

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION FOR 1976

Summary records of the 1982nd to 1984th plenary meetings, held at
Headquarters, New York, on 13 and 15 January 1976

1982nd meeting

Tuesday, 13 January 1976, at 11.05 a.m.

Temporary President: Mr. Iqbal A. AKHUND (Pakistan).

President: Mr. Siméon AKE (Ivory Coast).

E/SR.1982

Opening of the session

1. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT declared open the organizational session of the Economic and Social Council for 1976 and welcomed the new members of the Council.

Tribute to the memory of Chou En-lai, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China

2. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT said that the death of Chou En-lai had grieved all mankind. In his person and his life he had represented all that was best and most universal in his country and its ancient civilization. With his fortitude of spirit, clarity of mind and profoundly humanistic wisdom, he had never faltered in his struggle to lead his country out of feudalism and to free it from foreign domination, and during his lifetime he had seen China emerge from its long travail and set out on the road to becoming a modern, prosperous and powerful State. Joining the people of China in mourning the loss of their great leader and statesman, he offered them, on behalf of the members of the Economic and Social Council, deepest condolences and sympathy in their bereavement.

On the proposal of the President, the members of the Council observed a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of Chou En-lai, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China.

3. Mr. CHANG Hsien-wu (China) said that Chou En-lai, Vice Chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, had been a great proletarian revolutionary of the Chinese people, a loyal revolutionary fighter and an outstanding, long-tested leader of the Chinese Communist Party and State. His death was a gigantic loss to the cause of China's revolution and construction as well as to the cause of human progress. He expressed, on behalf of

his delegation, heartfelt thanks to the President of the Council and to the representatives of many countries who had extended deep condolences on the death of Premier Chou En-lai, and said that he would convey their sympathy to the Chinese Government and people and to the bereaved family.

Statement by the Temporary President

4. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT, reviewing the work of the Council over the past year, said that, while 1975 had begun in turbulence and uncertainty, the world economic situation had eased during the year. That had not, however, been due to any real effort to determine and correct the cause of the problems, but rather had resulted from piecemeal efforts and fortuitous circumstances. An effort to understand the cause of the problems had been initiated at the seventh special session of the General Assembly (1-16 September 1975), during which it had been agreed that the malaise in the world economy was of a fundamental nature; while views differed as to means and ends, the consensus was sufficient to permit negotiations on specific problems. That new perception was a good augury for the future. The Economic and Social Council, although criticized for and aware of its shortcomings, had carried out important preparatory work essential to the success of that special session of the General Assembly.

5. Related developments included the Conference on International Economic Co-operation, which would soon be under way in Paris; in spite of the great difficulties facing the Conference, it was encouraging that its composition and objectives had been enlarged beyond what had originally been proposed. Recommendations submitted by the World Food Council were also awaiting implementation, and major reforms of the monetary system had been agreed on at the fifth meeting of the Interim Committee of IMF, on 7 and 8 January 1976, in Jamaica. While those developments

were welcome and showed that one part of the world had come to terms with its problems, the burden had been shifted to some extent to other parts of the world. While the deficit of the poorer countries had declined slightly over the past year, it was nevertheless 350 per cent more than three years previously, and the situation was likely, under current circumstances, to deteriorate still further. Effective action was needed to redress that situation. The world population was growing, perhaps beyond potential resources. The discrepancies in gross national product between rich and poor countries were increasing, making normal trade difficult, while the culture and technology gap was creating unbridgeable differences between peoples. The task of defining objectives and seeking means of achieving them was a continuing one. The Economic and Social Council was a suitable forum for providing further impetus in that direction, and economic debate must lead not to contention but to negotiation.

6. He expressed appreciation to the members of the Council for the co-operation they had shown him during his term of office as President, and thanked the Secretariat for the unstinting support afforded him at all times.

AGENDA ITEM 1

Election of the Bureau

7. Mr. LONGERSTAEY (Belgium) nominated Mr. Siméon Aké (Ivory Coast) for the office of President.

Mr. Aké (Ivory Coast) was elected President by acclamation.

Mr. Aké (Ivory Coast) took the Chair.

Statement by the President¹

8. The PRESIDENT expressed appreciation to the members of the Council for electing him President, and said he was aware of the heavy responsibilities entrusted to him at a time when action was required to implement the new international economic order proclaimed in May 1974 by the General Assembly, in its resolution 3201 (S-VI). His election showed that the economic and social development of Africa was still in the forefront of the international community's concerns, and it was also a tribute to his country for its efforts to contribute to the creation of a world of peace, progress and social justice. With the help of the members of the Council, he would endeavour to discharge his functions in a manner consonant with the trust placed in him.

