



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Forty-sixth Session

OFFICIAL RECORDS

Monday, 12 May 1969,
at 11.40 a.m.

NEW YORK

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Acting President: Mr. Pedro P. BERRO
(Uruguay).

President: Mr. Raymond SCHEYVEN
(Belgium).

Opening of the session

1. The ACTING PRESIDENT declared open the forty-sixth session of the Economic and Social Council.

AGENDA ITEM 1

Election of President and Vice-Presidents for 1969

2. The ACTING PRESIDENT observed that, under rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the Council, the President and Vice-Presidents should be elected by secret ballot. However, if there were no objections, the Council might follow the practice established at previous sessions and elect candidates nominated by delegations by acclamation.

It was so decided.

3. Mr. RUDA (Argentina) nominated Mr. Raymond Scheyven (Belgium) for the office of President of the Economic and Social Council.

4. Mr. ROUAMBA (Upper Volta) and Mr. HAMBRO (Norway) seconded the nomination.

Mr. Scheyven (Belgium) was elected President by acclamation.

Mr. Scheyven (Belgium) took the Chair.

5. Mr. BERRO (Uruguay) congratulated the new President. The Economic and Social Council had an extremely important function to perform in promoting international co-operation and solidarity, respect for human rights and the development of the less favoured countries, thus helping to prevent wars and remove causes of tension.

6. The PRESIDENT first thanked the members of the Council for the confidence they had shown in him and for the honour they had done his country. After praising the abilities and talent of his predecessor, he invited the Council to reflect on the spirit in which it should approach its work for the development of two thirds

of mankind. The Council must take a broad, fresh and far-sighted view and have the courage to adopt an attitude of constant questioning. It was only in that spirit that it could devise effective solutions and undertake the necessary reforms. Lastly, turning to the agenda, he invited the Council to proceed to the election of its Vice-Presidents.

7. Mr. SEN (India) nominated Mr. Maximiliano Kestler (Guatemala) for the office of Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council.

8. Mr. BERRO (Uruguay) seconded the nomination.

Mr. Kestler (Guatemala) was elected Vice-President by acclamation.

9. Mr. DANIELI (United Republic of Tanzania) nominated Mr. Fakhreddine Mohamed (Sudan) for the office of Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council.

10. Mr. SHAHI (Pakistan) seconded the nomination.

Mr. Fakhreddine (Sudan) was elected Vice-President by acclamation.

11. Mr. NAITO (Japan) nominated Mr. J. B. P. Maramis (Indonesia) for the office of Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council.

12. Mr. SEN (India) seconded the nomination.

Mr. Maramis (Indonesia) was elected Vice-President by acclamation.

AGENDA ITEM 2

Adoption of the agenda (E/4607 and Corr.1)

13. The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to the agenda of the forty-sixth session (see E/4607 and Corr.1).

14. Mr. KHANACHET (Kuwait) proposed that the Council should postpone agenda item 5, concerning the development of tourism, to its forty-seventh session, because the Intergovernmental Conference on Tourism was to open at Sofia, Bulgaria, on 15 May and it would be very desirable for the Council to have the Conference's conclusions and recommendations. Moreover, the question was on the provisional agenda of the forty-seventh session and if the Council deferred it to that session it would be able to consider the question as a whole.

15. Mr. GALLARDO MORENO (Mexico) supported the Kuwaiti representative's proposal. Experience had shown that as a general rule it was not advisable to divide up the discussion of a single question. If that item was postponed to the forty-seventh session, the Council would also have before it all the necessary documentation on the very important question of the development of tourism as well as the results of the

Sofia conference, at which more than 100 countries would be represented.

16. Mr. TARABANOV (Bulgaria) also supported the view expressed by the Kuwaiti representative. It would be a great help to the Council to have before it the recommendations and resolutions adopted at the Sofia conference when it took up the question of the development of tourism, since all the problems connected with tourism, especially those involved in the establishment of a new intergovernmental tourist organization, would be studied at that Conference. The Kuwaiti representative's proposal was also in conformity with Council resolution 1363 (XLV) of 2 August, 1968, in which it had decided to place on the agenda of the forty-seventh session a separate item entitled "Review of the programmes and activities of the United Nations system of organizations for the development of tourism" and had invited the Secretary-General, in preparation for the discussion of that problem at the forty-seventh session, to prepare a report which would give a succinct picture of the present programmes and activities of the United Nations and related organizations in the field of tourism and to transmit that report to the Council at its forty-seventh session through the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination.

17. Mr. BERRO (Uruguay) also supported the suggestion made by the Kuwaiti representative. While the question of tourism was unquestionably an urgent matter, because tourism did much to bring nations closer together and was a source of wealth, the Council's work must be organized systematically. He felt that the postponement of item 5 to the forty-seventh session was fully justified, considering that the item was already on the provisional agenda of that session and that by then the Council would know the outcome of the Sofia conference.

