



## ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Thirty-ninth session

OFFICIAL RECORDS

1395th meeting

Friday, 30 July 1965  
at 3.20 p.m.

PALAIS DES NATIONS, GENEVA

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President : Mr. A. 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: Denmark, Ghana, India, Iran, Madagascar, Mexico, United Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania.

Observers for the following Member States: Israel, Italy, Philippines, Sweden, Zambia.

Observer for the following non-member State: Federal Republic of Germany.

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

The representative of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

## AGENDA ITEM 18

## Social development

- (a) Report of the Social Commission (E/4061)
- (b) Report on social programmes and targets for the second half of the Development Decade (E/CN.5/388 and 394)
- (c) Report on methods of determining social allocations and organizational arrangements for social planning (E/CN.5/387 and 393)

## REPORT OF THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE (E/4108 and Corr.1)

1. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the report of the Social Committee on agenda item 18 (E/4108 and Corr.1), and to vote on the thirteen draft resolutions in paragraph 37 thereof.

## A. REPORT OF THE SOCIAL COMMISSION

*Draft resolution A was adopted by 15 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.*

## B. ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE UNITED NATIONS SOCIAL DEFENCE PROGRAMME

*Draft resolution B was adopted by 12 votes to 3, with 3 abstentions.*

2. Mr. VIAUD (France) said he had abstained from voting, because the drafting of operative paragraph 4 was unsatisfactory; the term "funds-in-trust account" was so vague that he could not see how delegations could be expected to accept it. The Social Committee should have been able to remove the unfortunate wording used by the Social Commission and find a text which reflected the attitudes and financial practices of the United Nations. His delegation, therefore, would not regard the vote as binding in so far as the establishment of an account or contributions to such an account were concerned.

3. Sir Samuel HOARE (United Kingdom) said his delegation had abstained from voting for reasons similar to, although not exactly the same as, those just given by the French representative. The United Kingdom delegation did not consider that the concept of funds-in-trust as an element in the financing of the social defence programme was satisfactory.

4. Mrs. KASTALSKAYA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said she had abstained from voting for the reasons given by the USSR representative in the Social Committee (527th meeting).

## C. CONCERTED PRACTICAL ACTION IN THE SOCIAL FIELD: RESEARCH-TRAINING PROGRAMME ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

*Draft resolution C was adopted by 16 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.*

#### D. DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME IN THE NATION

*Draft resolution D was adopted unanimously.*

#### E. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

*Draft resolution E was adopted unanimously.*

#### F. PROPOSED CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR SOCIAL WELFARE

*Draft resolution F was adopted by 14 votes to none, with 4 abstentions.*

5. Mr. VIAUD (France) said he had abstained from voting because the text of the draft resolution did not make it clear that the Council was not taking a decision about the holding of the proposed conference; that decision would be taken at a later stage. His delegation had serious doubts as to the opportuneness and utility of holding a conference of ministers for social welfare.

#### G. FAMILY, CHILD AND YOUTH WELFARE SERVICES

*Draft resolution G was adopted by 14 votes to none, with 4 abstentions.*

#### H. TRAINING OF SOCIAL WELFARE PERSONNEL

*Draft resolution H was adopted by 14 votes to none, with 4 abstentions.*

#### I. REAPPRAISAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAMME

6. Mr. VIAUD (France) said his delegation considered that the wording of operative paragraph 6 of the draft resolution could be interpreted as meaning that the Council was asking the General Assembly to take the necessary steps to increase the social welfare staff, both at Headquarters and in the regional economic commissions, and the resources for advisory social welfare services. No statement of financial implications had been provided by the Secretariat. The French delegation therefore assumed that there would be no financial implications and that any increase in staff and in resources would be met from present staff and resources. He would like to know, before a vote was taken, whether that assumption was correct.

7. Mr. de SEYNES (Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs) observed that the question raised by the French representative demonstrated the somewhat futile character of the financial implications procedure hitherto employed. The Secretary-General had not yet considered the question of the need for substantial increases in the social welfare staff and in resources for advisory social welfare services, and it was impossible to give the financial implications of something that was still hypothetical.