9. Referring to the statement made after his election in January 1975² by his predecessor, to whom he paid tribute, he said that the proper role and functions of the Economic and Social Council in the economic affairs of the international community remained to be defined and agreed upon; that should encourage the Council to continue its consideration of the important question of the rationalization of its work and the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system. The latter reform would make the Council once again what it had originally been intended to be, namely, a central organ for considering, formulating, co-ordinating and supervising United Nations policies and activities in the economic and social

field, and would give it a much greater role than in the past in international economic relations and the establishment of social justice throughout the world.

10. The United Nations had often responded to the concerns of its Member States by drawing attention to blatant economic and social inequality in international economic relations and had taken decisions that were lofty in intention but incapable of redressing the situation, simply because of a lack of political will to implement them. In the troubled times prevailing, it was no longer enough to deal with economic developments as they arose; efforts must be made to control the course of events. Most countries, particularly developing countries, were vulnerable to grave crises which could be a threat to domestic tranquillity and therefore to world peace. Under those circumstances, sterile confrontation must be replaced by frank and constructive dialogue, seeking practical and realistic solutions and taking account of the interests common to all the parties concerned. The positive outcome of the seventh special session of the General Assembly should provide a stimulus in that direction.

11. The development of the third world was still a prime concern of the United Nations, which had an obligation under the Charter to establish conditions for the promotion of economic and social progress and development. The international community had now become aware of the interdependence of national economies and the need to seek a global solution to the serious problem posed by economic imbalance or disparities in the level of development between the rich countries and those of the third world. The decisions taken at the sixth special session of the General Assembly (resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI)) and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States (resolution 3281 (XXIX)) could, despite reservations on the part of some Member States, be considered a solution to the problem, provided that they were followed by practical measures whose implementation presupposed a political will on the part of all Member States. That political will had been manifested at the seventh special session in the unanimous adoption of resolution 3362 (S-VII), in which the Assembly advocated measures in specific fields designed to accelerate the development of the developing countries and thus to narrow the gap between developed and developing countries. The lesson of the seventh special session was that, with imagination, political will and political courage, it was possible to find practical solutions to all the difficulties facing the international community. Negotiations would continue in 1976 at various international conferences, such as the Conference on International Economic Co-operation in Paris and the fourth session of UNCTAD, which was to be held in May at Nairobi.

12. Turning to the programme of work of the Economic and Social Council for the current year, he drew attention to the notes by the Secretariat (E/5753 and E/L.1684) on the basic programme of work of the Council for 1976 and actions arising out of decisions of the General Assembly at its thirtieth session. In his view, item 9 of the suggested agenda for the sixty-first session (see E/L.1684, part II, sect. A), entitled "Development and international economic co-operation: Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and revision of the International Development Strategy", continued to be the most important matter before the Council. Among other things, it would allow an assessment of progress

¹ The verbatim text of the President's statement was later circulated as document E/L.1700.

² See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Organizational Session for 1975, Summary records of plenary meetings, 1935th meeting.*

in implementing General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII) and of the results of the fourth session of UNCTAD and the Paris Conference. It might be advisable, as the Secretariat had suggested, to establish an *ad hoc* sessional committee or working party of the whole to consider that item.

13. Pursuant to its resolution 1768 (LIV), the Council should select the area or problem on which it would concentrate during the year. The seventh special session had provided the basic data, but the fourth session of UNCTAD and the Paris Conference would limit the Council's options to some extent. Nevertheless he felt that the Council might select, in addition to item 9, one of the following subjects: transfer of resources, transfer of technology, co-operation among developing countries, reform and adaptation of development assistance, guarantees for the export earnings of developing countries, assistance in industrialization and access of manufactured products from developing countries to markets in industrialized countries, and the role of the Council in international economic relations. Those were simply a few suggestions, to which more might be added during the informal consultations on the programme of work for 1976.

14. Although he had participated in the work of the Council for only three years, he had been impressed by the atmosphere in which it worked, by the spirit of dialogue and conciliation among its members, and by the frequent recourse to informal consultations and negotiations in order to narrow differences of view so as to reach decisions acceptable to all. He trusted that that atmosphere and that spirit would continue to prevail; he himself intended to consult informally with members, individually or in regional groups, that being a well-tested method of overcoming difficulties, and he would urge the Chairmen of the sessional committees to do likewise.

