University all the support it could, would scrupulously avoid encroaching on the rights of the Rector and the Council, and would do everything possible to ensure that the work of UNESCO and the University was harmoniously co-ordinated through continuous consultation.

17. Mr. KIYA (Japan) said that, although the University was still only in the preparatory phase, his delegation was gratified by the progress already made towards attaining the aims set forth in its Charter. His delegation welcomed the proposal by the Rector at the fifth session of the University Council to hold meetings of three working groups composed of eminent persons to consider the three priority areas in the University's work programme.

18. The University would be unable to discharge its responsibilities unless it was placed on a sound financial basis, and his delegation was pleased to note that several Governments had stated their intention to make contributions; his own Government had contributed \$20 million in January 1975. He hoped that all Member States would consider the possibility of contributing.

19. Turning to the question of the Headquarters Agreement (A/AC.169/L.5, para. 9), he said that his delegation regretted the failure on the part of the Legal Counsel of the United Nations in his report to the fifth session to appreciate the vigorous efforts being made by the Japanese Ministries concerned to expedite matters. The Japanese Government had submitted a new draft and expected to arrive at a *de facto* agreement by the end of August 1975. As host country, Japan would make every effort to ensure the efficient functioning of the University.

20. Referring to paragraph 13 of the report on the fifth session, he said that his delegation did not share the view attributed to the representative of the Secretary-General, viz. that the University, as an institution financed by voluntary contributions only, might not be strictly bound by the recommendations of ACABQ; in his delegation's view, no United Nations organ could remain outside ACABQ control on those grounds.

21. With regard to the question of participation by the Rector in meetings of ACC and other United Nations bodies, about which concern had been expressed by several members of the University Council and by the represen-

tatives of the United Nations and UNESCO, as reported in paragraph 32 of the report on the fifth session, he said that, while respecting the independence of the University, his delegation wished to point out that it had been established with a view to contributing to the activities of the United Nations and hoped that it would carry out its work in close co-operation with the various bodies of the United Nations system.

22. Mr. FERNAND-LAURENT (France) said that, although his delegation thought it right that the idea of the United Nations University should be given time to ripen in an atmosphere of concord, the fact remained that, six years after its establishment had been mooted by the then Secretary-General, the University was still far from having taken final shape. That delay was doubtless due in part to hesitation on the part of Member States – apart from Japan, Senegal and some others – to make specific pledges of support until the research programme had been drawn up, while, on the other side, the University Council found it difficult to decide on a specific programme until it had a clearer idea of what budgetary and organizational arrangements would be made. He therefore welcomed the Under Secretary-General's assurance that all research institutes in the United Nations system would have an opportunity to make comments and furnish information on their programmes so as to avoid any possibility of duplication. In that connexion, his delegation hoped that UNITAR would continue to perform its role as co-ordinator of existing programmes of research institutes. The tenth annual meeting of directors of United Nations institutes for training, planning and research, had carried out its traditional review of programmes in the context of the decisions taken by major United Nations bodies in connexion with the establishment of a new international economic order. It had been decided that the Executive Director of UNITAR should transmit full information about the institutes' programmes to the Rector of the University. He wished, in passing, to pay tribute to UNITAR's work in Europe, directed by Mr. Chossudovsky, on inter-agency training of United Nations and permanent mission personnel.

23. It was essential that the Council should have a clear view of the distinction between the University's activities and those of UNESCO, UNITAR and the various other research, training and planning institutes of the United Nations and agencies. He noted that UNITAR was directing its research towards subjects directly concerned, either immediately or in the long-term, with the Secretariat of the United Nations, the General Assembly and the specialized agencies; its training courses were intended for national and international officials engaged in implementing General Assembly resolutions.

24. The Charter of the United Nations University stated that it should conduct research into pressing global problems of human survival, development and welfare. In other words, its objectives were both humanitarian and utilitarian; it must stimulate and co-ordinate research with a view to acquiring and disseminating the practical knowledge necessary for the survival of the species. Far from concentrating on the economic requirements for development, it must cover all disciplines relevant to the cultural and moral

objectives set out in its Charter. Enjoying the academic freedom necessary for university research by virtue of an income which did not depend on annual contributions by Governments, the United Nations University would not, like UNITAR, address itself exclusively to national or international officials, but rather to students and research workers.

25. Once the division of responsibilities was clearly established, there would be nothing to prevent fruitful collaboration between the University, UNITAR, UNESCO and other United Nations institutes in various joint projects, relating for example, to the reversal of the "brain drain".

26. It was too early to state what precise contribution his country would make to the new University, but it would probably take the form of collaboration by a French institute in some important field rather than a financial contribution. His delegation hoped that, while waiting for the University to take final shape, Member States would continue to give moral and financial support to UNITAR and the institutes.

27. Mr. SADI (Jordan) said that he had been disappointed to note that the United Nations system had not been included as one of the subjects for priority study by the University. The subjects listed were only three important issues among many that might have been selected, but the United Nations system should have had top priority. The University could carry out studies and research with a view to the constructive growth of the system and could provide academic information for use in review and appraisal of the system.

