



**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

Tuesday, 23 November 1965,  
at 3.20 p.m.

*Resumed Thirty-ninth Session*  
**OFFICIAL RECORDS**

**NEW YORK**

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*President:* Mr. Akira MATSUI (Japan).

*Present:*

Representatives of the following States, members of the Council: Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Canada, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, France, Gabon, Iraq, Japan, Luxembourg, Pakistan, Peru, Romania, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Representatives of the following States, additional members of the sessional committees: Cameroon, Denmark, Ghana, India, Iran, Madagascar, Mexico, United Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania.

Observers for the following Member States: Afghanistan, Australia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Finland, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Morocco, Somalia, Sudan, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, Yugoslavia.

The observer for the following non-member State: 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.

**AGENDA ITEM 1**

**Report of the Trade and Development Board (concluded)**  
(E/4128 and Add.1-3; E/L.1096)

1. Mr. PACHACHI (Iraq) said that he was anxious to correct certain misunderstandings which might have arisen as a result of the statement he had made at the 1397th meeting. It was clear that there would be no purpose in embarking on a detailed discussion

of the report of the Board during the current session of the Council, since the Board's first report was necessarily concerned with administration and organization, rather than with substantive matters. It had been his delegation's intention, however, to point out that the absence of detailed discussion on the first report should not serve as a precedent, since in future years the Council, with its enlarged and more representative membership, would be in a position to make useful and pertinent comments on the Board's achievements during the year for transmission to the General Assembly. Despite the short time available during the current session, many delegations had made valuable suggestions about methods of co-operation between the Council and the Board, and between the Board and the regional economic commissions. His delegation supported the view that every effort should be made to prevent the Board from becoming a debating society and hoped that the report of the Council would draw the attention of the Assembly to that point.

2. The Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) had warned that there was a danger of undue proliferation of organs and subsidiary bodies. The Assembly might consider it appropriate to ask the Secretary-General to submit proposals for preventing such proliferation.

3. It was regrettable that little progress had so far been made by the Board and its subsidiary bodies in such matters as the reporting arrangements and securing universal acceptance of the principles laid down by the Conference. Draft resolution E/L.1096, of which his delegation was a co-sponsor, referred to that point in operative paragraph 3, by drawing the attention of the General Assembly to the comments and observations made by delegations during the current session of the Council.

4. Mr. FAESLER CARLISLE (Mexico) said that the report reflected the unspectacular but significant progress that had been made since the end of the first session of UNCTAD. The establishment of the machinery of the Conference had been hampered by many difficulties, including the recruitment of personnel, but when the programmes of work for the Committee on Shipping and the Committee on Invisibles and Financing related to Trade were adopted, as they shortly would be, the machinery for the application of the Conference's recommendations would be complete. As it was, useful recommendations had already been made by the committees on such matters as cocoa, sugar, preferences, capital flows and international liquidity, and much good work had been accomplished in promoting co-ordination between the committees and their counterparts in other organizations. In transmitting the report to the General Assembly, the Council could therefore

members of the Committee should be allowed to complete their terms of office. His delegation favoured the first alternative, since the second would tend to disturb the balanced composition of the Committee during 1966 and 1967. Once that decision had been taken, it would still be necessary to decide how the thirty seats on the Committee should be apportioned among the various groups of countries.

21. Mr. REISCH (Austria) agreed that it would be advisable to sever the link between membership in the Council and membership in the Committee. First, such a step would permit more countries to participate in the Committee's work. Secondly, the automatic link between Council membership and membership of the Committee and TAC tended to create staffing and administrative problems for the smaller delegations. Thirdly, it would be preferable to maintain the present thirty-member composition of the Committee, and pressure to expand that body would be reduced if there was no automatic link to Council membership.

22. With regard to the geographical distribution of the Committee's membership, his delegation would, for reasons of principle, prefer to avoid any rigid division of seats among geographical groups. If, however, the Council felt that such a division was essential, unnecessary delay and difficult discussions between groups could be avoided by following an established pattern, such as the present distribution of seats in the Committee or in the Trade and Development Board.