15. He had noted that very often, when the Council was considering reports of deliberative bodies of the United Nations system, representatives of States which were members both of the Council and the body concerned tended to repeat the same statements. Since the positions of their Governments were already known and were on record elsewhere, they might well reduce the length of their statements. Members of the Council which had not participated in the deliberations of the body concerned could state the positions of their Governments at reasonable length, thus increasing the information available to the Council and facilitating the drafting of resolutions. Similarly, in the case of reservations, if they reflected the position of a number of States belonging to the same geographical economic or political group, it would surely suffice for the Chairman or spokesman of the group to express those reservations on behalf of the group, without each State repeating them.

16. Lastly, in connexion with procedure, he suggested that statements which did not deal with the subject of the debate but constituted acrimonious exchanges on questions unrelated to the item under consideration should be avoided as far as possible so as not to waste the time of the Council, which had the vital problems of development to grapple with.

17. In making those procedural suggestions, his intention was not to infringe the legitimate rights of members but simply to enable the Council to gain time for reflecting on the problems before it and negotiating an effective consensus on all the decisions it would have to take during the year.

18. Referring to documentation, he said that delays in issuing documents in all the official or working languages often seriously handicapped small delegations; all delegations should receive documents at the same time, so that they could forward them to their Governments for comments and instructions. He trusted that the Secretary of the Council would do his best to spare such delegations the difficulties he had mentioned. As President, he would not be in favour of beginning consideration of any item unless the relevant documents were available, if not in all the official languages, at least in all working languages of the Council.

19. He looked forward to receiving the full co-operation of all members of the Council, as the success of the Council's work depended on all of them.

20. He invited the Council to proceed to the election of the Vice-Presidents. Under rule 18 of the rules of procedure, the Council should elect four Vice-Presidents for 1976; he was informed that, on the basis of informal consultations, the regional groups had agreed on the following three nominations: Mr. Ladislav Smíd (Czechoslovakia), Mr. Rafael Rivas (Colombia) and Mr. Edouard Longerstaeey (Belgium).

Mr. Smíd (Czechoslovakia), Mr. Rivas (Colombia) and Mr. Longerstaeey (Belgium) were elected Vice-Presidents by acclamation.

21. The PRESIDENT suggested that the election of the other Vice-President should be postponed until a later meeting.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 2

Adoption of the agenda (E/5755 and Add.1/Rev.1)

The provisional agenda for the organizational session (E/5755 and Add.1/Rev.1) was adopted.

Organization of work

22. The PRESIDENT suggested that, in accordance with past practice, after the Secretary of the Council had introduced the relevant documents, the members of the Council should begin at once to hold informal consultative meetings on agenda items 3 and 4 with a view to reaching agreement on texts which the Council could discuss and adopt concerning the programme of work for 1976 and related matters. If the consultative meetings were concluded by Wednesday, the Council could take up item 5 on the morning of Thursday, 15 January, and revert to items 3 and 4 on Thursday afternoon.

23. Mr. BADAWI (Egypt) said that his delegation intended at a later stage to propose that the question of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination should be singled out from among other human rights questions and be discussed in plenary meetings.

24. Mr. BARCELO (Mexico) expressed surprise at the apparent omission from the Council's agenda of an item entitled "Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States".

25. Mr. MAKEYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) and Mr. DRISS (Tunisia) asked whether it was the President's intention that the Council should have a discussion on item 4.

26. The PRESIDENT replied that it was customary for the Council to discuss its basic programme of work informally in the first instance and to settle all minor problems; subsequently, it usually held a formal debate to hear statements on substantive issues. However, if any delegation wished to make a statement at the current meeting, it was free to do so.

27. If there were no objection, he would take it that the Council agreed to the suggested arrangements concerning informal consultations.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 3

Actions arising out of decisions of the General Assembly at its thirtieth session (E/L.1684, E/L.1687)

AGENDA ITEM 4

Basic programme of work of the Council for 1976 (E/5753, E/L.1685)

28. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) explained that documents E/5753 and E/L.1684 had been prepared by the Secretariat in accordance with rules 8 and 9 of the rules of procedure.