8. Mr. VIAUD (France) said the Council seemed to be being put in the position of having to make a recommendation to the General Assembly on a problem which would arise in the future; such a procedure would allow the Secretary-General, backed by the Council's recommendation, to ask for extra funds to meet any administrative reforms he might wish to introduce.

9. The financial implications procedure might be futile; indeed, his delegation had been the first to ask for the adoption of something more rational. The procedure existed, however, and what the Council was now doing was to ignore a rule which it itself had made. Even though the rule might no longer meet requirements, the Council should abide by it until a new one was adopted. In the circumstances, his delegation could not vote for operative paragraph 6 of draft resolution I.

10. Mr. de SEYNES (Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs) pointed out that operative paragraph 6 as it stood would have no financial implications; all that was involved was a consideration of the question of the need to increase staff and resources.

11. Sir Samuel HOARE (United Kingdom) observed that the text of operative paragraph 6 left it entirely open to the appropriate authorities to decide whether there was a need for substantial increases in staff and resources and to state what the need was. He was prepared to vote for the draft resolution on the understanding that there would be no financial implications at the present stage.

12. Mrs. AFNAN (Iraq) said that she intended to abstain from voting, although her abstention had nothing to do with financial implications. Her delegation believed that as there was going to be a reappraisal of the social service programme, it would be better to wait till the reappraisal had been made before considering whether increases in staff and resources were needed.

13. Mrs. KASTALSKAYA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that her delegation had abstained from voting on draft resolutions G and H and intended to abstain from voting on draft resolution I for the same reasons. The meaning attached in the USSR to the term "social services" differed from that attached to it by the co-sponsors of the draft resolutions, who seemed to underestimate the role of the State. The three draft resolutions were very narrow. Furthermore, the question of financial implications was important. Her delegation was also not satisfied with the content of the work programmes suggested in the draft resolutions.

14. Mr. VIAUD (France), replying to the United Kingdom representative, said that the reason why his delegation intended to abstain from voting on draft resolution I was that it did not consider the proposed expansion of activities to be justified. He had raised the question of financial implications for that reason, but his delegation's abstention should not be deemed to be motivated by that question.

*Draft resolution I was adopted by 11 votes to none, with 7 abstentions.*

#### J. YOUTH AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

*Draft resolution J was adopted unanimously.*

#### K. REHABILITATION OF THE DISABLED

*Draft resolution K was adopted unanimously.*

## L. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

*Draft resolution L was adopted by 17 votes to none, with 1 abstention.*

## M. PLANNING OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

*Draft resolution M was adopted unanimously.*

### Announcement by the President

15. The PRESIDENT announced that he had received a cable from New York addressed to him by Mr. Lopez, Permanent Representative of the Philippines and Chairman of the twenty-first session of the Commission on Human Rights, Mr. Marof, Permanent Representative of Guinea and Chairman of the Special Committee on the Policies of *apartheid* of the Government of the Republic of South Africa and Mr. Volio, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica and Vice-Chairman of the twenty-first session of the Commission on Human Rights and of the Special Committee on the Policies of *apartheid* of the Government of the Republic of South Africa. The message stated that, in response to a suggestion of the signatories, the Permanent Representative of Brazil had expressed his Government's willingness to invite the United Nations to organize in Brazil in 1966 an international seminar on *apartheid* as part of the proposed programme for observance of the twentieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Although the Council had already approved the Secretary-General's programme providing for three human rights seminars for 1966 (resolution 1067 B (XXXIX)), the signatories hoped that the Council would find it possible during its current session to recommend urgently that the General Assembly authorize and provide funds for holding a fourth seminar in 1966. The details concerning the agenda and arrangements would be worked out by agreement between the Secretary-General and the Government of Brazil. In the belief that the holding of such a seminar would meet the wishes of the vast majority of Members of the United Nations and would receive overwhelming support in the General Assembly, and having regard to the importance and urgency of the matter, the signatories were confident that the Council would find an appropriate way of dealing with the request at its current session.

16. He had replied by telegram expressing his regret that the message had reached him too late for any action to be taken on the proposal before the adjournment of the first part of the thirty-ninth session, the Council having already completed consideration of item 28 of its agenda concerning advisory services in the field of human rights, but stating that he would communicate the message orally to the Council and would point out that, since the Council had decided to resume its thirty-ninth session during the early part of the twentieth session of the General Assembly, it would still be possible, under rules 13 and 17 of the rules of procedure, to include an additional item in the Council's agenda at that time.

