



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

OFFICIAL RECORDS

RESUMED FIFTY-NINTH SESSION
29 August and 10 November 1975

Summary records of plenary meetings

UNITED NATIONS



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New York, 1976

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

The *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council* consist of the summary records of the plenary meetings, incorporating corrections requested by delegations and any necessary editorial modifications, the supplements and the lists of delegations.

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Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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**AGENDA ITEMS OF THE FIFTY-NINTH SESSION CONSIDERED
AT THE RESUMED SESSION**

10. Special session of the General Assembly devoted to development and international economic co-operation.*
15. Operational activities for development.**
17. Food problems.**
22. Calendar of conferences.**
24. Trade and development.* *

* Considered at the 1980th meeting.

** Considered at the 1981st meeting.

CHECK LIST OF DOCUMENTS

NOTE. Listed below are the documents pertaining to the resumed fifty-ninth session. All documents were issued in mimeographed form unless otherwise indicated.

<i>Document No.</i>	<i>Title or description</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Observations and references</i>
E/5740/Add.1	Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its resumed fifty-ninth session		<i>Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Resumed Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 1A</i>
E/5748	Note by the Secretariat on the decisions taken by the Trade and Development Board at the first part of its fifteenth session	10	
E/5749	Report of the Preparatory Committee on its third session	10	
E/5750	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the 1975 annual report of the International Monetary Fund		
E/5751	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the 1975 annual report of the World Bank		
E/5751/Add.1	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the 1975 annual report of the International Finance Corporation		
E/AC.62/L.5	Draft report of the Preparatory Committee on its third session	10	For the text of the report as it was adopted by the Council at its 1981st meeting, see E/5749
E/DEC/130-136 (LIX)	Decisions adopted by the Council at its resumed fifty-ninth session		For the printed text, see E/5740/Add.1
E/L.1676	Note by the Secretariat on a decision taken by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme at its twentieth session	10	
E/L.1677	Nomination of members of the World Food Council: note by the Secretariat	17	
E/L.1679	Report of the United Nations/FAO Intergovernmental Committee of the World Food Programme—recommendation for a pledging target for the period 1977-1978: note by the Secretary-General	15	
E/L.1680	Venue of the second session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations: letter dated 29 September 1975, addressed to the Secretary-General by the representative of Peru	22	
E/L.1681 and Add.1 and 2	Note by the Secretariat	22	
E/L.1682	Algeria, Argentina, Egypt, Ecuador, Iran, Kenya, Pakistan, Romania, Thailand, Uganda and Yugoslavia: draft decision	22	
E/RES/1981 (LIX)	Resolution adopted by the Council at its resumed fifty-ninth session		For the printed text, see E/5740/Add.1
E/SR.1980 and 1981	Summary records of the plenary meetings held by the Council during its resumed fifty-ninth session		<i>Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Resumed Fifty-ninth Session, 1980th and 1981st meetings</i>

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

RESUMED FIFTY-NINTH SESSION

Summary records of the 1980th and 1981st plenary meetings, held at Headquarters, New York, on 29 August and 10 November 1975

1980th meeting

Friday, 29 August 1975, at 4.35 p.m.

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

E/SR.1980

In the absence of the President, Mr. Longerstaeve (Belgium), Vice-President, took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 10

Special session of the General Assembly devoted to development and international economic co-operation (E/5748, E/L.1676, E/AC.62/L.5, conference room paper)

1. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had before it the draft report of the Preparatory Committee on its third session (E/AC.62/L.5), the note by the Secretariat (E/5748) on the decisions taken by the Trade and Development Board at the first part of its fifteenth session and the note by the Secretariat (E/L.1676) on a decision taken by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme at its twentieth session. He drew attention to the conference room paper which contained chapter II of the draft report of the Preparatory Committee, as amended during the meeting of the Committee held that morning. The complete report of the Committee, comprising document E/AC.62/L.5 with the exception of chapter II of that document which was to be replaced by the conference room paper, would be circulated as document E/5749.

2. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) said that the Rapporteur of the Preparatory Committee had asked him to provide certain clarifications concerning the text in the conference room paper. Paragraphs 11, 12, 13 and 14 should follow paragraph 7 and should be renumbered accordingly. The first line of the new paragraph 13 should read "Another delegation expressed its disagreement and categorically rejected those false assertions and stated that no one should make use of . . .". The reference in the new paragraph 14 should be to the new paragraph 13, which had originally been paragraph 9.

3. Mr. BENNANI (Morocco), Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, said that he had the honour to present the Preparatory Committee's draft report on its third session (E/AC.62/L.5 and conference room paper). The Committee had decided to extend its third session so as to continue its work in informal consultations and fulfil the task which had been entrusted to it by the Council and which was so important to the success of the seventh special session. He drew attention to the decisions taken by the Committee that morning, which were reflected in paragraphs 2 and 3 of document E/AC.62/L.5. He stressed that throughout the year the Committee had carried out its work in a constructive and co-operative spirit, and he was sure that the same spirit would be maintained in the work of the special session, so that its aims could be achieved and appropriate decisions taken.

