



## ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Resumed Fifty-third Session

OFFICIAL RECORDS

1846th (closing) meeting

Wednesday, 13 December 1972

at 3.20 p.m.

NEW YORK

*President:* Mr. Károly SZARKA (Hungary).

### Reconvening of the Council

1. The PRESIDENT said that, in view of the recent developments and with the unanimous agreement of the membership of the Council, the resumed fifty-third session was reconvened to consider, in the context of agenda item 5, the question of the admission of the German Democratic Republic to the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE).

2. If there was no objection, the Council would consider the question directly in plenary without reference to a committee.

*It was so decided.*

### AGENDA ITEM 5

#### Regional co-operation

#### QUESTION OF THE ADMISSION OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC TO THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE (E/5229, E/L.1530/REV.1)

3. Mr. KULAGA (Poland) said that he took pleasure in introducing, on behalf of the delegations of Hungary, Poland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, draft resolution E/L.1530/Rev.1, which provided for membership of the German Democratic Republic in ECE. The question was of the greatest importance: it was the beginning of the final stage of the long and often difficult process of admission of the two German States to the United Nations and of historic significance for ECE and for the development of economic relations and co-operation in Europe, a cause which was basic to ECE's mandate.

4. The draft resolution must be viewed against the background of the process of *détente* which was taking place, particularly in Europe, and of the role and place of the German Democratic Republic in the ECE region, and in the context of universality, which was a basic principle of the United Nations. The importance of the current trend towards greater co-operation and security in Europe was clear. Marked by such important developments as the treaties between the USSR and Poland on the one hand, and the Federal Republic of Germany on the other, the four-Power agreement concerning West Berlin, the signing of the treaty on good-neighbourly relations between the two Germanys, that process had culminated in the multilateral preparatory talks for the convening of a European conference on security and co-operation in 1973.

5. Both German States had played a major role in that chain of events. The German Democratic Republic, together with other socialist countries of Europe, had contributed significantly to European *détente* and to the

development of all-European trade, economic, scientific and technological co-operation. It was a country with one of the highest economic, industrial, scientific and technical potentials in the world, and also one of those which consistently promoted a reduction of international tension and the maintenance of peace and security.

6. The draft resolution therefore reflected positive developments in relations among all the countries of Europe and of the general political climate in the world. Its effect would be to further those positive developments. The admission of the German Democratic Republic to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the granting to it of observer status in the United Nations were significant steps in the right direction. On behalf of the Polish Government and people, as well as of the other sponsors of the draft resolution, he welcomed the Permanent Observer of the German Democratic Republic and his colleagues on their first official appearance in the United Nations.

7. The admission of the German Democratic Republic to ECE would make the Commission fully representative, which was important not only because the German Democratic Republic had high economic, industrial, scientific and technical potential, but also because it was situated in the centre of Europe. His delegation was convinced, in the light of its past experience of co-operation within ECE, that those features would help to accelerate co-operation in the fields already covered by ECE's programme of work and to open up new avenues of co-operation among its members. For example, the new member would significantly contribute to the acceleration of co-operation on environmental problems in ECE and open up new prospects for co-operation on the European infrastructure in such fields as energy, including power transfers during peak loads and oil and gas pipelines, and transport and communications. It would speed up co-operation in the steel and chemical industries, studies on long-term trends in the economy of the ECE region and co-operation in the exchange of statistical data through the Conference of European Statisticians. Of particular importance, both to the German Democratic Republic and to other States, was the fact that it would be in a position to accede to all ECE conventions, such as that on road transport, which permitted the direct shipment of goods without control at all European frontiers. Its admission to ECE would also open up new possibilities with regard to the Baltic Sea, for example, that of an agreement to combat pollution. The substantial changes which would follow its admission would benefit all members of ECE.

8. The decision that the Council was about to take was therefore in the interest of all countries of the ECE region. It would also significantly and positively influence the further development of over-all relations among European States, since there was a link between the expansion of economic co-operation and political

relations. The importance of that aspect of the matter extended beyond the European region; the removal of obstacles to greater co-operation within ECE would enhance the Commission's potential within the United Nations system, thus improving economic relations among all States of the world and also the political climate. In a period of technological revolution and closer economic interrelations, peace and co-operation in one region helped to maintain or create peace and co-operation in other parts of the world.