*The meeting was suspended at 4 p.m. and resumed at 5.15 p.m.*

## AGENDA ITEM 6

### Economic and social consequences of disarmament (E/4029, E/4042; E/L.1078/Rev.2)

*(resumed from the 1393rd meeting and concluded)*

17. Mr. AKBAR ADIL (Pakistan) said that, although the previous version of his delegation's draft resolution (E/L.1078/Rev.1) had received a considerable measure of support, certain representatives had stated that, in the light of prevailing conditions, they would have difficulty in supporting it. As a resolution of that nature had great moral force if adopted unanimously, his delegation had taken into consideration the suggestions made and was now submitting a new version (E/L.1078/Rev.2) in which certain changes had been made in the preambular paragraphs. The operative part remained unchanged.

18. Sir Keith UNWIN (United Kingdom) expressed his appreciation of the efforts made by the Pakistan delegation to produce a text to which all representatives could subscribe. His delegation had been in favour of a short resolution of a procedural nature and would support the new draft.

19. Mr. BLAU (United States of America) said that, although his delegation had been prepared to support the previous draft, it found that the new revised version of the draft resolution more nearly met its original wishes; it hoped that the draft would meet with general support.

20. Mr. VIAUD (France) said that, at the 1393rd meeting, his delegation had given a full explanation of the reasons why it had been unable to support the previous draft. It would be in a position to support the new revised version of the draft resolution provided that the words "if possible" were inserted after the words "continue and" in operative paragraph 2.

21. Mr. AKBAR ADIL (Pakistan) inquired whether the words "attempt to" instead of the words "if possible" would be acceptable to the French representative.

22. Mr. VIAUD (France) replied in the affirmative.

23. Mr. ARKADYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation was prepared to support the new revised version of the draft resolution because of the great value which it attached to the report of the Secretary-General on the question (E/4042). He expressed his appreciation of the reasonable approach shown by the representative of Pakistan. As the operative paragraphs had been retained, the substance of the draft resolution had not been altered.

24. The change just agreed to by the French representative was acceptable to his delegation.

*The Pakistan revised draft resolution (E/L.1078/Rev.2), as amended, was adopted unanimously.*

## AGENDA ITEM 3

## World economic trends

*(resumed from the 1378th meeting and concluded)*

## REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE (E/4114)

25. The PRESIDENT said the Council would note that, in paragraph 3 of its report (E/4114), the Economic Committee stated that it had no recommendation to make to the Council on item 3 of the agenda. In the circumstances, he suggested that the Council should confine itself to taking note of the report.

*It was so decided.*

## AGENDA ITEM 37

Financial implications of actions of the Council  
(E/4082, E/4092, E/4122)

*(resumed from the 1368th meeting and concluded)*

26. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the statement by the Secretary-General on financial implications of actions of the Council (E/4082), the report by the Secretary-General on the same subject (E/4122) and some extracts (E/4092) from the sixth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to the General Assembly at its twentieth session (A/6007).

27. Mr. VAGANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, after a careful study of the documents on item 37 of the agenda, together with the note by the Secretary-General on the work programme of the United Nations in the economic, social and human rights fields (E/4070 and Add.1) where in annex III the resources allocated to each major area of work in those fields was indicated, his delegation wished to make some comments at the present stage on the financial implications of actions by the Council, although it was aware that the final decisions on the allocation of budgetary resources would be taken by the General Assembly.

28. From the documents before the Council, it appeared that the budget estimates for 1966 were \$21 million—or more than 27 per cent—higher than the budget for 1965, and that requests were being made for the creation of 455 new posts. Obviously, some material support would be required for new activities, such as the work of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Centre for Industrial Development; but the right way of achieving the Organization's main objectives was not to increase the budget year by year, but to concentrate on activities which were of the highest priority and reduce expenditure on work of secondary importance.