18. Mr. CUHRUK (Turkey) also supported the proposal of the Kuwaiti representative, especially since the Council did not have all the documentation it needed at the present time. The Secretary-General's report on tourism, moreover, would not be submitted to the Council before the forty-seventh session. It would no doubt contain information on recent international developments in the field of tourism.

19. The PRESIDENT proposed that, if there were no objections, the discussion of agenda item 5 should be postponed to the forty-seventh session.

It was so decided.

20. Mr. OLDS (United States of America), referring to item 19 (elections), observed that the terms of reference of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination were being revised and that the revision would affect its composition. For practical reasons, therefore, it would be better to defer the item on the election of the members of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination to the forty-seventh session, when a decision would have been taken on their new terms of reference.

21. Mr. BERRO (Uruguay) supported the United States representative's proposal.

22. The PRESIDENT proposed that, if there were no objections, the item on the election of the members

of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination should be postponed to the forty-seventh session.

It was so decided.

The agenda (E/4607 and Corr.1), as amended, was adopted.

Organization of the work of the session (E/L.1245)

23. The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to the note by the Secretary-General on the organization of the work of the forty-sixth session (E/L.1245).

24. Mr. ALLEN (United Kingdom) remarked that it had been arranged that the questions relating to science and technology (agenda item 7) would be considered in plenary. Those were fairly complex questions which, in view of their importance for the strategy of the Second United Nations Development Decade, deserved to be given thorough study in committee, especially since the Economic Committee's agenda had just been reduced by the postponement of item 5 to the forty-seventh session. Those remarks applied equally to item 8, "Arrangements for the transfer of operative technology to developing countries", which was closely connected with item 7. He therefore proposed that the Council should refer those two items to the Economic Committee before taking them up in plenary.

25. Mr. CUHRUK (Turkey) and Mr. BERRO (Uruguay) supported the United Kingdom representative's proposal.

26. Mr. OLDS (United States of America) also stressed the importance of questions relating to science and technology and the need to give them thorough consideration. He felt, however, that those questions should not be considered from the economic standpoint alone, and that aspects of them which in certain respects were connected with the social field should not be neglected. He would like to be sure that the Economic Committee, if it was instructed to consider the item, would take that into account. Even so, delegations could be faced with a practical problem if the Social Committee were to meet at the time the Economic Committee was examining item 7.

27. Mr. KASSUM (Secretary of the Council) said that when the Economic Committee was considering item 7, the Social Committee could study questions which did not require the same type of knowledge, so that delegations would be able to take part in the work of both Committees.

28. Mr. VIAUD (France) also supported the United Kingdom proposal. He noted that consideration of item 7 was scheduled for the Council plenary in the first week of the session; in the event that the United Kingdom proposal was adopted, he suggested that item 17, on non-governmental organizations, should be taken up in the first week. It was a singularly important and delicate question which would presumably take a fair amount of time, and consideration of it should be begun as soon as possible.

29. Mr. TARABANOV (Bulgaria) supported the French proposal. He wished to know, however, if the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations was already available to the members of the Council.

30. Mr. KASSUM (Secretary of the Council) said that the document was about to be circulated.

31. Mr. KHANACHET (Kuwait), like the French representative, wanted to see the Council start its consideration of item 17 as quickly as possible, but felt that there should be a lapse of at least forty-eight hours after the report had come out in order to give members an opportunity to study it properly.

32. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objections, agenda items 7 and 8 would be considered first by the Economic Committee, before being taken up by the Council in plenary, and the Council would begin its consideration of agenda item 17 in the afternoon of Thursday, 15 May.

It was so decided.

33. The PRESIDENT also proposed a slight change with regard to item 21, "Organization of work of the Council", which was scheduled for the fourth week. Paragraph 5 of document E/L.1249, which dealt with that question, suggested that the Council might request its Committees, in response to General Assembly resolution 2292 (XXII) of 8 December 1967, to consider at the outset of their work the possibility of dispensing with summary records for their meetings and to report their views on that matter to the Council. If there were no objections, he proposed to refer paragraph 5 of document E/L.1249 to the Economic and Social Committees immediately.

It was so decided.

34. Mr. DANIELI (United Republic of Tanzania) remarked that agenda item 9, "The role of the co-operative movement in economic and social development", was an entirely new question for which there was no basic document. Under such conditions, it seemed preferable for it to be considered directly by the Council in plenary, without prior consideration by the Economic Committee.

It was so decided.

35. Mr. DECASTIAUX (Belgium) was pleased to note that the work programme for the third week had been reduced by the referral of item 8 to the Economic Committee. It was a good idea to allow some respite at that point in the session, before the adoption of the report.

36. The PRESIDENT noted that, in accordance with rule 85 of the rules of procedure of the Council, non-governmental organizations in categories A and B which wanted a hearing on agenda items were requested to submit their applications for a hearing to the Secretariat in writing as soon as possible, and at the latest within forty-eight hours.

37. In conclusion, he said that he would hold consultations with the Vice-Presidents on the appointment of the Chairmen of the Economic Committee and the Social Committee.

The meeting rose at 1.40 p.m.