9. The draft resolution was simple and based on precedent. It represented a logical conclusion of the developments he had described and the decision it called for was within the field of competence of the Council. He hoped it would be adopted unanimously, since that would contribute to the creation of a broader base for economic, scientific and technical co-operation among all States and to a further improvement in international relations which would be in the interests of world peace and security.

10. The PRESIDENT said he took it that the Council wished to adopt the draft resolution unanimously.

*It was so decided.*<sup>1</sup>

11. Mr. MALIK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said his delegation was profoundly gratified by the Council's unanimous decision and therefore wished to congratulate the Permanent Observer of the German Democratic Republic and his colleagues on the admission of their country to ECE. His delegation's satisfaction at that politically important and historic event was quite understandable, since the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries had for many years consistently advocated full participation of the German Democratic Republic in the work of ECE and of the United Nations and its organs as a whole.

12. The acceptance of the German Democratic Republic as a member of ECE epitomized its great contribution to the lessening of international tension, particularly in Europe, to the strengthening of peace and European security and to the development of international co-operation as a whole, especially in the establishment and development of co-operation between East and West. It was particularly appropriate to recall the German Democratic Republic's efforts in connexion with the preparations for the European conference on security and co-operation, in which it was playing a very active part. Mention should also be made of its constructive role in the establishment and development of equitable economic, trade and scientific relations with developing countries, through which it contributed, with the other socialist countries, to the strengthening of a new type of international relations, and assisted the developing countries in achieving real economic independence.

13. The contribution of the German Democratic Republic to economic co-operation was backed by the full power of its socialist economy, its steadily increasing economic and scientific potential, its success in building socialism, and its participation in the process of socialist economic integration of the countries members of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance. In terms of volume of production, the German Democratic Republic was among the world's 10 foremost industrial Powers; it was a developed industrial country with a highly intensive agriculture. Its important place in both European and world trade was common knowledge.

14. A number of United Nations documents recorded official statements by the Government of the German Democratic Republic concerning its readiness to co-operate on vital international questions with all interested States on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence and equitable co-operation and in accordance with the generally accepted norms of international law, both within the United Nations system and on a bilateral basis, as well as its readiness to fulfil the aims and purposes of the Charter. Its attitude towards ECE was the same. His delegation was therefore convinced that the acceptance of the German Democratic Republic as a member of ECE would afford real opportunities for further enhancing the Commission's authority since, for the first time, it would have a real chance to promote the development in Europe of economic, trade and scientific co-operation on a truly all-European basis, in accordance with the principle of universality. The recent admission of the German Democratic Republic to the Interparliamentary Union and to UNESCO, as well as the decision just taken by the Council, was clear confirmation of the growth of the German Democratic Republic's international authority. His delegation was convinced that in the near future both German States would be admitted to membership in the United Nations; that would not only help to enhance the authority and effectiveness of the Organization, but would also be a practical contribution to the fulfilment of the purposes and principles of the Charter, and above all to the strengthening of international peace and security and the development of friendly relations among countries in implementation of the principle of universality laid down by the Charter, and despite those who attempted to ignore that principle.

15. In conclusion, his delegation wished again to congratulate the Permanent Observer of the German Democratic Republic on the decision just taken and to wish him every success in the common task of strengthening peace and security and building international economic co-operation.

16. Mr. PATAKI (Hungary) said that, as a sponsor of the draft resolution, his delegation wished to congratulate the representatives of the German Democratic Republic on the important decision just taken and wished their country every success in the work it would carry out within ECE.

17. The German Democratic Republic had celebrated its twenty-third anniversary on 7 October 1972; in slightly over two decades it had created a prosperous and strong economy which made it one of the 10 most highly industrialized States in the world. It could rightly be proud of its political and economic achievements. Its consistent policy and outstanding economic achievements had won it special recognition not only within the community of socialist nations, but among the developing countries and in the West as well. His delegation was pleased that, as a result of the decision just taken, the fruitful working relationships between Hungary and the German Democratic Republic would in the future extend to the sphere of activity of ECE, and looked forward with pleasure to co-operation between the two countries in that context.

18. Settlement of the issue of the German Democratic Republic's membership in ECE was long overdue, and his delegation particularly welcomed it because, like other socialist countries, it had for years been advocating, on the principle of universality, full membership for the German Democratic Republic in the United

<sup>1</sup> Council resolution 1732 (LIII).