4. Mr. CHANG Hsien-wu (China) said that his delegation considered that paragraphs 11 and 12 of chapter II of the report, contained in the conference room paper, contained formulations which did not reflect the actual discussions that had taken place that morning at the Preparatory Committee's meeting. Paragraph 14 stated that other delegations had supported the views expressed in paragraph 13, but the actual situation was that only a handful of individual delegations had expressed support for those views. Paragraph 8 referred to the representative of the German Democratic Republic, speaking on behalf of socialist countries, and that did not correspond to the facts. He hoped that appropriate changes would be made in the text.

5. Mr. QADRUD DIN (Pakistan), Rapporteur of the Preparatory Committee, explained that the original text of paragraph 8 had contained the wording "speaking on behalf of the socialist countries", and that the word "the" had been deleted at the request of certain delegations and in consultation with the representative of the German Democratic Republic. The delegations concerned had considered that it was thus clear that

he had been speaking on behalf of some of the socialist countries. Furthermore the point made in paragraph 8 was dealt with in paragraph 9, which reflected views expressed by the Albanian delegation. The statements made at the Preparatory Committee's meeting had been recorded faithfully in the conference room paper.

6. The PRESIDENT pointed out that the draft report had been adopted that morning by the Preparatory Committee and that it was not for the Council to modify it; it could only take note of it. All the comments which were made would, of course, be reflected in the summary record.

7. Mr. ŠMÍD (Czechoslovakia), speaking both as the representative of Czechoslovakia and as the chairman of the group of Eastern European States for the month of August, said that he disagreed with the entire contents of paragraph 9. It contained slander against a whole group of countries and was expressed in very pejorative language which was unusual in United Nations documents. It was not clear what was meant by the "so-called socialist countries". He wondered whether the statement had really been made at the meeting of the Preparatory Committee that morning or whether it had been added later. The deplorable approach of the delegation in question could only be aimed at diverting the attention of all delegations from the main issues of the seventh special session. He therefore considered that the whole of paragraph 9 should be omitted.

8. Mr. NEUGEBAUER (German Democratic Republic) recalled that the President had already pointed out that the report had been adopted at the final meeting of the Preparatory Committee. Paragraphs 8 and 14 had been read out by the Rapporteur and agreed on by the Committee. He therefore saw no reason to reopen the discussion in another forum.

9. Mr. CHANG Hsien-wu (China) said that an extremely abnormal situation had prevailed at the final meeting of the Preparatory Committee that morning. One super-Power, for its own ulterior motives, had insisted on inserting deceptive propaganda into the conference documents and had once again revealed the ugly essence and nature of its hegemonism. At the morning meeting the representative of Albania had spoken as the representative of a sovereign country which, as a matter of course, was fully entitled to express its views. The Chairman of the Preparatory Committee had agreed that those views should be recorded in the draft report. In order to reflect the actual situation, paragraphs 12 and 13 should indicate at which meetings the delegations concerned had expressed their views. The paragraphs should be re-numbered in accordance with the actual sequence of events, and paragraph 14 should state clearly that two delegations had supported the views referred to in the preceding paragraph.

10. The PRESIDENT said that all delegations had listened to the representative who had spoken, and that their statements would be viewed as comments on the report and as such would be reflected in the summary record.

11. Mr. MAKEYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that every time he heard statements made by the previous speaker he was amazed at his impudence and obstinate refusal to take account of the real state of affairs in the contemporary world; at the same time he experienced a feeling of satisfaction because every statement made by that delegation was an act

of self-revelation. The delegation in question condemned hegemonism and super-Power politics but its statement at the final meeting of the Preparatory Committee had clearly reflected the hegemonism, great-Power chauvinism and narrow nationalistic machinations which motivated it, both in the United Nations and outside the Organization. Its attitude towards the genuine wish of the socialist countries to see their positions reflected in the Committee's report was evidence of its own hegemonism. Its statement that morning had been aimed at silencing a whole group of sovereign States Members of the United Nations. It did not like the fact that, as stated in paragraph 14, other delegations had supported the views expressed in paragraph 13. But that was the situation, and its own ideas had not been supported by the Committee, as could be seen from the statements of various representatives of developing countries. For some reason, the delegation in question disliked the existence of the socialist community, and at the sixth special session the head of that delegation had asserted that the socialist community did not exist; but nevertheless it did exist, and was moreover successfully developing in the political field and in the field of economic relations between member countries of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance.