29. With reference to document E/5753, he recalled that the Executive Director of UNFPA had made a statement in the Second Committee of the General Assembly³ in which he had indicated his intention to submit a report on the Fund's priorities in allocation of resources to the Economic and Social Council. Subsequently, the secretariat of the Fund had been approached by a number of delegations which had questioned the advisability of submitting such a report to the Council before it had been considered by the Governing Council of UNDP. Following consultations with the Office of Legal Affairs, it had been established that it would be legally proper to submit the report in the first instance to the Governing Council of UNDP and subsequently to the Economic and Social Council. Consequently, the Secretary-General wished to suggest that question 13 of the annotated list of questions (E/5753, chap. I) should be integrated into item 15 of the agenda for the sixty-first session of the Council (Operational activities for development).

30. In connexion with question 4 of the annotated list, the Council was required to develop the procedures concerning the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI)) in accordance with articles 16-22 of the Covenant. The Secretariat had suggested that the Council might wish, at the current session, to request the Secretary-General to submit to it at its sixtieth session a document giving the background of the matter and some recommendations concerning the procedures which the Council might wish to see adopted. The Council's attention was drawn in that connexion to article 17 of the Covenant, which provided that a programme should be established by the Economic and Social Council within one year of the entry into force of the Covenant, after consultation with the States Parties and the specialized agencies concerned. At the same time as

requesting a note on procedures, the Council might wish to authorize the Secretary-General to undertake on its behalf the consultations envisaged in that article.

31. The Secretariat had recently received a communication from UNCTAD to the effect that, in view of the workload involved in preparing for the fourth session of the Conference, UNCTAD was unable at the current stage to submit the report envisaged under question 44 of the annotated list of questions, and wished the matter to be postponed until the following year, when it would be possible to take into account, *inter alia*, the conclusions reached at the forthcoming session of UNCTAD.

32. The year 1976 being an "alternate" year in the sense of Council resolution 1768 (LIV), when in principle no review of the International Development Strategy was required, the Council might wish to concentrate on a problem or area of significance for development and international co-operation, in accordance with paragraph 7 of the resolution he had cited. However, since the General Assembly at its thirtieth session had decided that there should be a revision of the Strategy, the Council might wish to consider whether, in the circumstances, the normal procedures of the "alternate" year were applicable.

33. With regard to the comments made by the representative of Egypt, he pointed out that all the suggestions in document E/5753 were of a tentative nature, although they were based on the relevant legislative authority and also on the relevant past practices of the Council. The question raised by the representative of Egypt had been the subject of a Council decision during 1975, which the Council might wish to follow up during the current year; however, it was free to decide otherwise if it so wished.

34. Document E/5753, part I, contained a first outline of the Council's agenda for 1976, which took into account sources of legislative authority established prior to the thirtieth session of the General Assembly. In accordance with the Council's rules of procedure, which required the items to be arranged in an integrated manner so that similar or connected issues could be discussed in one debate under a single heading, the Secretariat had included an item for the sixtieth session entitled "Restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system", under which the Council, at its sixtieth session, would consider exclusively the rationalization of its own work. That arrangement was intended to comply with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII), section VII, which required the work of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on restructuring and the work of the Council on rationalization to be conducted concurrently. At a later stage, during the resumed sixty-first session, the Council would consider under that item the report of the *Ad Hoc* Committee.

35. The annex to document E/5753 was intended to assist the members of the Council, and particularly those which were new to its work, to follow the process of rationalization. In that connexion, he drew attention to paragraph 3 of the annex, which outlined three institutional matters requiring review at the Council's sixtieth session. More generally, the Council would no doubt wish to discuss how it might proceed in a manner which would be consistent with the work being carried out by the *Ad Hoc* Committee.

36. Document E/L.1684 embodied the results of the deliberations of the General Assembly at its thirtieth

³ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirtieth Session, Second Committee*, 1678th meeting, para. 47.

session and added some 34 questions to the programme of work of the Council, making a total of 88 questions scheduled for discussion during 1976. There was a typographical error in the first sentence of paragraph 2, where "part II" should be replaced by "part I". It would be noted that the document did not contain those decisions of the General Assembly which gave directives to the Secretariat, all of which were implemented in accordance with established procedures.

