



CONTENTS

	Page
Opening of the session .....	1
Agenda item 1:	
Adoption of the agenda .....	1
Organization of work .....	1
Statement by the Secretary-General .....	2

*President:* Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium).

Opening of the session

1. The PRESIDENT declared open the forty-seventh session of the Economic and Social Council. He announced that the Secretary-General was prevented by illness from attending the session, and proposed that he should send him on behalf of the Council a message of sympathy and good wishes for a prompt recovery.

*It was so decided.*

AGENDA ITEM 1

Adoption of the agenda (E/4703)

*The provisional agenda (E/4703) was adopted.*

Organization of work (E/L.1252/Rev.1)

2. The PRESIDENT said that, in accordance with the decisions adopted at the Council's forty-sixth session (1602nd meeting), items 6, 7, 8, 10, 13, 14, 15, 17, 20 and 22 would be considered in plenary meeting, items 3, 4, 5, 11, 16 and 19 would be referred to the Economic Committee and items 9, 12, 18 and 21 to the Co-ordination Committee; items 7 and 23 to 29 would be considered at the resumed forty-seventh session.

3. Mr. ALLEN (United Kingdom) reminded members that in earlier discussions the Council had decided to consider agenda item 17, "Development of tourism", in plenary meeting because of its great importance. Since, however, the item would give rise to a very difficult debate, a preliminary discussion on it should preferably be held in plenary meeting, after which it should be referred to the Co-ordination Committee, which would have before it a report on the item by the Secretary-General (E/4653 and Add.1) and the comments submitted by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination.

4. Mr. VIAUD (France) supported the United Kingdom representative's proposal and suggested that the Co-ordination Committee's order of work should be amended

accordingly. It would also be desirable if agenda item 12, "The sea", were taken at the end of the second week of the Co-ordination Committee's work, since his Government had not yet been able to consider the relevant documents and his delegation had not yet received instructions on the subject. The matter had been examined from different angles by various United Nations bodies, and should not be considered until all delegations had had time to prepare for it thoroughly. If his proposal were accepted, the meetings set aside for the item could be used for the consideration of the item on the development of tourism, as the United Kingdom representative had proposed.

5. Mr. GALLARDO MORENO (Mexico) reminded the Council that his delegation, supported by other delegations, had proposed that the question of the development of tourism, to which a good many countries attached great importance, should be considered in plenary meeting. His delegation did not think that the procedure proposed by the United Kingdom representative was likely to simplify and facilitate consideration of the item, but would not insist that it should be considered exclusively in plenary meeting.

6. Mr. BRADLEY (Argentina) pointed out that, if the item on the development of tourism were considered first in plenary meeting and then referred to the Co-ordination Committee, it would have to be resubmitted to the Council in plenary meeting after the Co-ordination Committee had completed its work. In the circumstances it would be better to refer the item immediately to the Co-ordination Committee and thereafter to consider it in plenary meeting.

7. Mr. BENLER (Turkey) supported the proposal submitted by the United Kingdom and French delegations. His delegation did not, however, support the proposal that item 17 should be considered before item 12, since problems of the development of tourism were of capital importance for the developing countries, particularly for Turkey, and delegations must have enough time to consider all aspects of the problem.

8. Mr. ALLEN (United Kingdom) said that his delegation had proposed that item 17 should be considered first in plenary meeting in order to emphasize the Council's interest in the question, but it would agree to a direct reference to the Co-ordination Committee.

9. Mr. SWAMINATHAN (India) thought, like the Mexican representative, that item 17 should be considered in plenary meeting in order to demonstrate that the developing countries attached great importance to it.

10. The PRESIDENT proposed that item 17 should be considered first in plenary meeting, then referred to the Co-ordination Committee, and finally submitted to the plenary meeting for decision.

*It was so decided.*

11. Mr. OLDS (United States of America) observed that item 7, "Regional co-operation", could involve matters of organization and co-ordination; in such a case his delegation reserved its right to propose, after the debate in plenary, that the item should be referred to the Co-ordination Committee.

12. Mr. ALLEN (United Kingdom) pointed out that item 19, "Future institutional arrangements for science and technology", was concerned – as its title indicated – with organization, and was moreover closely linked to item 21, "Measures to approve the organization of the work of the Council and calendar of conferences and meetings for 1970 and 1971". It should therefore be referred to the Co-ordination Committee rather than to the Economic Committee.

