

## 2005th meeting

Friday, 14 May 1976, at 11.15 a.m.

President: Mr. Siméon AKE (Ivory Coast).

E/SR.2005

### AGENDA ITEM 5

**Restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system (concluded) (E/5453/Rev.1 and Add.1, E/5476 and Add.1-3, Add.3/Corr.1 and Add.4-13, E/5524 and Add.1-4, Add.4/Corr.1 and Add.5, E/5633, E/5753, annex; E/5792, E/L.1724, E/L.1725, E/NGO/43, E/NGO/45 and Add.1)**

1. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom), introducing draft decision E/L.1724, said that a number of delegations had met after the previous meeting to discuss the kind of draft decision that the Council should adopt on the item under consideration. They had taken as the basis of their discussion Working Paper No. 1 and had sought to make the minimum number of additions to it in order to enable the Council to discharge its obligation under General Assembly resolutions 3341 (XXIX) and 3362 (S-VII). They had also taken into account the fact that the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System had already initiated its work and would be holding a further session in June on which it would be reporting to the Council at its resumed sixty-first session. The simplest course of action was, therefore, for the Council to consider at its resumed sixty-first session, in the context of its consideration of the report of the *Ad Hoc* Committee, the terms of the report requested of it by the General Assembly in resolution 3341 (XXIX). The documentation which had been submitted to the Council under item 5 of its agenda was relevant to the work of the *Ad Hoc* Committee and, accordingly, could usefully and properly be transmitted to that body. Subparagraphs (a) and (b) of the draft decision contained provisions to that effect. Subparagraphs (c), (d) and (e) were basically the same as subparagraphs (a), (c) and (d) of Working Paper No. 1 apart from minor changes. Thus, the reference in subparagraph (b) of Working Paper No. 1 to the sixty-second session of the Council had been replaced by the phrase "at the earliest appropriate date in 1977"; subparagraph (c) of the draft decision also included a reference to the deliberations of the General Assembly at its thirty-first session, which the Council would certainly wish to be guided by. According to subparagraph (d) of the draft decision proposed by the United Kingdom the review of the rules of procedure would take place at the organizational session for 1977, and not at the sixty-second session, as provided in subparagraph (c) of Working Paper No. 1. Subparagraph (e) of the proposed draft decision was identical to subparagraph (d) of Working Paper No. 1.

2. Miss BALOGUN (Nigeria) said that a number of interested delegations, including her own, had held informal consultations on draft resolution E/L.1725 and had decided to request that the words "as appropriate" in operative paragraph 2 should be deleted and that the opening sentence of paragraph 2 of the

annex to the draft resolution should be amended to read as follows: "Assist the Economic and Social Council in the performance of its co-ordination functions within the United Nations system". Furthermore, the words "as follows" and the five subsequent lines describing the geographical distribution of CPC on page 3 of the annex should be deleted, as there was no legislative authority for the existing geographical distribution.

3. Mr. DRISS (Tunisia) said that his delegation could accept the text of document E/L.1725, as amended by the representative of Nigeria.

4. Mr. NSUBUGA (Uganda) endorsed the Nigerian amendments.

5. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) said that, if the Nigerian amendment to the first sentence of paragraph 2 of the annex was adopted, it might be desirable to replace the words "performing this function" in the second sentence by the words "discharging these responsibilities", in order to avoid the repetition of the same words in both sentences.

6. Mr. QADRUD-DIN (Pakistan) said that his delegation had no difficulty in accepting the Nigerian amendments. If the geographical distribution set forth on page 3 of the annex had no legislative basis as such, and if the consensus was that it was better not to specify the details of the geographical distribution, his delegation could agree to the deletion proposed by Nigeria. In any event, however, it would be desirable at some future stage to take a decision establishing the exact geographical distribution of seats in CPC. The other proposed amendments, including the amendment to operative paragraph 2, which was more substantive than the others, had been accepted by the sponsors of the draft resolution.

7. Mr. OLIVERI LOPEZ (Argentina) endorsed the remarks made by the representative of Pakistan. If, however, the geographical distribution of seats in CPC was not based on any specific legislative provisions, it might be wise to take a decision, at the current stage, to set it on a firm legal basis. If the Nigerian delegation pressed its suggestion to delete the breakdown of geographical distribution as it appeared in the annex, his delegation would join in the consensus of the Council.