29. Unjustifiable increases in the budget could be avoided in a number of ways. At the 1378th meeting the head of the Soviet delegation had pointed out that for 1966 and 1967 the Bureau of Social Affairs was planning 24 studies and meetings on community development, which accounted for a quarter of its entire programme;

and another 24 studies and meetings on social defence—mainly, on questions of criminal law—in the same period. But social problems of that kind were not important enough to merit the expenditure of any considerable amount of resources or time. Another way of cutting down expenditure would be to reduce the volume of reports, studies and reviews prepared by the United Nations Secretariat or by special rapporteurs at its request. Many of the reports were devoted to minor problems which were not of general interest, and their size was out of all proportion to the value of their contents.

30. The number of new posts requested also seemed too large. It was perfectly possible to discharge the essential functions of the United Nations by arranging for a better distribution of existing posts between the various departments of the Secretariat. In the Social Committee, his delegation had already opposed an increase in the number of established posts in the Bureau of Social Affairs, and it was likewise opposed to any increase in the number of staff members working on social problems in the secretariats of the regional economic commissions. On similar grounds, it could not support the proposal for increasing the membership of the Advisory Committee of Experts on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. Further, the secretariat of the Trade and Development Board and the Centre for Industrial Development should be staffed mainly by transferring posts from the Bureau of Social Affairs. The Office of the Controller should be asked to undertake a review of the workload of staff members in various departments of the Secretariat, with a view to redistributing posts and meeting the staff requirements of new bodies without any increase in budgetary allocations. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had quite rightly suggested in its report that proposals for further increases in the number of established posts called for careful scrutiny.

31. Another economy measure would be to cut down the number and length of certain meetings and missions. His delegation had already suggested that the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning should meet once every two years instead of annually; and biennial sessions would be sufficient for the Commission on the Status of Women as well. Time and money could be saved, too, by preparing and organizing symposia and meetings more rationally. In particular, the regional economic commissions should be called upon to play a more active part in the preparation of material for meetings, and voluntary assistance from individual States could also be solicited. Further savings could be effected by efficient co-operation and distribution of labour between the United Nations Secretariat and the specialized agencies. Co-operation of that kind could be arranged at the joint meetings of officers of the Council and the ACC and the prospective reorganization of the Special Committee on Co-ordination (see E/4119, draft resolution G) should enable some progress to be made in that direction.

32. The General Assembly's request for the maximum possible economy in the use of resources should be strictly complied with; and his delegation would like to endorse



the comments of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in paragraph 45 of its report, which, while recognizing the pressing need of States Members for economic and social development, nevertheless insisted that the available resources could be used most effectively only through long-term planning and the establishment of priorities.

33. Lastly, his delegation noted with regret that some of the documents relating to the financial implications of actions by the Council had been submitted late, and that some of them did not explain in adequate detail the reasons for proposed changes in the budget estimates. As it was impossible at the present session to discuss fully every aspect of the financial implications of the Council's decisions, his delegation reserved the right to revert to the matter in the Fifth Committee at the twentieth session of the General Assembly.

34. Mr. KITTANI (Secretary of the Council) said that the figure of \$7,500 which appeared under the heading of "1966 Supplementary Estimates" in the table given in document E/4122 should be transferred to the column headed "Initial 1967 Budget Estimates". The additional members of the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities would not be elected until the 1966 session of the Commission on Human Rights, and would not participate in the work of the Sub-Commission before 1967.

35. Mr. VIAUD (France) said that, though the Council had decided two years previously to adopt a new approach and use new methods in its consideration of the financial implications of its actions, it was still difficult to obtain a general picture of the problem and to arrive at valid conclusions. He hoped that at the forty-first session the Council would be able to have a more valuable exchange of views on the matter than it had had in recent years.

36. To that end, it was essential for the Council to reach a firm decision on two aspects of the problem—the programme of work and methods. He hoped that the resolutions adopted by the Co-ordination Committee at the present session—which were to be considered at the next plenary meeting—would enable the Council to decide which were the most urgent problems in its programme of work; and, with regard to methods, he felt bound to recall the comments of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in paragraph 85 of its report on the continuing increase in the number of meetings serviced by the United Nations Secretariat. It would be helpful if the Secretary-General could prepare for the Council's next session a note on ways of rationalizing the meetings of the various subsidiary bodies of the Council, not necessarily with a view to reducing the total amount of work undertaken but to ensure the best possible use was made of the time available.