13. Mr. SWAMINATHAN (India) supported the United Kingdom delegation's proposal, but pointed out that reference of the item to the Co-ordination Committee should not be interpreted as solely procedural; delegations must be quite free to raise questions of substance.

14. The PRESIDENT proposed that item 19 should be referred to the Co-ordination Committee.

*It was so decided.*

15. Mr. OLDS (United States of America) thought that item 11, "Multilateral food aid", was so important that it should be considered in plenary meeting.

16. Mr. VIAUD (France) agreed, but held that it could be considered within the general debate.

17. Mr. OLDS (United States of America) supported the French representative's suggestion.

18. Mr. VIAUD (France) said that, since it had apparently been agreed to postpone debate on item 12, the Co-ordination Committee should take up item 18 immediately after item 9 and discuss item 12 later.

19. Mr. HAMBRO (Norway) said that for practical reasons his delegation would prefer item 12 to be discussed not later than the end of the second week of the Co-ordination Committee's work.

20. The PRESIDENT said that he would endeavour so to arrange the Co-ordination Committee's time-table that the views of all delegations were taken into account. On

that understanding he proposed that the Co-ordination Committee should consider item 18 before item 12.

*It was so decided.*

21. The PRESIDENT suggested that, subject to the approved amendments, the proposals in the note by the Secretary-General (E/L.1252/Rev.1) for the organization of the work of the session should be adopted and that in consequence an Economic Committee and a Co-ordination Committee should be appointed for the duration of the session.

22. In accordance with the decision at the Council's forty-sixth session, Mr. Maramis, Vice-President of the Council, would preside the Co-ordination Committee. In the absence of Mr. Kestler and Mr. Fakhreddine, the Council's other two vice-presidents, it should under rule 23 of the rules of procedure elect a new chairman of the Economic Committee at the next meeting.

23. Mrs. ZAEFFERER de GOYENECHÉ (Argentina) pointed out that the Economic Committee should have been presided by Mr. Kestler, the representative of Guatemala. It should be presided by the representative of a Latin American country.

24. The PRESIDENT said that that had indeed been his understanding: the group of Latin American countries should nominate a candidate for the office of Chairman of the Economic Committee.

#### Statement by the Secretary-General

25. Mr. de SEYNES (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) read the statement which the Secretary-General was to have delivered at the opening of the forty-seventh session.

26. The Secretary-General emphasized that many of the most dangerous situations in the world today were largely rooted in unresolved social and economic ills. The basic problems before the Council must be vigorously attacked in order to keep frustrating confrontations from further endangering peace and stability at the national as well as the international level.

27. Mankind was engaged in a process of change leading to a new order of things. All nations, in addition to their own problems, were now having to deal with new phenomena demanding new forms of international co-operation. Between revolt and resignation, the only possible course was constructive action.

28. In order to appear as a revolutionary instrument in the search for a global partnership, the United Nations would have to gear itself to new conditions, improve its institutional machinery and keep its programme of work

abreast of the times. In such a task its budgetary policies should obviously be consistent with its contributions to world development and with the hopes associated with its Second Development Decade. To that end a rational decision-making process must be developed and the present machinery for planning, programming and budgeting overhauled. Programme proposals should be subjected to the most careful scrutiny from the point of view not only of cost but also of effectiveness, of the benefits hoped for, and of the alternative means available to reach a given objective. Moreover, budgetary decisions would have to be made in the knowledge of their programme implications. That new approach would call for an increased emphasis on medium- and long-term planning and for the establishment of the United Nations budget, at least in the economic and social sectors, on a programme basis. The work of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination demonstrated how the function of investigation and control, so necessary to any institutional system, should be exercised. Through such mechanisms it should be possible to examine more systematically how certain activities were organized within the whole system and to propose improvements or reforms.

29. The Council's decision to pay special attention to the preparatory work for the Second United Nations Development Decade was all the more opportune since the group of delegations of the socialist countries had not been able to participate in the work of the Preparatory Committee. The development strategy would gain strength from universal participation, and it was hoped that the present situation would be corrected.