37. In connexion with question 9, in part I of that document, he noted that the necessary procedures were under way for the adoption of the statute establishing a new specialized agency, to be named the International Fund for Agricultural Development. On the assumption that the Conference of Plenipotentiaries would meet in the spring of 1976, adopt a statute and establish a preparatory commission, the Council might wish, either at the current session or at the sixtieth session, to appoint the members of the Council Committee on Negotiations with Intergovernmental Agencies. The membership of that Committee varied according to the tasks assigned to it; in 1973, when it had been reconstituted to negotiate an agreement relating to WIPO, it had consisted of nine members and the Chairman of the Co-ordination Committee had acted as chairman. In the current instance, it was hoped that the agreement with IFAD would be concluded by the summer and that the question could be discussed at the sixty-first session of the Council.

38. Question 11 of the same list concerned institutional arrangements in the field of the transfer of technology. In view of the scope of those arrangements, the Secretariat was suggesting that the question should be integrated into item 3 of the proposed agenda for the sixtieth session (Science and technology) and that the item as a whole should be deferred until the sixty-first session.

39. Under question 12, the Secretariat had drawn attention to a number of important decisions taken by the General Assembly. In the first instance, the Council would be required to decide whether it would be able to consider the recommendations of the Working Group on United Nations Programme and Budget Machinery concerning the work of CPC. If the Council was unable at the current stage to consider those recommendations, it would have a further opportunity to do so at its sixtieth session, since CPC would not meet before May. One of the Working Group's recommendations was that CPC should meet for six weeks in "plan years" and four weeks in "budget years". If the Council approved that recommendation, CPC would, in principle, meet for six weeks if the necessary services could be arranged. The Secretariat had suggested that the matter should be referred to the Committee on Conferences in time to allow arrangements to be made for an extended session of CPC. It should be borne in mind that the documentation was extremely complex and had to be fitted in to a certain cycle. That and other constraints of a practical nature would make it impossible for CPC to begin its session before 10 May or to continue beyond 28 May. The Council would no doubt wish to consider the matter with a view to finding a practical solution and giving some guidelines to the Committee on Conferences.

40. The Secretariat had suggested a number of possible courses of action which the Council might take in connexion with criterion 9 of question 23, concerning meeting records of United Nations bodies. It would be

recalled that the Council had recently decided that the Commission on Transnational Corporations would meet away from recognized United Nations conference centres and consequently would be affected by the stipulation in that criterion.

41. With regard to the dates of the Council's own sessions in 1976, the Secretariat had suggested two possible courses of action, in view of the forthcoming session of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea in New York. First, the dates of the spring session might be changed, as had been envisaged in decision 125 (LIX) of 31 July 1975. However, since at the resumed fifty-ninth session a number of members had felt that the suggested change, involving as it did an overlap with the fourth session of UNCTAD, would create problems for their delegations, the Secretariat suggested, as an alternative, that the dates of the sixtieth session should be maintained (30 April-14 May). In that case, because of the workload at Headquarters at that time, only two meetings per day would be held. In the circumstances, the Council might wish to postpone until the summer session all the items pertaining to economic matters and to take up at the spring session the items for consideration in plenary meetings and in the Social Committee, on the understanding that plenary meetings and meetings of the Social Committee could not be held concurrently. The Secretariat further suggested that the Council should suspend its rules of procedure and open its sixty-first session two days earlier, namely on 5 July instead of 7 July. In view of the workload involved, the Council might wish to establish at its sixty-first session an *ad hoc* sessional committee, which could be serviced without additional financial implications provided that it did not have summary records.

42. Document E/L.1684, part II, contained a provisional reformulated agenda which reflected the decisions taken by the General Assembly at its thirtieth session. He drew the attention of the representative of Mexico to the agenda suggested for the sixty-first session, in which a separate item was devoted to the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, as prescribed by the General Assembly.

43. As pointed out by the Secretary-General in paragraphs 3 and 5 of document E/5756, which was before the Council under agenda item 5, the Council was required to take two specific decisions under the 1972 Protocol Amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961: first, to fix the date on which the International Narcotics Control Board as constituted under the amendments contained in the Protocol should enter upon its duties and, secondly, to approve a procedure for elections to the Board.

44. Mr. MAKEYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the basic programme of work of the Council for 1976 should implement the principles of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and the progressive decisions of the General Assembly so as to create a new international economic order. Efforts had to be continued to establish the necessary political conditions for the social and economic development of all countries regardless of level of development or social and economic structure. The resolutions of the thirtieth session of the General Assembly had emphasized that peace and security, peaceful coexistence of States, disarmament, relaxation of international tension and the elimination of colonialism, foreign aggression and occupation were important preconditions

for international economic co-operation. Concern had been expressed at that session with regard to the continuing and increasingly expensive arms race. A lessening of international tension would make it possible to limit the arms race and thereby release vast resources for the economic and social development of all countries, including the developing ones. At its thirtieth session, the General Assembly had also strongly condemned *apartheid* and all forms of racism as serious obstacles to development. Those decisions should be the political basis for the Council's economic and social activities in 1976.