8. Mr. TREVIÑO (Mexico) endorsed the draft resolution and the proposed amendments and urged their adoption as a further contribution to the restructuring which was in progress.

9. Mr. STOFOROPOULOS (Greece) accepted the Nigerian amendments and proposed that the draft resolution as amended should be adopted by consensus.

10. Mr. VON RUCKTESCHELL (Federal Republic of Germany) said that his delegation could agree to the deletion of the words "as appropriate" from operative paragraph 2, on the understanding that the review of the terms of reference of CPC would be conducted not only in the light of the recommendations of the

*Ad Hoc* Committee but also on the basis of CPC's work and performance.

11. As the question of the legislative authority for the geographical distribution outlined in document E/L.1725 had arisen, he would like the Secretary of the Council to indicate the legislative authority for the other provisions of that document.

12. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) said that the number of members of CPC had been established by Economic and Social Council resolution 1472 (XLVIII); the system of electing members had been recently changed in General Assembly resolution 3392 (XXX), which had been endorsed by the Council in decision 139 (ORG-76) of 15 January 1976; the geographical distribution of seats had, in fact, been established by Council resolution 1472 (XLVIII).

13. Mr. AMIRDZHANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had no objections to the proposed amendments, but wished to stress the need to maintain and ensure the principle of equitable geographical distribution in the final version of the draft resolution.

14. Mr. BAKER (United States of America) said that his delegation was prepared to agree to the adoption of the draft resolution on the understanding that what the Council was approving was not the substantive content of the text but the process of consolidating the existing legislative authority defining CPC's terms of reference. Given the existence of legislative provisions governing the equitable geographical distribution of seats in CPC, it was preferable not to reopen that question at the current stage. Instead the Council should take a decision which would enable it to deal more effectively with the question at some future date.

15. Mr. QADRUD-DIN (Pakistan) said that, in the light of the information just provided by the Secretary, legislative authority did exist for the specific geographical distribution of seats outlined in the draft resolution. As the Council was engaged in a process of consolidating existing legal provisions, he suggested that the representative of Nigeria should reconsider her proposal to delete the provisions in the annex relating to that matter.

16. The PRESIDENT observed that the Nigerian proposal would, however, accommodate the reservations expressed by the representative of Tunisia at the preceding meeting to the effect that the existing composition of the Committee was not equitable. A further course of action might be to allot an additional seat in CPC to African States, thus increasing the membership to 22.

17. Miss BALOGUN (Nigeria) said that her delegation had no fundamental objection to the President's suggestion. However, it might be best for the question of geographical distribution to be dealt with in CPC itself. That was why her delegation had suggested the deletion of all details concerning the actual allocation of seats to the regional groups. If, however, the Council wished to increase by two the number of seats allotted to African States in CPC, her delegation could agree to that action, since the existing arrangement whereby only five seats were allotted to the 46 African States was unfair.

18. Mr. DRISS (Tunisia) said that the most convenient solution would be to omit the details concerning geographical distribution of seats in CPC, concern-

ing which his delegation had reservations. The Council could not hope to settle the question at the current meeting and should, therefore, leave it for another occasion. His delegation could, however, support the addition of a further seat for African States, if that was the consensus of the Council.

19. Mr. QADRUD-DIN (Pakistan) said that his delegation had no difficulty in accepting the suggestion that the Council should take a decision to increase the number of African seats in CPC. Since, however, the Council was merely consolidating existing legislative provisions which had already been adopted by consensus, it might be more appropriate to adopt draft resolution E/L.1725 by consensus, and in accordance with established practice, allow delegations to express their reservations concerning specific aspects of the draft resolution, which would then be taken up by the Council at an appropriate future date.

20. The PRESIDENT observed that it might be preferable, if the Council had the authority to do so, to take a decision at the current stage to alter the composition of CPC, if the provisions relating to that matter in draft resolution E/L.1725 gave rise to reservations on the part of one group of States.

21. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) said that the Council could, of course, take any decision regarding the membership of CPC, since there was nothing to prevent a legislative body which was in the process of consolidating or codifying existing provisions from legislating at the same time. Should the Council take such a decision, the provisions of operative paragraph 2 would be amended accordingly.