30. Part I of the 1968 *World Economic Survey* (E/4687 and Add.1 to 3) showed how far current thinking on development had benefited from the analysis and discussion which had accompanied the preparation for the Second United Nations Development Decade. Certain concepts had been accepted through which the various ideologies could be reconciled, as the concept of development was now viewed in its broadest political, social and economic context. It was necessary to draw the consequences of that new approach. Tensions and conflicts were problems to which development policies must be geared. Institutions, attitudes and motivations should be looked upon as instruments of a strategy for development. It must be recognized that the synthesis which that approach required was not yet very far advanced and that the pace of investigation on those matters would have to be hastened to assist Governments in working out their own formulae.

31. That new concept would require more resources, an acceleration in the progress of productivity and a more adequate international effort. The target the Council chose for the average annual rate of growth for the Second United Nations Development Decade must reflect a significant change in the present trend. The rates of growth for agricultural production and industrial development would have to increase considerably, and that would require the mobilization of considerable political

will in both developing and developed countries; but the technical possibilities were there in both agriculture and industry. It should, however, also be recognized that an efficient industrial development would depend on a measure of specialization emphasizing the need to promote regional economic co-operation among groups of developing countries, a field in which the progress so far made was insufficient.

32. In respect of the international effort, a relatively limited sacrifice would be needed to improve the economic growth of developing countries; a slight reduction in expenditures on armaments would make available the external resources required for resolving at least some of the present economic and social problems. Aside from the waste and dangers of the arms race between the super-powers, more attention should be paid to the military posture of so many poor countries, which were diverting their efforts and resources from the basic needs of their peoples and inducing neighbouring countries to follow the same path. It was to be hoped that the efforts proposed to the Council would help to reverse that trend.

33. A new dimension of the problem arose from the appearance of youth as a fundamental factor in the political arena. Young people were discontented with the sluggishness of institutions and the structure of political, economic and social life. Many were impatient with injustice and questioned the existing channels of institutional change, sometimes with a violence which denied the ends for which they yearned.

34. During the years ahead, societies all over the world would have to adapt their priorities and allocate their resources to take into account the demands of youth. Rather than be regarded as a threat or a problem, young people should be acknowledged as a reserve of hope and a spur to action and progress.

35. The Commission for Social Development had underlined the dangers of the situation and stressed that young people should be associated with national planning for development. Many youth movements had demonstrated their determination to participate in the drive for development, especially through international voluntary service. New channels of communication must be sought and the positive characteristics of youth drawn upon to give a new emphasis to development policies.

36. The hope that lay in youth and the need to create conditions where it could fulfil its promise led to an examination of population policies. The rapid expansion in population created problems of outstanding magnitude in the developing countries, especially in terms of educational facilities and employment. That population explosion had given rise to much concern and discussion, in striking contrast with the official attitude of reticence or hostility that had prevailed until recently in many developing countries.

37. The Council had given attention at its forty-fifth session to the links between population trends and development opportunities, and had decided to expand United Nations activities in the field of population. Thanks to the voluntary contributions of Governments, population programme officers and interagency missions had been sent to different countries. Arrangements had been made for the full utilization of the managerial experience of UNDP, and the Population Division had revised its five-year work programme to include a variety of projects, with special emphasis both on the co-ordination of development efforts in the Second United Nations Development Decade and on the need for regional programmes through the regional economic commissions. ACC had recently suggested that every country should establish its own programme and policy in the field of population. That would require bolder action and increased international co-operation. The United Nations system was now prepared to make so large a contribution that considerable resources might be raised and put at the disposal of the Organization to enable it to expand its role in that area.

38. However important such programmes might be, their success would depend on a general improvement in economic prospects. In the vitally important field of trade and development, the creation of the continuing machinery of UNCTAD had made possible a better identification of most key problems and a clear definition of various types of specific measures. In spite of major disappointments, particularly at the second session of the Conference, progress could be made, as was demonstrated by the recent adoption of the new International Sugar Agreement and its favourable impact on the market price of a commodity on which a number of developing countries depended heavily. That agreement showed that practical results could be obtained within UNCTAD when there was a real willingness on the part of both developed and developing countries to enter into practical commitments. The second session of the Conference had further served to clarify positions on other fundamental problems and had left open many opportunities for concerted action affecting commodities, aid, trade and economic integration among developing countries and among countries having different economic and social systems. Continuing failure to arrive at decisions and commitments to implement policies already agreed in principle by all concerned would cast a serious doubt on the chances of success of the Second United Nations Development Decade. Not only was it very desirable that a comprehensive agreement should be reached before 1971 on the main trade and aid elements that should be encompassed within the global strategy, but it was also hoped that at least a few of the measures already agreed upon in principle would be brought closer to the stage of implementation. Among those, the scheme for preferences deserved high priority.