37. Sir Keith UNWIN (United Kingdom) said his delegation had always encouraged the tendency displayed by the Council in recent years to give closer attention to the financial implications of its own actions. It was

aware, too, that there were certain limits to what could be done in that respect. At previous sessions, for instance, the consideration of net additions to current budgets and future estimates had been rather superficial, in the absence of any detailed knowledge of the resources available and their allocation between different forms of activity.

38. He had been greatly encouraged, however, by the action taken in pursuance of Council resolution 1046 (XXXVII) and by the growing recognition of the need for closer harmonization of budgeting and programming and for closer co-operation between the Council's programming bodies on the one hand and the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly and the United Nations financial bodies on the other. The measures taken during the past year marked a substantial step forward towards a more effective use of available resources.

39. As to the increases in the 1966 estimates, the Council had heard the remarks of the Secretary-General (1373rd meeting) and had read the comments of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions reproduced in document E/4092; but it did not yet know what exactly their recommendations were. His own delegation, for its part, was strongly in favour of increasing the total United Nations effort in the economic and social field, and believed that the Secretariat should be strengthened so that it could help the Council to discharge its responsibilities as efficiently as possible. But resources were limited; and in that connexion, one could only endorse the statement by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in paragraph 44 of its report that it was necessary to find a reasonable balance between the increasing needs of the membership and the capacity of that membership to provide the Organization with the means to carry out existing tasks of high priority, as well as to undertake additional activities of a pressing nature in the economic and social area.

40. He had three comments to make on the information given in document E/4122. First, it did not seem that either the Council or its Social Committee or TAC had seriously considered the need for additional staff for a seminar or workshop devoted to the civic and political education of women to be financed under human rights advisory services; and the expenditure of an additional \$25,000 for that purpose had certainly not been justified.

41. Second, he had understood that, despite the reservations expressed in some of the documents before the Council, the staff requirements of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development, as stated in paragraph 190 of the Committee's second report (E/4026), would be fully met.

42. Third, he noted that the additional cost of appointing a special rapporteur for the preparation of a study of racial discrimination in the political, economic, social and cultural spheres would be \$27,500 in 1966 and only \$2,500 in 1967, owing to the fact that the appointment could be made in 1967 without the recruitment of an

additional staff member. That being so, he strongly urged that work on the study in question should not be started until 1967.

43. Mr. de SEYNES (Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs) recalled that the consideration of the financial implications of the actions of the Council had been initiated with a view to introducing some discipline into the procedure of applying for additional credits. He thought that the improvements made during the past two years in the methods adopted by the Council for considering the financial implications of its actions had borne fruit in one respect at least—in that the implicit requests for additional credits at the present session were much more modest than they had been in previous years.

44. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council take note of the statement by the Secretary-General on financial implications of actions of the Council (E/4082), the extracts (E/4092) from the sixth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to the General Assembly at its twentieth session (A/6007) and the report of the Secretary-General on financial implications of actions of the Council (E/4122).

*It was so decided.*

#### AGENDA ITEM 8

##### Financing of economic development (E/4038 and Corr.1 and Add.1, E/4079 and Corr.1 and Add.1)

#### REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE (E/4115)

45. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the report of the Economic Committee on agenda item 8

(E/4115), and to vote on the two draft resolutions in paragraph 9 thereof.

#### I. TERMS OF LENDING TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

*Draft resolution I was adopted by 16 votes to none, with 1 abstention.*

#### II. FINANCING OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

*Draft resolution II was adopted by 16 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.*

46. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on the recommendation made by the Economic Committee in paragraph 8 of its report.

47. Mr. VIAUD (France) suggested that it would be enough for the Council to take note of the Committee's recommendation, without voting on it.

48. Mr. WALDRON-RAMSEY (United Republic of Tanzania) said he would not insist on a vote being taken on the recommendation contained in paragraph 8, provided that the request referred to in the recommendation was incorporated in the Council's report as a request by the Council itself; and he suggested that that procedure be adopted.

*It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 6.30 p.m.