12. The delegation concerned claimed to support the developing countries on all questions, but although it supported the position of the developing countries in principle, it opposed it in practice. If it sincerely supported the legitimate aspirations of the developing countries and the principles and positions set forth in the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order (General Assembly Resolution 3201 (S-VI) and in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States (General Assembly Resolution 3281 (XXIX)), it should make an appropriate analysis of the contemporary world economy and of international economic relations and should determine the real reasons for the disadvantaged economic position of the developing countries and identify the political and non-political obstacles which continued to impede their progress towards independent economic development. Instead of drawing information from the well-known documents of the non-aligned and developing countries, prepared at their meetings at Algiers, and at Havana and Lima, the delegation continued to view the world as it had been in mediaeval times. Nothing it said had any connexion with a scientific approach to world economics and international economic relations or with the obstacles which really stood in the path of developing countries seeking to achieve economic development. The delegation's sole aim was to use every opportunity, including the limited time available for preparations for the special session, when developing countries were in real need of assistance, to pursue its egoistic and narrow nationalistic great-Power and hegemonistic aspirations. The delegation affirmed that concepts such as peace; détente, the need to make détente irreversible and to extend it to all regions of the world, security, and disarmament were all calculated to deceive world opinion, and particularly the developing countries. Yet that delegation had not yet done anything constructive in the United Nations and had made no concrete proposals; there was nothing constructive and there never would be anything constructive in its position. It was not concerned with the interests of developing countries, with establishing a new international economic order or developing equal and mutually advantageous economic co-operation between all countries, irrespective of their levels of development or their

social and economic systems. It was quite clear that it did not want peace and détente, that it opposed disarmament because it was actively arming itself, and that it was against security because that did not fit in with its current and long-term plans. If it was really in favour of developing equal and mutually advantageous economic co-operation, it should support the General Assembly's decision contained in resolution 3254 (XXIX). If it had not opposed the implementation of the decision adopted by the majority of the General Assembly, the developing countries would already have received a considerable sum, in the order of \$2 billion. The delegation made slanderous remarks about the positions of other countries in order to hide its nationalistic position and its aspirations to rule over other countries, not only on its borders, but also in other continents.

13. He pointed out that it was not his delegation which had entered into polemics and created an abnormal situation. A draft report containing factual information on the most important aspects of the Preparatory Committee's work had been adopted and all the positions expressed were reflected in it. The Council was now witnessing an attempt to write into the report all kinds of nonsense and slander, so that instead of concentrating on the substantive aspects of preparing for the special session, the Council was becoming involved in polemics between delegations. So far his delegation had held back when the country in question had made false assertions but if further slanderous statements were made, it would answer them fully. Such assertions would not help to enhance the effectiveness of the work of either the Council or the seventh special session of the Assembly, and would be harmful to the cause of establishing a new international economic order. That was not what was desired by the countries of the third world whose interests were so unconvincingly supported by the delegation in question.

14. Measures should be taken to prevent any delegation from obstructing the achievement of the lofty aims and the implementation of the noble principles laid down at the sixth special session. The delegation in question should know that it was acting against all the principles embodied in United Nations decisions supported by the majority of the developing countries. It was hard to understand how any delegation could oppose disarmament in a situation where the world was entering a new spiral of the arms race, and when, according to the introduction to the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization,¹ world expenditure on arms was approaching \$300 billion a year. It was that delegation's position which was encouraging the arms race. The delegation in question did not want to take into account the legitimate aspirations of all peoples, and especially of the developing countries and, instead of complying with the wishes reflected in General Assembly decisions it did all it could to hinder the implementation of such decisions and to impose its utterly false concepts and thus prevent progress in establishing equal and mutually advantageous international economic co-operation. It was time for that delegation seriously to assess its position, and to realize that it was not supported either by the socialist countries or by the developing countries, and that it was interfering with the work of the United Nations.

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 1A.*

15. Mr. NAÇO (Observer for Albania), speaking at the invitation of the President, said that his delegation's statement at that morning's meeting of the Preparatory Committee had been prompted by the last-minute proposal made by the representative of the German Democratic Republic on behalf of the so-called socialist countries of Europe, i.e. revisionist countries. In that connexion, it should be recalled that the representative of Algeria had made several appeals in the Preparatory Committee to delegations, asking them not to create difficulties by putting forward proposals when the time came to adopt the report. The representatives of the revisionist States, however, had been unwilling to abandon their well-known tactics.

16. As a sovereign State, Albania had the right to speak before the Economic and Social Council and to have its views reflected in the latter's report. Because it disagreed with the proposal made by the German Democratic Republic, his delegation had requested that its own views should be incorporated into the report immediately after the proposal in question, and that was what had been done.

17. Referring to the harangue delivered by the representative of the Soviet revisionists, he said that the paragraph reflecting the views of the Albanian delegation set forth the plain truth, and although the truth was bitter to liars and slanderers, it would always triumph over lies and slander. His delegation would persevere in its resolute defence of the truth.

18. Mr. CHANG Hsien-wu (China) said that the representative of one of the super-Powers, flaunting the banner of socialism, had launched a lengthy and vehement attack on his country, making slanderous accusations to the effect that China was guilty of great-Power hegemonism, chauvinism and narrow nationalism. Such allegations were utterly unsubstantiated and inappropriate.

19. It was well known to all that that super-Power was currently pursuing its policies of aggression, interference, subversion, plunder and domination of countries all over the world. It insinuated itself everywhere, spreading its net far and wide. It used military forces to subjugate its so-called allies and had instigated the dismemberment of a sovereign State. It had established military bases in the territory of other countries. It used its so-called economic assistance to exploit and plunder other nations, while it took advantage of the difficulties experienced by other countries to press for the repayment of debts. In short, it was the greatest latter-day exploiter.