Nations and its agencies. His delegation had accordingly been gratified by the admission of the German Democratic Republic to membership in UNESCO, and took great pleasure in the fact that the Council had now confirmed its status as a member of ECE. Its admission to membership was a logical consequence of the increasing international esteem and respect in which the German Democratic Republic was held and constituted an integral part of the general process of *détente* in the international situation. In his delegation's view, it was a step in the right direction in international affairs.

19. Mr. FIGUEROA (Chile) welcomed the decision to admit the German Democratic Republic to membership in ECE. His delegation was pleased to have taken part in that decision. He congratulated the Government of the German Democratic Republic on its admission; both German States, with which the Chilean Government had extremely cordial relations, were now members of ECE. The decision just taken was an important step towards the complete universality of the United Nations and its agencies, and his delegation hoped that it would lead to a strengthening of international co-operation in all its aspects, not only in Europe, but in a context which would afford real benefits to the countries of the third world.

20. Mr. DEBRAH (Ghana) welcomed the unanimous decision to admit the German Democratic Republic to membership of ECE, a decision which was yet another milestone in the process of reconciliation in Europe. His delegation also noted with satisfaction the telegram from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the German Democratic Republic (E/5229) confirming that his country was ready conscientiously to fulfil the obligations arising from its membership in the Economic Commission for Europe.

21. As a member of the group of developing countries, Ghana attached special importance to the settlement of disputes and the promotion of peace, since nations which had settled their disputes were better able to devote themselves and their resources to the promotion of peace and co-operation. The decision just taken served to emphasize that the time had come for nations to renounce completely the use of force and to dedicate themselves to activities designed to enable man to utilize available resources and to lead a happy life, activities such as the promotion of human rights, higher food production, the discovery of more vaccines, the building of more factories, schools and colleges and the fostering of the arts and sciences. His delegation was sure that the German Democratic Republic had a significant role to play in that effort and that its admission to ECE—and later, it was to be hoped, to the United Nations itself—would enable it to contribute to the fashioning of a new world.

22. He also wished to commend the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany on his policy of *détente*. It was to be hoped that others would take similar steps to remove the obstacles barring the way to a peaceful settlement of all problems in Europe and in other parts of the world which were beset by tensions. It was time to act to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war and confer on them the blessings of peace.

23. Mr. AMERASINGHE (Sri Lanka) welcomed the decision to admit the German Democratic Republic to membership in ECE; it marked the end of one era and heralded the start of a new one which, it was to be hoped, would bring greater peace and prosperity to

Europe and, by extension, to the world at large. The decision had both political and economic significance: political, in that it marked a further advance towards the attainment of the goal of universality which was vital to the functioning of the United Nations and the implementation of the purposes and principles of the Charter; economic, in that it added an economically powerful country to ECE and brought it into association with an already strong economic grouping. His delegation was convinced that economic co-operation provided a means of solving complex political problems. In conclusion, his delegation wished the Government and people of the German Democratic Republic all prosperity in the future.

24. Mr. PEREZ de CUELLAR (Peru) said that Peru, a country which in its foreign policy followed the cardinal principle of universality in international relations and particularly in international organizations, warmly welcomed the admission of the German Democratic Republic to ECE. The German Democratic Republic was entitled to membership in the Commission not only by virtue of the principle of universality but also on account of its outstanding record of economic development, which was an impressive example of what could be achieved within the economic and social system to which that country belonged. As the representative of a developing country, he felt bound to refer to the economic and technical co-operation which the German Democratic Republic had provided to many countries while fully respecting differences in social and economic systems and often irrespective of whether or not the recipient of its assistance maintained diplomatic and economic relations with it. He was sure that the German Democratic Republic would make a valuable contribution to the United Nations, illustrating the capacity for action and mutual co-operation of the two Germanys.

25. Mr. AKRAM (Pakistan) said that the decision just taken was a historic one which his delegation hoped would lead to a relaxation of traditional tensions. In welcoming the decision, his delegation believed that the German Democratic Republic had a great contribution to make to the work of ECE and to economic co-operation in general. He congratulated the leaders of both German States for the pragmatic manner in which differences between them had been resolved. Pakistan, which fully approved of and consistently advocated the spirit of conciliation shown by the two German States, had recently established diplomatic relations with the German Democratic Republic and looked forward to a relationship of fruitful co-operation with that State such as it had long enjoyed with the Federal Republic.