28. In view of the fact that few countries had followed Japan's example, it would be useful to proclaim a United Nations University Year to draw attention to the importance of the University for the United Nations system and encourage further contributions.

29. Mr. NARASIMHAN (Under Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs and Co-ordination) said that the Jordanian representative's suggestions would be placed before the University Council for consideration.

30. The French representative had rightly referred to the vicious circle in which money was needed to start a programme while a programme was needed to attract funds: the foundations whose assistance had been sought, in particular, had indicated that there had to be a programme before they could provide funds. Japan's contribution might make it possible to break the vicious circle during the coming year.

31. He welcomed the fact that the Government of Japan had prepared a new draft Headquarters Agreement. He was well aware of the great amount of work and inter-ministerial consultation that had been required to produce a text satisfactory to all concerned.

32. Turning to the Japanese representative's reference to ACABQ he drew the Council's attention to paragraph 13 in document A/AC.169/L.5, which explained why it had been

recommended that a biennial system of budgeting might be introduced over a period rather than adopted immediately.

33. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should take note of the note by the Secretary-General (E/5717 and Corr.1) and the reports of the Council of the United Nations University (A/AC.169/L.2 and A/AC.169/L.5 and Corr.1 and Add.1) and transmit them to the thirtieth session of the General Assembly.

It was so decided.

34. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 7.

AGENDA ITEM 3

General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments (concluded)* (E/5673, E/5686, E/5689)

35. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should take note of the report of ACC on expenditure of the United Nations system in relation to programmes (E/5673), the progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Plan of Action for the Application of Science and Technology to Development (E/5686) and the progress report of the Secretary-General on international co-operation to combat desertification (E/5689).

It was so decided.

36. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 3.

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (E/5688 and Corr.1 and Add.1)

37. The PRESIDENT reminded members that the Council, at its resumed forty-seventh session, had decided that the High Commissioner's annual report would be transmitted to the General Assembly without debate unless the Council decided otherwise, at the request of one or more members or of the High Commissioner, at the time of the adoption of the agenda.

38. Since he had received no such request, he suggested that the Council should transmit the current report (E/5688 and Corr.1 and Add.1) to the thirtieth session of the General Assembly.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 14

Impact of transnational corporations on the development process and on international relations

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE (E/5737)

39. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the Economic Committee's report on the item (E/5737), which in

paragraph 16 contained two draft resolutions and a draft decision recommended for adoption by the Council. Draft resolution I (Information and Research Centre on Transnational Corporations) had been adopted by the Committee without a vote. He suggested that the Council should also adopt the draft resolution without a vote.

It was so decided.

40. The PRESIDENT said that draft resolution II (Joint liaison and support units of the United Nations Information and Research Centre on Transnational Corporations and the regional commissions) had been adopted by the Committee without a vote. He suggested that the Council should also adopt the draft resolution without a vote.

It was so decided.

41. Ms. TURNBULL (Australia) said that in paragraph 14 of the report her delegation had been omitted from the list of delegations which had made explanations of vote on draft resolution II.

42. Mr. WEGENER (Federal Republic of Germany) said that his delegation in the Economic Committee (741st meeting) had made a reservation on the second preambular paragraph of draft resolution II. He wished to maintain that reservation and to make it clear that his Government's position on the Declaration and Programme of Action for the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and on the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States remained unchanged.

43. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the draft decision on summary records for the Commission on Transnational Corporations and the convening of an expert group, which had been adopted by the Committee without a vote. He suggested that the Council should also adopt the draft decision without a vote.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 23

Elections

COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND CO-ORDINATION

44. The PRESIDENT called for nominations for the election of one member from among the Asian States to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination for a term of office effective as of the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1977.

45. If there were none, he suggested that the Council should postpone the election to a future session.

It was so decided.

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

46. The PRESIDENT called for nominations for the election of three members – two from among the Asian

* Resumed from the 1965th meeting.

States for a term of office of four years beginning on 1 January 1976, and one from among the Asian States for a term of office effective as of the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1978 – to the Committee on Science and Technology for Development.

47. If there were none, he suggested that the Council should postpone the election until a future session.

It was so decided.

COMMITTEE ON REVIEW AND APPRAISAL

48. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the following vacancies occurring in the Committee on Review and Appraisal: one member from among the African States; three members from among the Asian States; and one member from among the socialist States of Eastern Europe – for a term of office of four years beginning on 1 January 1976. Two members were also to be elected from among the Asian States for a term of office effective as of the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1977.

49. He asked whether there were any nominations, apart from Sri Lanka, which was a candidate for one of the three seats vacant in the Asian Group.

50. If there were none, he took it that the Council wished to elect Sri Lanka to the Committee on Review and Appraisal for a term of office of four years beginning on 1 January 1976 and postpone elections to the remaining vacancies until a future session.

It was so decided.