23. His delegation favoured new elections for the Committee's 1966 session: those countries whose term of office had not yet expired could be given a certain priority if they wished to resubmit their candidatures.

24. Mr. RENAUD (France) said that, in view of the increase in the Council's membership and the way in which the concept of that organ's role and its relation to other United Nations economic bodies had evolved in recent years, his delegation agreed that the link between Council membership and membership in the Committee for Industrial Development was no longer justified.

25. Membership in the Committee, which was primarily a technical body, could be maintained at thirty, which experience had proved to be a satisfactory number. His delegation relied on the Council and the Assembly to reach a wise decision with regard to the apportionment of seats among various groups of countries. It attached great importance to the principle of equitable geographical distribution, but felt that it was also necessary to take due account of the fact that the participation of the industrialized countries was important, since it enabled the Committee to ensure permanent co-operation between those countries and the developing countries.

26. In view of those considerations, the wording used in paragraph 4 of Council resolution 751 (XXIX) could be revised to read:

"The Committee shall consist of thirty members, elected for three-year terms by the Council from amongst States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency with due considera-

tion to the principle of geographical distribution and to the adequate representation of under-developed countries in view of the fact that their industrial development is the main objective of the Committee."

The second sentence of paragraph 4 would be maintained and the last sentence deleted.

27. Mr. BELEOKEN (Cameroon) agreed that it was no longer necessary to link Council membership and Committee membership. His delegation held no definite views regarding the total Committee membership and could accept either thirty members or a slightly higher figure. He attached great importance to the principle of equitable geographical distribution in the apportionment of seats.

28. Mr. POLIT ORTIZ (Ecuador) observed that the Second Committee was considering the question of reorganizing the Centre for Industrial Development. In those circumstances it might be advisable for the Council to postpone its discussion of the composition of the Committee for Industrial Development until it resumed its session in December, so that it could review the matter in the light of the decisions taken by the Second Committee.

29. Mr. WILMOT (Ghana) agreed. He also thought that it was advisable to dispense with the automatic link between Council membership and Committee membership because the work of the two bodies was very different, and election to the Council did not necessarily imply that a member possessed the qualifications required for the Committee, and because more Member States would thus be able to participate in the Committee's work.

30. His delegation held no definite views with regard to the Committee's total membership, but agreed that the principle of equitable geographical distribution should be respected. If a total membership of thirty gave rise to difficulties in the latter connexion, it might be possible to consider a total of twenty-eight, which had been found convenient in the case of the Trade and Development Board.

31. Mr. PACHACHI (Iraq) pointed out that, even if the draft resolution submitted by the Latin American countries to the Second Committee<sup>1/</sup> was adopted at the current session, final action on it by the General Assembly would not be taken until the twenty-first session. In other words, the Council must decide forthwith on the composition of the Committee for Industrial Development for 1966 and perhaps thereafter. He was not convinced by the arguments put forward in favour of severing the link between the Council and the Committee. The fact that the Council had recently been enlarged was surely a reason for maintaining the link. The more equitable geographical distribution within the Council would be reflected within the Committee. If members of the Council served on the Committee they would be better qualified to discuss questions concerning industrialization. Again, if the link was not maintained, his delegation feared that, in electing members of the Committee for Industrial Development, the Council would become involved in the haggling which had

<sup>1/</sup> Subsequently adopted by the General Assembly as resolution 2089 (XX).

marked the Second Committee's decision on the membership of the new Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme.

32. Mr. BRADLEY (Argentina) felt that the proposal to change the membership of the Committee for Industrial Development required further reflection. A decision should be postponed until December.

33. Mr. Amjad ALI (Pakistan) supported that proposal. Meanwhile it should be borne in mind that many of the developing countries were interested in industrialization, that the membership of the United Nations had increased since the Council had decided to restrict the membership of the Committee for Industrial Development to thirty, and that the Committee on Manufactures of the Trade and Development Board had a membership of forty-five.

34. Mr. FERNANDINI (Peru) also supported the proposal for postponement. Industrial development was being discussed in the Second Committee and it would be very difficult for the Council to reach an immediate decision.