45. The elimination of all forms of discrimination and inequality in world economic relations and in world trade, the abolition of unequal terms of trade, the safeguarding of national sovereignty over natural resources, and restriction of the tyranny of foreign capital, especially of transnational corporations, were still important tasks. The Council and its subsidiary organs must help developing countries to curtail the interference of foreign monopolies in their internal affairs. Its prestige within the United Nations system as a whole would ultimately depend on its success in that respect.

46. It was more important than ever to implement article 32 of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States: "No State may use or encourage the use of economic, political or any other type of measures to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights". The same applied to Article 17 of that Charter, which stated that assistance to developing States should in no way derogate from their sovereignty.

47. It was important to note that the current serious economic and financial crisis of the capitalist countries was seriously hindering implementation of the economic goals of the developing countries. Therefore progressive measures aimed at improving the world economic situation had to be of central importance in the Council's programme of work and especially in the fourth session of UNCTAD, to be held in May 1976.

48. Another problem of continuing urgency for the Council was that of human rights, especially their continued violation in Chile as a result of the political terror inflicted by the junta. The Council must continue to focus attention on implementing the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII), annex) and must also play an important role in implementing the resolutions and decisions adopted at the World Conference of the International Women's Year, especially the Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women and their Contribution to Development and Peace, 1975.⁴

49. Efforts must be continued to strengthen the coordinating role of the Council in respect of the economic and social organs, so as to enhance their efficiency and avoid duplication of effort and unnecessary expense. That was the proper context for discussing the rationalization of the Council's work and the relevant aspects of the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, as well as the review of the intergovernmental and expert machinery dealing with the formulation, review and approval of programmes and budgets.

50. The Soviet delegation was prepared to support the recommendations made in the Secretary-General's report, submitted to the General Assembly at its

thirtieth session, on publications and documentation of the United Nations⁵ with respect to possibilities for further reducing or eliminating meeting records for a number of United Nations subsidiary bodies. That measure would make it possible to save several hundreds of thousands of dollars.

51. There was no point in deferring a decision on the question of programme aspects of the secretariat arrangements for narcotics control (E/L.1684, part I, sect. A, item 33) by referring it to CPC. The Council could agree without further delay to the reasonable proposal of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to combine the separate secretariats for narcotics control in one organizational unit.

52. His delegation wished to call the attention of the Secretariat to the fact that the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, an extremely important matter, had not been included in the provisional agenda for the Council's sixtieth session, even though it had been indicated in document E/5753 that that question might be dealt with under the item entitled "Human rights questions". The implementation of the Programme for the Decade would be better served if it were treated as a separate agenda item; that would also be more in keeping with General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII), in which it had been recommended that the Council consider the question in plenary meetings.

53. The Soviet delegation felt it essential to call attention to the partiality shown by the Secretariat in determining the Council's programme of work on the question of the World Conference of the International Women's Year. Under item 32 of document E/L.1684 (part I, sect. A) only two resolutions of the Conference, out of a total of 34, were mentioned. The Secretariat had given prominence to certain decisions of that Conference at the expense of more important ones and the Council should join the General Assembly in rejecting that selective approach.

54. The Soviet Union would continue to support the progressive aspirations and legitimate interests of the developing countries and the Soviet delegation would continue to make every effort to promote the adoption of decisions intended further to develop international co-operation, in order to ensure the social and economic progress of all countries.

55. His delegation was opposed to limiting certain discussions to informal consultations. Each delegation had the right to express its views in plenary meetings, and such discussion would be useful for subsequent informal meetings.

56. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) explained that the report as a whole and all the resolutions adopted at the Mexico City Conference had been considered by the Council at its fifty-ninth session, and that the two resolutions referred to in document E/L.1684 had been included to comply with requests by the General Assembly for specific action.

57. The PRESIDENT said that he hoped that the Soviet representative was satisfied as to the objectivity of the Secretariat.

58. Mr. MAKEYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation would be satisfied by the total, rather than selective, pursuit of all the progressive resolutions adopted at the Mexico City Conference.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

⁴ E/CONF.66/34 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.1), chap. I.

⁵ A/C.5/1670.