20. Like the other super-Power, it was a hotbed of a new world war, despite its propaganda in favour of the so-called relaxation of international tension, the strengthening of international security, the national liberation movements and other causes which it used as a façade. The Chinese delegation, therefore, deemed it necessary to expose the real personality of that super-Power within the United Nations.

21. China was a socialist developing country which belonged to the third world. It was well known that not one Chinese soldier was stationed abroad. China occupied no foreign territory, nor did it seek hegemony. In order to defend itself against aggression and social-imperialism, China was digging tunnels deep in its territory, but such was not the act of an aggressive nation.

22. China had expressed its positions on international peace, disarmament and détente in various United Nations forums and would continue to do so. China was

always in favour of genuine disarmament, but it opposed the use of disarmament as a camouflage for arms expansion and war preparations.

23. China had always given its active support to the just struggles of other third world countries and had supported all their just and reasonable proposals, including all the legitimate demands made by the Group of 77 in connexion with the seventh special session of the General Assembly. China's verbal support had always been backed up with deeds.

24. The representative of the super-Power had boasted of his country's active contributions to the United Nations and the international community. The Chinese delegation had already pointed out, however, that if that super-Power truly wished to make a genuine contribution to the establishment of a new economic order, it should suspend or cancel the debts of developing countries which were experiencing economic difficulties, for such a gesture would be proof of genuine support for the third world countries. Failure to do so would prove that the deceptive propaganda of that super-Power was not even worth refuting. Therefore, China would not enter into polemics at the present stage; it would have ample opportunity to expound its views in the future.

25. Mr. MAKEYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that everyone had grown weary of listening to a long flow of impudent lies and slander. The debate should be closed under rule 52 (d) of the rules of procedure and the Council should proceed to take a decision on the report.

26. The statement made by the representative of China had been totally unrelated to the item under discussion and was filled with nothing but slander against the Soviet Union. The Chinese representative thus reminded him of the man in the Chinese proverb who climbed a tree to catch a fish.

27. The PRESIDENT said he did not believe it would be necessary to invoke rule 52 (d) of the rules of procedure, since the debate seemed to be exhausted.

28. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to take note of the report of the

Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Development and International Economic Co-operation on its third session (future document E/5749), and to adopt the draft decisions recommended by the Committee in paragraph 2 of its report.

It was so decided (decision 130 (LIX), subparagraphs (a) and (b)).

29. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would also take it that the Council wished to transmit to the General Assembly at its seventh special session the documents which the Trade and Development Board wished to bring to the attention of the Assembly (see E/5748), namely the consensus of the Board on a list of selected broad policy areas, with an indication of the specific issues to be taken up in each policy area at the fourth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, together with the relevant chapter of the Board's report, and the report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on the role of UNCTAD in a new United Nations structure for global economic co-operation² and the relevant chapter of the Board's report.

It was so decided (decision 130 (LIX), subparagraph (c)).

30. Mr. MAKEYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), explaining his delegation's position, said that the USSR continued to entertain the reservations mentioned in paragraphs 51-53 of the report of the *Ad Hoc* Group of Governmental Experts on the Debt Problems of Developing Countries on its third session.³

31. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would also take it that the Council wished to adopt the draft decisions recommended by the Preparatory Committee in paragraph 3 of its report.

It was so decided (decision 131 (LIX)).

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.

² TD/B/573.

³ TD/B/545.

1981st meeting

Monday, 10 November 1975, at 10.45 a.m.

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

E/SR.1981

AGENDA ITEM 24

Trade and development (A/10015)

1. Mr. COREA (Secretary-General, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) said that the past year had been one of heightened activity in UNCTAD. The Trade and Development Board, at its sixth special session (10-21 March 1975), had considered its contribution to the mid-term review and appraisal of progress in the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade; at the second part of its

fourteenth session, on 29 April 1975, it had considered the UNCTAD programme for the biennial period 1976-1977; and at its fifteenth session, it had considered the activities of the various intergovernmental bodies of UNCTAD and its contribution to the seventh special session of the General Assembly. At the forthcoming seventh special session of the Board (8-19 March 1976), the provisional agenda of the fourth session of the Conference, to be held at Nairobi from 3 to 28 May 1976, would be finalized. Similarly, the intergovernmental bodies of UNCTAD had been very active. The Committee on Commodities had held three sessions during the year to consider trade in commodities and

proposals made by the UNCTAD secretariat for an integrated programme for commodities. The Committee on Manufactures, the Committee on Invisibles and Financing related to trade and the Intergovernmental Group on the Least Developed Countries had met. The Committee on Shipping and the Committee on Transfer of Technology were due to meet before the end of the year. There had also been a number of *ad hoc* meetings of groups of experts on inflation, restrictive business practices, the external debt problems of developing countries and co-operation among developing countries. UNCTAD's activities in 1975 had reflected the stimulus given to its work by the sixth and seventh special sessions of the General Assembly and the preparations for the fourth sessions of the Conference.