22. An explanation was owed to the representatives of Argentina, Greece and Pakistan concerning the confusion as to whether legislative authority existed for the existing distribution of seats in CPC. When documents E/5493 and E/5752 had been prepared some time earlier, the Secretariat had inadvertently overlooked the relevant resolutions which had been adopted a long time before. Since that time, however, the question of whether legislative authority existed had arisen in the Council and, in rechecking the sources, the Secretariat had discovered the provisions of the resolution it had previously omitted.

23. Mr. BAKER (United States of America) stressed that his delegation was prepared to agree to the consolidation of the existing legislative authority defining the terms of reference of CPC. That willingness did not, however, imply approval of any specific proposals as to how CPC should function. The Committee's terms of reference would be reviewed at some future date, perhaps in the *Ad Hoc* Committee, and his delegation was, therefore, not prepared to enter into specific questions, including the geographical distribution of seats, at the current stage.

24. Mr. SAUNDERS (Jamaica) said that if the Council was merely consolidating the existing legislative authority defining the terms of reference of CPC, and if the actual distribution of seats in that body was based on existing legislative provisions, his delegation had no objection to including the details of that arrangement in the draft resolution under consideration. On the other hand, it saw no reason why the Council could not take a separate decision to alter the allocation of seats in the Committee; nor did it have any objection to increasing by one the number of seats allotted to African States.

25. The PRESIDENT asked if there would be any objection to increasing the number of seats in CPC allotted to African States.
26. Mr. AMIRDIVANI (Iran) considered that if the number of seats allotted to African States was increased, the number of seats allotted to Asian States should also be increased.
27. The PRESIDENT suggested that the draft resolution should be adopted in its existing form and that the question of equitable geographical distribution should be discussed at a future session of the Council.
28. Miss BALOGUN (Nigeria) proposed that operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution should be amended to read: "Decides that these terms of reference, including the composition, based on equitable geographical distribution, of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination will be reviewed by the Economic and Social Council in the light of the recommendations of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System." The text concerning the terms of reference of CPC, contained in the annex to document E/L.1725, would then be acceptable.
29. Mr. QADRUD-DIN (Pakistan) said that the Nigerian amendment was acceptable. However, in the proposed new text of paragraph 2, the words "including the composition based on equitable geographical distribution of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination" should be replaced by the words "including composition".
30. Miss BALOGUN (Nigeria) said that a reference to "equitable geographical distribution" was desirable for purposes of clarification.
31. Mr. MWANGAGUHUNGA (Uganda) agreed that a reference to "equitable geographical distribution" was desirable. The summary record would show that reservations had been expressed in that connexion.
32. Mr. STOFOROPOULOS (Greece) said that, in principle, he warmly supported the proposal that the composition of CPC should also be reviewed.
33. Mr. BENHOCINE (Algeria) expressed support for the amendment just proposed by Nigeria, since it emphasized the concern felt by African States regarding the question of representation.
34. Mr. HART (Australia) said that, while he preferred the shorter text proposed by the representative of Pakistan, he was prepared to accept the Nigerian version. However, he suggested that in the proposed new text of paragraph 2, the words "Committee for Programme and Co-ordination" should be replaced by the word "Committee".
35. Mr. TREVIÑO (Mexico), suggested that, in order to save time, the draft resolution, as amended, should be adopted immediately.
36. Mr. WILSON (Liberia) and Mr. OLIVERI LOPEZ (Argentina) said that the Nigerian amendment was acceptable to their delegations.
37. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt draft resolution E/L.1725, as amended by the representative of Nigeria and the Secretary of the Council, without a vote.