39. One field which had not been specifically highlighted was the vitally important one of public administration. United Nations action in that field had, however,

been forging ahead, and the Secretary-General intended to propose new and more ambitious objectives and programmes once the General Assembly had agreed upon the guidelines for the Second United Nations Development Decade. Good public administration could be a major instrument for promoting economic and social development and for introducing advances in science and technology; but deficiencies in administration had been a major reason for past failures in the implementation of national development plans. The United Nations had gradually developed a network of contacts which had greatly helped it in carrying out successfully its technical assistance activities in the field of public administration. The United Nations system should be especially responsive to requests of small States for assistance in working out co-operative arrangements for the administration of those development activities which they were unable to carry out entirely on a national basis. Similarly, the United Nations system should be prepared to provide the administrative machinery necessary for certain functions, such as weather forecasting, telecommunications and development of resources of the sea, which could best be administered on a supranational basis.

40. Without infringing the sovereignty of Member States, it should be possible to increase everywhere the individual's identity with world society. It seemed ironic that many of those who had suddenly awakened to the cost of neglecting poverty and injustice at home seemed unable to apply the lessons of their domestic experience to the world in which they lived. That mentality must be changed and people be made to understand that the domestic war on poverty and injustice could not be won at the expense of the international one.

41. Speaking on behalf of the United Nations family, the Secretary-General observed that considerable attention had been given throughout the past year to the questions of co-ordination which faced the United Nations and the agencies of its system. Different aspects of the issue had been under consideration by UNDP, the Expanded Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, and ACC. That intensive preoccupation had been motivated in part by the increase in the activities which the United Nations system had been called upon to carry out, but also by an awareness of the inadequacy of co-ordination in certain areas and of certain stresses and strains in the fabric of the system. The ACC report (E/4668 and Add.1) before the Council mentioned a number of difficulties in the application of science and technology, and particularly in the programme aimed at achieving an increased production and consumption of protein foods and in questions relating to water utilization and development. The discussions in ACC, the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, and the joint meetings had not fully resolved those problems, which were inherent in the decentralized structure of the international system. They had, however, led to special efforts to eliminate or attenuate causes of friction, to remove misunderstandings and to improve arrangements for co-operation. In the field of industrial development, where a certain amount of fric-

tion was perhaps inevitable as a result of the creation of a new organization with broad responsibilities, the situation had been eased by the various understandings worked out between UNIDO and other agencies; in that regard there was every reason to welcome the agreement recently concluded between the Director-General of FAO and the Executive Director of UNIDO.

42. Conscious of the general agreement among Council members that ACC should play a more active part in the attainment of the goals of the United Nations system, the Secretary-General and his colleagues were devoting increasing attention to elucidating some of the many issues of policy for the various governing organs and to suggesting ways of approaching them.

43. He had already called the attention of the General Assembly to the sense of concern felt at the growth in the number of bodies and programmes established by intergovernmental organs for co-ordination purposes, with all the complexities and duplications which they involved. He expressed the hope once again that the General Assembly and the other United Nations intergovernmental organs concerned would find it possible to scrutinize carefully the arrangements for co-ordination at their level. Furthermore, he recalled that he had invited ACC to review and scrutinize the work of inter-agency arrangements at the secretariat level with a view to streamlining and improving its machinery. A process of intensive review had begun and had already led to agree-

ment on some reforms in the structure and function of ACC. The Council would certainly take account of the views expressed by ACC in its report, while at the same time bearing in mind the special character of the Committee, whose members were appointed by the decision of their respective governing organs and whose reports formed a continuing link between the different parts of the United Nations system. He attached great importance to conserving and consolidating the Committee's influence and to maintaining a climate of mutual confidence among its members and to strengthening the intergovernmental fabric for co-ordination throughout the United Nations system.

44. The Second United Nations Development Decade was of the utmost moment and would require vast changes in the policies of both rich and poor countries. He invited the members of the Council to bear in mind during their discussions the broad perspective of the dangers with which the failure of the Decade would certainly threaten the economic and political stability of the world, and hoped that the forty-seventh session of the Council would be fruitful and successful.

45. The PRESIDENT thanked the Secretary-General on behalf of the members of the Council, and assured him of the interest with which they had listened to the statement which had just been read out.

The meeting rose at 4.40 p.m.