2. The constructive spirit which had prevailed throughout the deliberations of the Board and the intergovernmental bodies augured well for the fourth session of the Conference. The Conference would provide a unique opportunity to translate into specific agreements, through negotiation, many of the policies and approaches already enunciated in general terms. The fourth session would naturally try to convert the outcome of the intensive discussions of the previous two years into agreements which would improve international economic relations. With that in mind, the Trade and Development Board had decided to make the fourth session of UNCTAD shorter than previous sessions, with a duration of four weeks, in the hope that high-level representatives would be able to participate in more of the Conference's proceedings. The Board had also decided to convene a special session in March 1976 for pre-Conference negotiation and a preliminary exchange of views on major proposals. Governments could thereafter take stock of the positions adopted on those proposals and their delegations to the Conference would be better prepared for participation in the decision-making process.

3. The provisional agenda of the fourth session of the Conference (A/10015 (part IV),¹ annex II) reflected the Board's decision that the Conference should focus on a few major issues; it had selected nine main items. Other issues had been left out, not because they deserved lower priority but because they could be dealt with by the continuing machinery of the Trade and Development Board. The selected issues, which were wide-ranging, were those which were either of outstanding importance or which were ready in one way or another for the decision-making process. The agenda included the very important question of commodities; it also included trade in manufactures and semi-manufactures, monetary and financial issues, the transfer of technology, the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, economic co-operation among developing countries, trade relations among countries having different economic and social systems, and institutional matters.

4. The Board had recommended that at the fourth session of the Conference there should be only one committee of the whole, which would deal with all the agenda items and would appoint negotiating groups or working groups, as necessary, to deal with individual issues. The general debate would therefore be confined to the plenary meetings. Efforts were also being made to keep the volume of documentation for the fourth

session to a minimum; he intended to submit one major document, which would be relatively brief, on each agenda item, and any supplementary material would take the form of background papers. The documents would be prepared primarily for the purpose of negotiation. It was hoped that all those efforts would make the Nairobi session more successful than the previous sessions.

5. Regional preparatory meetings of ministers of trade had been planned in connexion with the fourth session of the Conference, and the Group of 77 was to meet at Manila at the end of January 1976 to formulate proposals for the initial round of discussions at the special session of the Board in March 1976. Efforts were also being made to involve non-governmental organizations in the preparations for the Conference in order to increase public awareness of the issues to be discussed in developing and developed countries alike. An impressive series of seminars and workshops would be organized throughout the world before the session by research institutes dealing with the development problem. Non-governmental organizations had also been provided with material to launch campaigns to increase public awareness of the issues to be discussed.

6. Obviously, the work of the Board during the previous year had centred largely on the fourth session of the Conference, which was strongly expected to produce constructive results. The session would be taking place at a time when the international community was particularly aware of the urgency of a solution to its major problems. The fourth session should provide the political opportunity for a step forward in international economic relations as a whole. He was sure that his desire for its success was shared by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

7. Mr. GONZALEZ DE COSSIO (Mexico) said that his delegation had endorsed the consensus of the Trade and Development Board at its sixth special session concerning the broad policy questions to be considered at the fourth session of UNCTAD. However, while it agreed that the agenda for the session should be short and that the issues to be discussed should be ripe for high-level policy decisions, it believed that transport questions, in particular matters relating to the participation of the developing countries in the invisibles market, should have been included in the agenda.

8. His Government attached considerable importance to the fourth session of UNCTAD. In view of the prevailing circumstances and recent developments in international economic relations, the Conference should be given the greatest possible political support in order to ensure that effective, pragmatic and lasting solutions were found to the problems to be discussed and that negotiations in other forums would support the work of UNCTAD. The foundations for the new international economic order had been laid by General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI), 3202 (S-VI), 3281 (XXIX) and, in particular, 3362 (S-VII); the adoption by consensus of that last resolution paved the way for the adoption of vital decisions at the fourth session of UNCTAD. The developed countries in particular should come to the session of UNCTAD prepared to take positive decisions on the integrated programme for commodities proposed by the secretariat of UNCTAD, in order to accelerate the development of the developing countries and to increase their share of world trade. They should come prepared to take responsible decisions which would lead to lasting solutions with regard to the transfer of real resources.

¹ Documents A/10015 (Parts I-IV) will be issued subsequently as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 15 (A/10015/Rev.1)*.

9. In conclusion, he emphasized his delegation's firm belief that the General Assembly, with its subsidiary bodies, including UNCTAD, would continue to be the most representative forum of the international community for the solution of the world's problems.