26. Mr. BREITENSTEIN (Finland) said that the Finnish Government had, in the past, consistently advocated the application of the principle of universality and supported the admission of the German Democratic Republic to membership in ECE. It therefore warmly welcomed the adoption of draft resolution E/L.1530/Rev.1, which provided decisive evidence of an improvement in the political climate in Europe and was of great significance for international relations in general. That decision would provide the necessary basis for the German Democratic Republic to play a full part in regional economic co-operation in Europe and would benefit the region as well as ECE itself.

27. Mr. HACHANI (Tunisia) congratulated the Government of the German Democratic Republic on the admission of that country to membership in ECE. It

was to be hoped that that decision, which was the product of a *détente* in Europe, would usher in an era of fruitful co-operation between the German Democratic Republic and not only other European States but also the developing countries.

28. Miss LIM (Malaysia) said that the admission of the German Democratic Republic to ECE was a welcome sign of *détente* and the emergence of a new form of economic co-operation between States having different economic and social systems. Her delegation welcomed the opening up of trade relations between the developed market-economy countries and the socialist countries, and in that connexion referred to UNCTAD resolution 53 (III), which recommended that countries participating in East-West trade and economic co-operation should take fully into account the interests of the developing countries. In pursuance of a further recommendation of that same resolution to the effect that the developing countries should examine the possibility of expanding their trade with the socialist countries, Malaysia had established trade relations with seven socialist countries. Her delegation trusted that the admission of the German Democratic Republic to ECE would lead to co-operation not only between the developed market-economy countries and the socialist countries but also between those countries which were entering into East-West trade and the developing countries, thus producing an expansion of international trade as a whole, including the trade of the developing countries, and contributing to the strengthening of international peace and security.

29. Mr. ABHYANKAR (India) associated himself whole-heartedly with the previous speakers in welcoming the historic decision to admit the German Democratic Republic to membership in ECE.

30. Mr. NISHIZAKI (Japan) warmly welcomed the decision taken by the Council and expressed the conviction that that decision would make a significant contribution to the important work of the Commission. It was his delegation's understanding that paragraph 2 of the resolution just adopted concerning the contribution to be made to the budget of the United Nations was without prejudice to the application of regulation 5.9 of the Financial Regulations, which stipulated that the rates of contributions from non-member States should be determined by the General Assembly.

*At the invitation of the President, Mr. Horst Grunert (Observer for the German Democratic Republic) took a place at the Council table.*

31. Mr. GRUNERT (Observer for the German Democratic Republic) said that the decision to admit the German Democratic Republic to membership of ECE marked a step in the growing process of *détente* in international relations, to which the socialist countries had made a significant contribution. The initia-

tives of the countries had met with a world-wide response and had contributed substantially to the creation of a climate conducive to the settlement of a wide range of outstanding problems. The admission of the German Democratic Republic to ECE would not only have favourable consequences for Europe but would also contribute to the implementation of the purposes and principles of the Charter and promote the effectiveness of the United Nations. The decision reflected, in particular, the world-wide endeavour to implement the Charter principle of the sovereign equality of States; it would further international co-operation among States on the basis of equal rights and serve to maintain and consolidate international peace and security. His delegation hoped that, in addition to ensuring the participation of all European States in ECE on the basis of equal rights, the decision marked a further important step towards the admission of the German Democratic Republic to full membership in the United Nations and the implementation of the principle of universality. On behalf of the Government of the German Democratic Republic, he wished to thank all involved in his country's admission to ECE, particularly the sponsors of draft resolution E/L.1530/Rev.1 which had just been adopted,<sup>1</sup> and the President of the Council.

32. The German Democratic Republic would play its part in fulfilling the tasks of ECE, which were aimed at a further normalization of relations between European States, in pursuance of its consistent and constructive policy of peaceful coexistence with States having different social and economic systems and in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the terms of reference of ECE.

33. The PRESIDENT congratulated all members of the Council on the decision relating to the German Democratic Republic, which was a valuable contribution to the results achieved by the Council at its current session. That decision gave encouragement to all those who adhered to the principles of the Charter and who believed in better understanding and co-operation and the principles of peaceful coexistence and universality. By its action, the Council had given a fresh impetus to the process of *détente* taking place in Europe and had ensured universality in ECE. He was sure that as a member the German Democratic Republic would make a valuable contribution to the Commission's work. He also congratulated the Observer for the German Democratic Republic and wished him and his country further success in the efforts to strengthen international co-operation and peace.

#### *Closure of the session*

34. The PRESIDENT declared closed the fifty-third session of the Economic and Social Council.

*The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.*