COMMISSION ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS

51. The PRESIDENT announced that four Member States – Canada, Italy, Spain and Switzerland – had presented their candidatures for election to the three vacant seats assigned to members from the Western European and other States Group in the Commission on Transnational Corporations and invited the Council to proceed to a vote.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Ponce (Ecuador) and Mr. Mwangaguhunga (Uganda) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	49
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	0
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	49
<i>Abstentions:</i>	0
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	49
<i>Required majority:</i>	25
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Italy	42
Spain	36
Canada	34
Switzerland	33

Having obtained the three highest numbers of votes, Italy, Spain and Canada were elected members of the Commission on Transnational Corporations.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL FUND

52. The PRESIDENT called for nominations for the election of one member from among the Western European and other States Group to the Board of Governors of the United Nations Special Fund for a term of office effective as of the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1977.

53. If there were none, he suggested that the Council should inform the General Assembly that it had not filled the vacancy remaining to be filled pursuant to a decision taken by the General Assembly at its 2325th meeting on 18 December 1974.²

It was so decided.

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

54. The PRESIDENT called for nominations for the election of one member from among the Asian States to the Committee on Natural Resources for a term of office effective as of the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1978.

55. If there were none, he suggested that the election should be postponed until a future session.

It was so decided.

UNITED NATIONS/FAO INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE OF THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

56. The PRESIDENT, referring to the question of electing one member from among the African States to the United Nations/FAO Intergovernmental Committee of the World Food Programme, for which candidatures had been presented by Ethiopia, Gabon and Zaire, drew attention to draft decision III in the report of PPCC on agenda item 15 (E/5736) and requested the Secretary of the Council to explain the current situation.

57. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) said that, as a result of a recommendation of the World Food Conference, endorsed by the General Assembly, PPCC had decided to recommend that the Council should transmit to the General Assembly for action a draft resolution whereby the Intergovernmental Committee of the United Nations/FAO World Food Programme would be reconstituted as a Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes. Since the Intergovernmental Committee was not scheduled to meet before the time when the General Assembly was expected to take the action in question, the Council might wish not to proceed with the election to the Intergovernmental Committee. On the assumption that, at its thirtieth session, the General Assembly would have taken action as recommended by the Council, the Council would be

² See General Assembly resolution 3356 (XXIX), note. As mentioned in the note one of the remaining two vacancies was filled by the Council at its organizational session for 1975 (decision 70 (ORG-75)).

required to elect the members of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes at its organizational session in 1976.

58. In reply to a question by Mr. AKE (Ivory Coast), he said that, legally speaking, members of the Intergovernmental Committee might be deemed to be still capable of exercising their functions, but the fact that the Committee would not meet again before being reconstituted made it advisable to postpone any elections.

59. The PRESIDENT said he took it that, in the circumstances, the Council would wish to defer the election until its organizational session in 1976.

It was so decided.

COMMITTEE ON NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

60. The PRESIDENT called for nominations for the election of two members -- one from among the African and Asian States and one from among the Latin American States, each for a term of office effective as of the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1978 -- to the Committee on Non-governmental Organizations.

61. If there were no nominations, he suggested that the Council should postpone the election till a future session.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.

1978th meeting

Wednesday, 30 July 1975, at 3.15 p.m.

President: Mr. I. A. AKHUND (Pakistan)

E/SR.1978

In the absence of the President, Mr. Longerstaey (Belgium), Vice-President, took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 23

Elections (concluded)

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE APPLICATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO DEVELOPMENT (E/5735/REV.1)

1. The PRESIDENT reminded the Council that at its 1938th meeting of its organizational session in 1975 it had postponed the appointment of the members of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development to the fifty-ninth session and had extended the terms of office of the present members until their successors had been appointed. In the note before the Council (E/5735/Rev.1) the Secretary-General presented his 24 nominees for the Advisory Committee for appointment for a period effective as of the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1977.

2. In the absence of any objection, he would take it that the Council wished to appoint the 24 persons listed in the note as members of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development.

It was so decided.

WORKING GROUP OF THE SUB-COMMISSION ON ILLICIT TRAFFIC AND RELATED MATTERS IN THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST (E/5747 AND ADD.1)

3. The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to the Secretary-General's note (E/5747 and Add.1) concerning the confirmation of three members of the Working Group. In the absence of any objection, he would take it that the

Council wished to confirm as members of the Working Group of the Sub-Commission on Illicit Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East the three representatives nominated by Afghanistan, Pakistan and Turkey.

It was so decided.

COMMITTEE ON REVIEW AND APPRAISAL

4. Mr. KOSSEV (Bulgaria) drew attention to a misunderstanding which had arisen at the previous meeting concerning the election of members to the Committee on Review and Appraisal. The socialist States of eastern Europe had proposed the candidature of Hungary, but the Secretariat had overlooked that proposal. He therefore asked if he might reopen the question and again propose Hungary to represent the socialist States of eastern Europe.

It was so agreed.

5. The PRESIDENT said that, in the absence of any objection, he took it that the Council wished to elect Hungary to the Committee on Review and Appraisal for a term of office of four years beginning 1 January 1976.

It was so decided.

6. The PRESIDENT noted that the Council had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 23.

AGENDA ITEM 15

Operational activities for development

REPORT OF THE POLICY AND PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE (E/5736)

7. The PRESIDENT suggested that, when considering the reports of the sessional Committees, the Council should