10. Mr. DAVID (Liberia) thanked the Secretary-General of UNCTAD for his comprehensive introduction to the Trade and Development Board's report (A/10015), which illustrated the relentless efforts being made by dedicated people to find an equitable solution to current international economic and social problems. Many of the proposals and suggestions in the report were designed to assist the General Assembly in its over-all mid-term review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy. In the review and appraisal exercise, the shortcomings and contributions of all United Nations bodies should be honestly recognized and remedial measures recommended. During the initial years of the Second Development Decade, the developing countries had shared only a small fraction of the rapidly expanding prosperity of the developed countries, and assistance for development had fallen short of the target set by the Strategy. The only conclusion to be drawn from the situation was that the developing countries themselves would have to establish a suitable international framework which should no longer be based on high growth rates in the developed countries.

11. In the new development policy, the emphasis should be on equal opportunities in trade rather than reliance on aid. Experience showed that the share of developing countries in international trade, with the possible exception of oil in recent years, had continued to decline, and their efforts should be focused on reversing that trend. While emphasis should be placed on trade in the development process, trade should not be restricted to commodities alone. Many developing countries continued to depend on commodities as the sole controlling factor for the promotion of their national industrialization policies. In his delegation's view, the emphasis should be shifted to the improvement of multilateral industrial trade by means of negotiations which would remove barriers and bring financial and technological benefits to developing countries. The processing of primary products, the promotion of industrial goods and better marketing policies should be pursued as integral parts of that new trend.

12. After years of international development planning within the United Nations system, most of the developing countries continued to lack some fundamental requirements for their development. The time had come for active participation by developing countries in the decision-making process of international development in order to ensure equitable distribution of the world's wealth. A new system would have to be found, governed by rules which were consistent with the needs of the developing countries and designed to eliminate social inequities.

13. His delegation was pleased to note that the Commission on Transnational Corporations had begun to operate under an Assistant Secretary-General. The Information and Research Centre on Transnational Corporations was to give priority to the formulation of a code of conduct for transnational corporations and the development of a comprehensive information system for disseminating data gathered and analysed by the staff. The work of the Centre would be of immense value to the process of development.

14. Both developed and developing nations had made suggestions during the previous two years on improving

the world economic order. There appeared to be general agreement on international interdependence and the need to work together in a spirit of co-operation for the attainment of the goals set by the international community. The stage of planning and programming had passed, and the efforts made over the years should speedily be translated into reality in order to ensure peaceful coexistence. His delegation was prepared to take its share of the common responsibilities and hoped that the United Nations as a whole would do all in its power to carry out those programmes.

15. The PRESIDENT invited the Council, in accordance with established practice, to take note of and transmit to the General Assembly the report of the Trade and Development Board (A/10015) and to draw the attention of the Assembly to the comments on the subject made at the current meeting.

It was so decided (decision 132 (LIX)).

AGENDA ITEM 15

Operational activities for development (E/L.1679)

16. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the draft resolution reproduced in paragraph 2 of document E/L.1679, concerning the convening of a pledging conference for the World Food Programme for the period 1977-1978.

17. Since there were no comments he invited the Council to adopt the draft resolution without a vote.

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 1981 (LIX)).

18. Mr. AMIRDZHANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that if the draft resolution had been put to the vote, he would have abstained.

AGENDA ITEM 22

Calendar of conferences (E/L.1680, E/L.1681 and Add. 1 and 2, E/L.1682)

19. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) said that the proposals in documents E/L.1681/Add.1 and 2 referred only to the dates of meetings and would not involve additional expenditure. The proposal for a meeting of the Committee on Non-governmental Organizations was not at variance with the Council's decision that the subsidiary organs of the Council should meet only once every two years. The proposal was for one meeting of the Committee, during the sixtieth session of the Council, exclusively for the consideration of applications for consultative status held over from the previous session. There were no financial implications.

20. The Government of Peru had confirmed that if the Council should decide that the second session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations was to be held at Lima, the revised dates (1-12 March 1976) would be suitable. Members would note that the invitation from the Government of Peru (E/L.1680) specifically mentioned General Assembly resolution 2609 (XXIV); accordingly, it was the Secretary-General's understanding that all arrangements would be made in accordance with the provisions of that resolution.

21. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to approve the proposed changes to the calendar of conferences

and meetings for 1976 and 1977, contained in documents E/L.1681 and Add.1 and 2.

It was so decided (decision 133 (LIX)).

22. Mr. FASLA (Algeria), introducing on behalf of the sponsors the draft decision (E/L.1682) of the Council accepting the offer of the Government of Peru to act as host for the second session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations, said that consultations in the Council had revealed a wide measure of support for the acceptance of the invitation. It would be a means of encouraging the Government of Peru, which was trying to recover its natural wealth and strengthen its development potential. He was gratified to note that the Executive Director of the Information and Research Centre on Transnational Corporations had been appointed and hoped that the Centre would soon begin supplying Member States with the information and assistance which they needed.

23. Mr. MYERSON (United States of America) expressed appreciation of the Peruvian Government's kind invitation. There were advantages to convening such a session at the appropriate time, and his delegation would rally to the general view and desire on the matter, but he was not sure that March 1976 was the most propitious time. The session would be the first substantive one for the Commission, and such reasons as the easy availability of all personnel and avoiding the added burden of organizing a major conference away from Headquarters made it more advisable for the Commission to have its first working session at its permanent headquarters.

