



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Wednesday, 23 February 1966,
at 11.45 a.m.

Fortieth Session

OFFICIAL RECORDS

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Acting President: Mr. Philippe DE SEYNES
(Under-Secretary for
Economic and Social Affairs).

President: Mr. Tewfik BOUATTOURA (Algeria).

Present:

Representatives of the following States: Algeria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Dahomey, Ecuador, France, Gabon, Greece, India, Iran, Iraq, Luxembourg, Morocco, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Sierra Leone, Sweden, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Venezuela.

Observers for the following Member States: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ghana, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mauritania, Mexico, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan, Turkey, Yugoslavia.

Observers for the following non-member States: Federal Republic of Germany, Switzerland.

Representatives of the following specialized agencies: International Labour Organisation; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; World Health Organization; International Bank for Reconstruction and Development; International Monetary Fund; World Meteorological Organization.

The representative of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The representative of the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Opening of the session

1. The ACTING PRESIDENT declared open the fortieth session of the Economic and Social Council. He paid a tribute to the President of the thirty-ninth session, Mr. Matsui (Japan), who was no longer the representative of a member of the Council, and the two Vice-Presidents, Mr. Pachachi (Iraq) and Mr. Hajek (Czechoslovakia), who had been appointed to ministerial posts in their countries. He also welcomed the new members of the Council.

AGENDA ITEM 1

Election of President and Vice-Presidents for 1966

2. The ACTING PRESIDENT invited nominations for the office of President of the Economic and Social Council for 1966.

3. Mr. HASAN (Pakistan), speaking on behalf of the Afro-Asian group, nominated Mr. Bouattoura (Algeria), commending the spirit of solidarity that united the countries of Africa and Asia. He expressed the hope that Mr. Bouattoura would be elected by acclamation.

4. Mr. SEYDOUX (France) seconded the nomination. He paid a tribute to Mr. Bouattoura and to the Government he represented, adding that Algeria's relationship with France was one of fruitful co-operation and that the economic structure that Algeria was in the process of establishing could serve as an example for others to follow.

5. Mr. BESA (Chile) supported the nomination of Mr. Bouattoura.

6. Mr. MAKEEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) also supported the nomination and emphasized that it was the first time that the representative of an African country had been nominated for the office of President of the Economic and Social Council.

Mr. Bouattoura (Algeria) was elected President by acclamation.

Mr. Bouattoura took the Chair.

7. The PRESIDENT thanked the Pakistan representative who, by nominating the representative of an African country, had demonstrated the friendship and solidarity linking the countries of Africa and Asia. He also thanked the representatives of France, Chile and the USSR and emphasized, like the French representative, the importance of Franco-Algerian co-operation as an example of co-operation between a developed and a developing country.

8. In his view, Africa was called upon to direct the Council's proceedings in a crucial year. The thirty-ninth session, thanks to the efforts of Mr. Matsui and the two Vice-Presidents, Mr. Pachachi and Mr. Hajek, and to the part played by Mr. Fernandini, to whom a tribute was due, had prepared the way for more forceful and effective action. The enlargement of the Council made it possible for all to participate in the solution of common problems. He favoured further reforms in the structure and machinery of the Council, and in its approach to problems. In a world in which the necessity of maintaining peace and of bridging the economic gap separating the nations of the world raised crucial problems, it was the Council's duty to adopt an approach that was both consistently dynamic and thoughtful and thus to make the year 1966 herald a new beginning.

9. With regard to the organization of work, he suggested, first, that the election of the first and second Vice-Presidents should be postponed until the afternoon meeting and, secondly, that the Council should proceed immediately to item 2, i.e., adoption of the agenda.

It was so decided.

10. Mr. VARELA (Panama), after requesting the President's permission to speak on a matter not directly concerned with the item under consideration, wished to offer his cordial greetings, on behalf of the Panamanian people and Government, to all the representatives in the Council and to express his conviction that the Algerian representative, who had just been elected President, would guide the Council's work with great wisdom.

11. His delegation would always be ready to co-operate with the other members of the Council to achieve its objectives in a world beset by serious problems, which for centuries had hindered the forward march of the developing peoples. He was confident that all members of the Council were firmly resolved to serve the interests of mankind and promote economic growth and social progress by working to speed the process of development, a process which never had been and never could be a spontaneous phenomenon but had to be based on co-operation, firm resolve and action; all of which would increasingly and unceasingly emphasize the need for the rational interdependence of peoples and bear out the principle that the highest and most important objective of the State was the well-being of mankind, in freedom and respect for the human person.

12. He considered that the Economic and Social Council, with unflagging vigour, should concentrate on satisfying the urgent needs of the developing countries. It should pursue this policy in order to avoid economic and social crises that might lead to political unrest, which would have a serious impact on the social and international order to which man should aspire, in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaimed by the United Nations.

AGENDA ITEM 2

Adoption of the agenda (E/4139 and Corr.1; E/L.1102)

13. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should adopt the agenda of the fortieth session (E/4139 and Corr.1).

The agenda was adopted.

14. The PRESIDENT, referring to the note by the Secretary-General on the organization of the work of the session (E/L.1102), pointed out that the Commissioner for Industrial Development had to leave New York very soon and that his presence would be desirable during the Council's preliminary consideration, in connexion with agenda item 5, of General Assembly resolution 2089 (XX) of 20 December 1965. He therefore suggested that the Council should begin that preliminary consideration at its next meeting and postpone its consideration of the rest of item 5 until later.

15. Mr. VAKIL (Iran) feared that to divide item 5 into two parts would unnecessarily prolong the discussions. It would be preferable if the Commissioner for Industrial Development were to introduce the item at the next meeting and members of the Council were free to refer to the question of industrial development as a whole.

16. Mr. KITTANI (Secretary of the Council) pointed out that the Council's time-table for the first week of the session would not enable it to complete its consideration of agenda item 5. Moreover, the Commissioner for Industrial Development did not consider that his presence was necessary for consideration of the Secretary-General's report on the activities of the Centre for Industrial Development, which constituted the first part of item 5.

17. Mr. VAKIL (Iran) felt that the Council would also be unable to reach a decision in a single meeting on the second part of item 5. He therefore proposed that, at the next meeting, the Council should begin its consideration of the item as a whole and that members should be free to comment on both the Secretary-General's report and General Assembly resolution 2089 (XX).

It was so decided.

The note by the Secretary-General on the organization of work (E/L.1102), as amended, was approved.

18. The PRESIDENT, in accordance with rule 85 of the rules of procedure of the Council, requested those non-governmental organizations in Categories A and B which wished to be heard by the Council in connexion with items on the agenda to apply in writing to the Secretariat within forty-eight hours.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.