35. Mr. ARKADYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said it would be very unwise to depart from the principle laid down in Council resolution 751 (XXIX) concerning the membership of the Committee for Industrial Development. With the establishment of UNCTAD, the Council's role had changed: henceforth, it would have to concentrate much more on development, and particularly industrialization. His delegation therefore favoured the present composition of the Committee for Industrial Development and the maintenance of the link with the Council. It would be extremely useful if those specialist members of delegations sitting on the Committee for Industrial Development could also sit on the Council. The change suggested by the United Kingdom representative might have made sense when the membership of the Council had been restricted to eighteen, but since the membership had been expanded to twenty-seven there seemed little to recommend it. In any case, he would favour a postponement of the matter until December.

36. Mr. RAMACHANDRAN (India) felt that membership of the various United Nations bodies should be based firmly on the principle of equitable geographical distribution, but, since the number of Member States was continually growing, the suggested number of thirty members should not be rigidly adhered to. His delegation would favour breaking the link between the Council and the Committee but felt that more time was needed to study the matter.

37. Sir Keith UNWIN (United Kingdom) said that statements by some representatives had implied that he had ignored the principle of geographical distribution. He had in fact been careful to begin by reading out the passage from Council resolution 751 (XXIX), which contained that reference, and suggesting that it should be maintained. The representative of Iraq had asked what distribution would be used if the link with the Economic and Social Council was dissolved. He wished to make plain that what he had suggested implied breaking the link which implied automatic membership of the Committee for Industrial

Development as a result of election to the Council. He had not suggested a new distribution pattern, different from that in the Council.

38. The PRESIDENT suggested that the matter should be postponed until December.

*It was so agreed.*

### AGENDA ITEM 3

#### Continuation of the World Food Programme (E/4127 and Add.1; E/L.1094, para. 8, E/L.1094/Add.2)

39. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the note by the Secretary-General (E/4127 and Add.1) which explained that, as a result of the recommendations adopted by the Intergovernmental Committee on the World Food Programme at its eighth session held in Rome from 11 to 15 October 1965, concerning the procedure to be adopted for elections to the Intergovernmental Committee, the Council should amend paragraphs 5 and 6 of the draft resolution on the continuation of the World Food Programme submitted for the consideration of the General Assembly in Council resolution 1080 (XXXIX). The Council might therefore wish to adopt the following draft resolution:

#### "The Economic and Social Council,

"Having considered the recommendations made by the United Nations/FAO Intergovernmental Committee of the World Food Programme at its eighth session and the action taken by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at its meeting held on 17 November 1965,

"Decides to replace by the following text paragraphs 5 and 6 of the draft resolution on the continuation of the World Food Programme which, in its resolution 1080 (XXXIX) of 30 July 1965, it has submitted for the consideration and approval of the General Assembly:

"15. Reaffirms its previous decision to the effect that the United Nations/FAO Intergovernmental Committee of the World Food Programme shall comprise twenty-four States members of the Food and Agriculture Organization or Members of the United Nations, twelve of these members to be elected by the Economic and Social Council and twelve members by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization, it being understood that outgoing members shall be eligible for re-election;

"16. Requests the Economic and Social Council and the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization as soon as possible after the adoption of this resolution by the General Assembly and the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization to elect twelve members each, four members each for a term of one year, four members each for a term of two years, and four members each for a term of three years;

"17. Decides that thereafter all the members of the Intergovernmental Committee shall be elected for a term of three years, and requests the Economic and Social Council and the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization to make such provisions as will ensure that the terms of office of

four members elected by the two Councils respectively shall expire in each calendar year;

"8. Further requests the Economic and Social Council and the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization, when electing members of the Intergovernmental Committee, to take into account the need for balanced representation of economically developed and developing countries and other relevant factors such as the representation of potential participating countries, both contributing and recipient, equitable geographical distribution, and the representation of both developed and developing countries having commercial interests in international trade in food-stuffs, especially those highly dependent on such trade;

"9. Requests a review of the General Regulations of the Programme in the light of the present resolution and calls upon the Economic and Social Council and the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization to take appropriate action.' "