24. The issue became even more complex when seen in relation to the work schedule and travel which would be required of most delegations during the first part of 1976. The Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme might hold one or both of its sessions away from New York; sessions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme and UNCTAD were to be held at Nairobi, and the Habitat Conference at Vancouver, while the Council itself was to meet in New York in April and Geneva in July. Furthermore, the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System would have to work intensively for the first three or four months of the year.

25. The Economic and Social Council was not sovereign with respect to all aspects of the conference schedule, and the Committee on Conferences had already expressed some opinions which the Council would certainly wish to take into consideration. The fact was that no one body seemed to be in a position to balance the priorities rationally. The *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Restructuring should look into the situation with a view to reducing the number of meetings in any given year. In any case, he hoped that, in so far as it had jurisdiction, the Council would avoid adding to the burden imposed by the number of meetings and the amount of travel which they involved.

26. Mr. MWANGAGUHUNGA (Uganda) said that his delegation wished to become a sponsor of draft decision E/L.1682. It believed that as many meetings as possible should be held away from Headquarters so that the members of the Council and other bodies would gain first-hand knowledge of different areas. It would be a good idea for the Council itself to hold a meeting in Africa.

27. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to adopt draft decision E/L.1682.

The draft decision was adopted (decision 134 (LIX)).

28. Mr. ALZAMORA (Peru) expressed his satisfaction at the Council's decision to hold the second session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations at Lima, and thanked the delegations which had sponsored the draft decision. Transnational corporations were a new form of international life which called for new approaches on the part of the international community, including an examination of the potential which such corporations represented for the promotion of the welfare of nations. Governments, including those of the developing countries, should endeavour to minimize the adverse effects of transnational corporations and to maximize the benefits to be derived from their activities. The action of the United Nations in establishing the Commission and its Information and Research Centre was a step towards using transnational corporations as an effective tool for development, rather than allowing them to become a disruptive force in international life.

29. He confirmed that his Government had issued its invitation in full awareness of the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2609 (XXIV); he wished the session of the Commission every success.

30. Mr. STURKEY (Australia) said that the calendar of conferences which had been adopted by the Council and was to be ratified by the Fifth Committee provided for a number of meetings of subsidiary bodies to be held in places other than New York or Geneva. He appreciated Governments' offers of hospitality and recognized the political importance which they attached to those invitations. However, between March and August 1976 an almost continuous series of meetings on economic matters would be held away from United Nations Headquarters. Since continuity of representation was obviously desirable, the extensive travel programme which attendance at those meetings required would impose considerable burdens on delegations and individual representatives. He had no intention of calling in question arrangements already made, but he felt that during 1976 the Council should examine very carefully any other invitations received for holding conferences away from those major centres at which Governments were likely to have permanent missions.

31. The overlapping of the dates of the sixtieth session of the Council and the fourth session of UNCTAD was a separate but related question. He knew that his concern on that subject was shared by some of his colleagues in the group of Western European and other States. The decisions about to be taken by the General Assembly on the calendar of conferences would have implications regarding the availability of conference services for meetings of the Council and its principal subsidiary organs in 1976. It was unfortunate that decisions taken in the Fifth Committee could affect decisions which the Council might wish to adopt at its organizational session in January 1976, when it might find itself under an obligation to harmonize its work programme with the work programmes of other bodies of the United Nations system. It might therefore be helpful if the Council were to express the view that its sixtieth session in 1976 should consist solely of a meeting of the Social Committee and that all other work which would normally be on the agenda of its spring session should be transferred to the summer session. To accommodate the increased workload, the sixty-first session might be extended by one week. The rules of procedure made provision for varying the dates of the sessions on certain conditions, and such a rescheduling would permit delegates to participate in the fourth session of UNCTAD

without prejudicing their country's representation in the Council.

32. Incoming members of the Council would probably wish to express their views on the matter at the organizational session in January 1976, and he was not therefore advocating that the Council should take a decision at the current session. If a sufficient number of members shared his view, the Council might agree that the Secretary should list the summary record of the current meeting as one of the documents under the item on organization of work at the 1976 organizational session. The Secretary might also draw the attention of those working on the calendar of conferences to the views he had expressed.

33. The PRESIDENT said that the Secretary would note the Australian representative's proposals.

34. Mr. CAVAGLIERI (Italy) said that he shared the concern expressed by the Australian representative regarding the Council's crowded calendar of conferences and meetings in 1976. He had no specific suggestions to make on the content or the length of the Council's sessions or other meeting arrangements in 1976, but he thought members of the Council should give the problem careful consideration before the organizational session in January 1976.

35. He noted that the venue of the second session of the World Food Council was shown as Geneva in the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1976 and 1977 (A/10003, annex III);² in fact, he understood that consultations were taking place at Rome, so that the information in the calendar of conferences was not necessarily final.