*The draft resolution, as orally amended, was adopted (resolution 2008 (LX)).*

38. Mr. QADRUD-DIN (Pakistan) said that his delegation would support draft decision E/L.1724 on the understanding that, in accordance with subparagraph (b), the Council would consider the report of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System before deciding upon the terms of the report on the rationalization of the work of the Council requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 3341 (XXIX).
39. Mr. DRISS (Tunisia) and Mr. STOFOROPOULOS (Greece) found the draft decision acceptable.
40. Miss BALOGUN (Nigeria) said that her delegation had no objection to the draft decision but proposed that, in subparagraph (c), the words "if possible" should be inserted before the words "in 1977".
41. Mr. TREVIÑO (Mexico) said that subparagraph (c) should stipulate that the review should be carried out at the sixty-second session of the Council at the latest, since it was important to set up a specific date.
42. Mr. MWANGAGUHUNGA (Uganda) considered that the draft decision was acceptable. With reference to subparagraph (b), he agreed with the representative of Pakistan. In connexion with subparagraph (c), he thought that the review should be carried out by 1977 at the latest.
43. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom) said that the text in document E/L.1724 ensured the necessary flexibility and speed of action. A review carried out in 1977 need not be the final and definitive review.
44. Miss BALOGUN (Nigeria), referring to subparagraph (c), said that if the inclusion of the words "if possible" was not acceptable, the words "in 1977" should be deleted.
45. Mr. DRISS (Tunisia) proposed that, in subparagraph (c), the words "in 1977" should be replaced by the words "if possible early in 1977".
46. Mr. TREVIÑO (Mexico) felt that subparagraph (c) should stipulate that the review should be carried out either in 1977 or at the sixty-second session of the Council. It was important to set a target date.
47. Mr. QADRUD-DIN (Pakistan) agreed that it was vital to set a date. He would prefer the sixty-second session of the Council.
48. Mr. OLIVERI LOPEZ (Argentina) appealed to the representative of Nigeria to withdraw her amendment and suggested that the existing text of subparagraph (c) should be retained, since any delay in carrying out the review would only involve additional costs.
49. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom) suggested that the existing text be retained, to be understood in the light of the remarks made during the meeting and during the discussions to be held in the *Ad Hoc* Committee.
50. The PRESIDENT suggested that the existing text should be adopted and that the reservations which had been expressed should be reflected in the summary record.
51. Mr. TREVIÑO (Mexico), supported by Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom), proposed that in subparagraph (c), the words "preferably at the sixty-second session of the Council" should be added after the words "in 1977".

52. Miss BALOGUN (Nigeria) said she could accept the amendment proposed by the representative of Mexico.

53. Mr. SCHUPPUS (Togo) supported the President, who had proposed that the text of draft decision E/L.1724 should be adopted on the understanding that the comments which had been made on that text would be reflected in the summary record.

*The draft decision was adopted* (decision 153 (LX)).

54. Mr. TREVIÑO (Mexico) said that, while his delegation was happy to co-operate to the utmost in the deliberations of the Council, he considered it a rather strange procedure that an amendment which had already been accepted by all members of the Council should not be included in the draft decision, but should simply be recorded in the summary record of the meeting.

55. The PRESIDENT declared that the Council had concluded its consideration of the item.

### AGENDA ITEM 1

**Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (concluded)\* (E/5795, E/5798, E/L.1706)**

56. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the draft decision contained in paragraph 2 of the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (E/5798) on applications for consultative status and request for reclassification.

*The draft decision was adopted* (decision 154 (LX)).

57. The PRESIDENT drew the attention of the members of the Council to the note (E/L.1706) on the joint meetings of ACC and CPC.

58. Mr. STOFOROPOULOS (Greece) asked whether the procedure for strengthening co-operation between ACC and CPC would be discussed at the joint meetings.

59. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) said that that question would be discussed at the joint meetings.

60. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council agreed that the joint meetings of ACC and CPC should be held on 19 October 1976 at United Nations Headquarters, as proposed in paragraph 2 of document E/L.1706.

*It was so decided* (decision 155 (LX), subparagraph (b)).

61. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) recalled that the Commission on Transnational Corporations, at its second session, held at Lima in March 1976, had recommended that the Secretary-General should, in consultation with all member States of the Commission, propose the names of from 12 to 15 persons for approval by the Commission at a resumed second session convened for that purpose. The Secretary-General would be ready to submit those nominations in June 1976. He suggested, therefore, subject to the Council's agreement, that a meeting of the Commission should be convened to consider those nominations some time during the latter part of June

1976, so that a full report on the second session of the Commission could be submitted to the Council at its sixty-first session.

62. Mr. DONNELLY (United Kingdom) said that, to the best of his knowledge, his Government, which was a member of the Commission on Transnational Corporations, had not yet been consulted by the Secretary-General with regard to those nominations. He wondered if it would be possible to complete the consultations in time for the sixty-first session of the Council.

63. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) said that he had been assured that the consultations would be completed by 20 June 1976.

64. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished a resumed second session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations to be convened during the second half of June 1976 to consider the nominations submitted by the Secretary-General.

*It was so decided* (decision 155 (LX), subparagraph (c)).

### AGENDA ITEM 15

**Consideration of the provisional agenda for the sixty-first session (E/L.1707, E/L.1709)**

65. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) said that a few changes needed to be made in the draft provisional agenda (E/L.1709), to take account of decisions taken by the Council at the current session.

66. First of all, a new item 26 entitled "Assistance to Mozambique" should be added, in accordance with resolution 1987 (LX). He suggested that, in keeping with previous practice in connexion with similar items, the question might be discussed in plenary meetings of the Council at Geneva.

67. Secondly, in connexion with item 14, entitled "Human settlements", it was only consideration of the draft resolutions contained in the report of the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning on its ninth session (E/5758), and not consideration of the report as a whole, that had been referred to the sixty-first session. That would be made clear in the final version of the provisional agenda.

68. Thirdly, the report of the Secretary-General to be prepared in accordance with Council resolution 1985 (LX) concerning the disaster in Madagascar would be considered under item 23, entitled "Assistance in cases of national disaster and other disaster situations". That, too, would be made clear in the final version of the provisional agenda.

69. He informed the Council that the reports of the Industrial Development Board and of the Board of Governors of the United Nations Special Fund, referred to in connexion with items 11 and 12 respectively, would not be completed in time for the sixty-first session of the Council because the governing bodies concerned would hold resumed sessions in the autumn. In that connexion, he recalled that the Council had decided to discontinue the practice of convening resumed sessions. However, in 1976, there might be six items to be considered at the resumed session.

70. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the draft provisional agenda for the sixty-first session

\* Resumed from the 1985th meeting.

(E/L.1709), as amended by the Secretary of the Council, on the understanding that items 10 and 12 would be considered at the resumed sixty-first session.

*The draft provisional agenda for the sixty-first session, as orally revised, was adopted*<sup>1</sup> (decision 156 (LX), subparagraphs (a) and (b)).

71. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to approve the recommendation, in paragraph 3 of the document on the organization of work of the sixty-first session (E/L.1707), that the session should begin on Wednesday, 30 June 1976, at 10 a.m.; the arrangements for the part of the session to be held at Abidjan, as described in part I of the document; and the timetable proposed by the Bureau for the part of the session to be held at Geneva, as set out in part II of the document, with the changes already introduced in the time-table.

*It was so decided* (decision 156 (LX), subparagraph (c)).

### AGENDA ITEM 3

#### Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (*concluded*)\*

72. The PRESIDENT informed the Council that, in accordance with Council resolution 1990 (LX) concerning the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, he would hold consultations with the regional groups regarding the distribution and composition of the committee of 16 members which would be responsible, *inter alia*, for completing the preparations for the World Conference, and would inform the Council of the results of those consultations.

73. The Council had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 3.

<sup>1</sup> The annotated provisional agenda for the sixty-first session was subsequently circulated as document E/5800.

\* Resumed from the 2000th meeting

### Closure of the session

74. The PRESIDENT said that among the most important decisions taken by the Council at the current session were those relating to the provision of assistance to countries recently stricken by natural disasters.

75. Furthermore, the number of delegations which had participated in the discussion on assistance to Mozambique and had supported draft resolution E/L.1716 clearly showed the importance attached to the courageous measures taken by the Government of the People's Republic of Mozambique in implementing economic sanctions against Southern Rhodesia. The response of the Council to the report of the Secretary-General, and to the appeal of the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Mozambique for urgent assistance, showed that the international community was determined to do everything possible to put an end to the illegal régime in Southern Rhodesia.

76. With regard to the question of the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, he felt that the members of the Council should hold consultations before the following session with a view to taking the necessary decisions in good time.

77. Speaking as the representative of the Ivory Coast, he expressed his Government's appreciation for the Council's decision to accept the invitation to hold part of the sixty-first session at Abidjan. The President of the Ivory Coast had written personally to all the Heads of State or Government of the countries represented in the Council, requesting that they should be represented at the ministerial level at that session. However, the most important factor would, of course, be the results achieved by the session.

78. He declared the sixtieth session of the Economic and Social Council closed.

*The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.*