40. Mr. MUZIK (Czechoslovakia) said that operative paragraph 8 of the proposed draft resolution constituted a flagrant violation of the principle of equitable geographical distribution in the United Nations Charter. The formula suggested was not only undemocratic and contrary to normal United Nations practice but also would make the elections to the Intergovernmental Committee unnecessarily complicated. His delegation could accept the paragraph only if it was worded as follows: "Further requests the Economic and Social Council and the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization, when electing members of the Intergovernmental Committee, to take into account the need for equitable geographical distribution and other relevant factors". Nor did his delegation see why the terms of office should be decided at the initial election according to the number of votes cast rather than by drawing lots, which was the normal procedure.

41. Mr. ARKADYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his country did not participate in the Intergovernmental Committee of the World Food Programme. Nevertheless, the procedure suggested by that Committee for its elections raised a very important principle which the Council must discuss. In elections to all United Nations bodies the sole principle to be followed was that of equitable geographical distribution. Recently a deplorable trend had arisen within the United Nations to introduce other criteria for election which ran counter to that principle. For example, when the membership of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme had been discussed in the Second Committee, some delegations had advocated that there should be equal representation between donors and recipients. The Soviet Union was completely opposed to that position and felt strongly that the principle of equitable geographical distribution, as laid down in the Charter, must be strictly adhered to. His delegation could only support the proposed draft resolution if paragraph 8 was amended on the lines suggested by the Czechoslovak representative. Also, the term of office of representatives elected to the Intergovernmental Committee should not be decided by voting but rather by the drawing of lots, in the usual manner.

42. Mr. BRADLEY (Argentina) said that his country was represented on the Intergovernmental Committee and had supported the Committee's recommendations concerning elections. He reminded the representative of Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union that the Intergovernmental Committee was concerned with the production and consumption of food-stuffs, a complex question which went far beyond mere geographical considerations. His delegation therefore endorsed fully the various criteria mentioned in paragraph 8 and would vote for the draft resolution as a whole.

43. In reply to a question from Mr. PACHACHI (Iraq), Mr. KITTANI (Secretary of the Council) pointed out, with reference to the proposed operative paragraph 9, that the General Regulations of the Programme had already been drawn up by the Intergovernmental Committee and that the review of those regulations would have to be carried out by the Economic and Social Council and the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization.

44. Mr. PACHACHI (Iraq) pointed out that, as the Council was being presented with a fait accompli, there seemed hardly any need for operative paragraph 9.

45. Mr. ROOSEVELT (United States of America) drew attention to operative paragraph 3 (b) of General Assembly resolution 1714 (XVI) of 19 December 1961, which was almost exactly the same as the proposed paragraph 8.

46. Sir Keith UNWIN (United Kingdom) stated that the only effective innovation in the proposed draft resolution concerned the replacement in rotation of members to be elected to the Intergovernmental Committee and the determination of the terms of office of members elected at the first election according to the number of votes they received rather than by the drawing of lots. That was not a matter of great importance—though he preferred the drawing of lots—and should not prevent the Council from adopting the draft resolution.

47. Mr. MUZIK (Czechoslovakia) said he would not press his amendment to operative paragraph 8 but requested a separate vote on that paragraph.

*Paragraph 8 of the draft resolution was adopted by 14 votes to 2, with 2 abstentions.*

*The draft resolution as a whole was adopted by 16 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.*

## AGENDA ITEM 6

### Review of the calendar of conferences for 1966

48. Sir Keith UNWIN (United Kingdom) suggested that the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme should meet on Monday, 10 January 1966.

## AGENDA ITEM 7

### Elections:

(b) Election of the members of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (concluded)

49. Mr. BRADLEY (Argentina) wished to make it clear that during the first year the seat occupied

by Yugoslavia in the new Governing Council would be one of those allocated to the Latin American countries but that during the second year Yugoslavia's seat would be one of those allocated to the Asian countries.

50. Mr. KITTANI (Secretary of the Council) confirmed that view and said that the Secretariat would take the necessary action.

The meeting rose at 6.30 p.m.