36. Mr. MACKENZIE (United Kingdom) said that his delegation shared the concern expressed regarding the high proportion of meetings which appeared likely to be held away from Headquarters in 1976. The resulting inconvenience for many delegations might well impair the Council's efficiency, a development which would be ironic in a year in which priority would be given to the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system in order to enhance their efficiency. An immediate moratorium on meetings away from the headquarters of the bodies concerned would be a more significant contribution to the restructuring effort.

37. Furthermore, the tendency for recommendations to be made elsewhere in the United Nations system concerning the time and place of the Council's meetings could undermine its ability to determine its own timetable. He urged the officers of the Council to guard zealously the Council's prerogative in that respect prior to the 1976 organizational session. In view of the probable conflict between the timing of the sixtieth session of the Council and of the fourth session of UNCTAD, the Council should, at its organizational session, minimize the economic content of the agenda of the sixtieth session in order to permit those directly concerned to participate both in that session and in the fourth session of UNCTAD.

38. Mr. TUKAN (Jordan) stressed the need for a balanced and realistic calendar of conferences and said that it would be self-defeating if small delegations were unable to participate in meetings because they lacked the necessary resources. The matter should be taken up at the organizational session of the Council in January.

He hoped that informal consultations to be held before then would identify the most desirable course of action to be followed.

39. Mr. YORK (Federal Republic of Germany) agreed that every effort should be made to avoid overlapping between the economic aspects of the Council's sixtieth session and the work of the fourth session of UNCTAD. The President of the Council should ensure that when the Fifth Committee discussed the report of the Committee on Conferences, it took note of the views expressed at the current meeting.

40. Mr. ROUGÉ (France) said that it was vital, particularly in view of the forthcoming restructuring exercise, that the Council should be able at its organizational session to determine the date and venue of its sessions in accordance with its rules of procedure. The Council's right to do so was established in the Charter of the United Nations. Before the Fifth Committee took a decision on the calendar of conferences, the President should impress on the Chairman of that Committee the importance which the Council attached to that right. At its organizational session in January, the Council should take a final decision on the date and place of its own sessions and should ensure that all delegations would be able to participate in its future work.

41. Mr. BERG (Norway) endorsed the remarks of the representative of Australia concerning the calendar of conferences and the number of meetings of subsidiary bodies of the Council which were scheduled to be held away from Geneva and New York. Although his delegation was grateful for offers by Governments to be host to such meetings, convening them away from the main conference centres placed considerable strain on smaller missions in particular, a problem which should be borne in mind by the Council.

42. The PRESIDENT said he took it that the Council wished him to bring the views expressed during the debate to the attention of the Chairman of the Fifth Committee, in particular by arranging for the formal transmission to him of the summary record of the current meeting.

It was so decided (decision 135 (LIX)).

43. Mr. SAHLGREN (Executive Director, Information and Research Centre on Transnational Corporations) said that the involvement of the United Nations in the issue of transnational corporations had attracted much attention and raised considerable expectations. He would spare no effort to provide the Council and the Commission on Transnational Corporations with the necessary support to facilitate positive results in that area.

44. He welcomed the Council's decision to defer the second session of the Commission until the first two weeks of March 1976, as that would allow him time to become thoroughly familiar with the work of the Centre. The offer of the Peruvian Government to be host to that session and the Council's acceptance of that offer were indicative of the importance which Governments attached to the question of transnational corporations.

45. He recognized that the Centre should be fully staffed as soon as possible and that its work should be based on sound technical and professional expertise. He was devoting considerable time to staffing the Centre, in accordance with the relevant paragraph of Council resolution 1913 (LVII). The preparation of the six reports to be submitted to the second session of the Commission was well under way, and the reports would be available prior to the six-week time-limit.

² Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 3.

46. He looked forward to attending the sixtieth session of the Council, when the report of the Commission's second session would be before the Council.

47. Mr. OLIVERI LOPEZ (Argentina) said that his delegation attached the utmost importance to the question of transnational corporations. Inasmuch as the Council had decided to hold the second session of the Commission later than originally planned, he urged that Governments should be allowed as much flexibility as possible with regard to the time-limits for the submission of information to be compiled by the Centre. The task of providing the information was a very complex one, particularly for developing countries, and every effort should be made to ensure that their contributions were taken fully into account.

AGENDA ITEM 17

Food problems (E/L.1677)

48. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the note by the Secretariat (E/L.1677), which listed the 12 vacancies in the World Food Council which were to be filled in accordance with paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 3348 (XXIX).

49. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) said that the Secretariat had received the following candidatures for nominations to fill the vacancies: candidates from African States: Mauritania, Rwanda and Somalia; candidates from Asian States: Bangladesh, Indonesia and Thailand; candidates from Latin American States: Argentina and Mexico; candidates from the socialist States of Eastern Europe: Yugoslavia; and candidates from Western European and other States: Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany and the United States of America.

50. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objection, he would take it that the Council nominated the 12 States whose names had just been read out by the Secretary of the Council for election by the General Assembly to the World Food Council.

It was so decided (decision 136 (LIX)).

Closure of the session

51. Following an exchange of courtesies, the PRESIDENT declared the fifty-ninth session of the Council closed.

The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.

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