



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Forty-fourth Session
OFFICIAL RECORDS

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President: Mr. Manuel PEREZ GUERRERO (Venezuela).

AGENDA ITEM 8

Report of the Statistical Commission (E/4471 and Add.1 and 2)

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE (E/4521)

1. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to vote on draft resolutions A to D contained in paragraph 11 of the report of the Economic Committee (E/4521), the adoption of which that Committee recommended to the Council.

A. INDUSTRIAL CENSUSES FOR 1973

B. INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL WORK PROGRAMME AND CO-ORDINATION

C. WORLD PROGRAMME FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF VITAL STATISTICS

D. REPORT OF THE STATISTICAL COMMISSION

Draft resolutions A, B, C and D were adopted unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 4

Transport development (E/4464 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2)

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE (E/4532)

2. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to vote on the recommendation contained in paragraph 4 of the report of the Economic Committee (E/4532).

The recommendation was adopted unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 7

Question of a meeting of specialists in economic development (E/4484)

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE (E/4533)

3. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to vote on the recommendation contained in paragraph 3 of the report of the Economic Committee (E/4533).

The recommendation was adopted unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 5

Questions relating to science and technology (E/4448, E/4457 and Add.1, E/4458, E/4461 and Add.1, E/4482, E/L.1198/Rev.1):

(a) Fifth report of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development;

(b) Science education;

(c) Environmental pollution;

(d) Conservation and rational use of the environment

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE (E/4534)

4. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to vote on draft resolutions I, II and III contained in paragraph 8 of the report of the Economic Committee (E/4534), the adoption of which that Committee recommended to the Council.

I. FIFTH REPORT OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE APPLICATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO DEVELOPMENT

II. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE APPLICATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO DEVELOPMENT: REPORT ON SCIENCE EDUCATION

III. QUESTIONS RELATING TO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Draft resolutions I, II and III were adopted unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 6

Arrangements for the transfer of operative technology to developing countries (E/4452 and Add.1-3 and Add.3/Corr.1 and Add.4 and 5, E/4505)

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE (E/4528)

5. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to vote on draft resolutions A and B contained in paragraph 14

of the report of the Economic Committee (E/4528), the adoption of which that Committee recommended to the Council.

A. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE TRANSFER OF OPERATIVE TECHNOLOGY TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

6. Mr. GREGH (France), recalling that his delegation had abstained from voting on the draft resolution in the Economic Committee, said he would wish some changes to be made in the wording of certain paragraphs.

7. The first change, which was purely a matter of form, but to which his delegation attached considerable importance, would be in operative paragraph 5. He merely wished to arrive at a more correct translation of the original by adding the word "pratiques" after the word "techniques" in the third line of the French text, deleting "d'exploitation" and replacing the phrase "et en vue de faire des recommandations sur des mesures de politique générale et sur des pratiques s'y rapportant" by "et en vue de présenter des recommandations au sujet de directives générales et de mesures concrètes à leur égard".

8. The second change, which related to operative paragraph 6, involved a matter of principle. The English text of that paragraph began with the word "Decides", followed further on by the expression "shall be financed"; the expression was quite strong and gave the impression that the Council was taking a financial decision, which it was not empowered to do. He therefore proposed that those words should be replaced by "Recommends" and "should be financed".

9. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation was not opposed to the draft resolution as a whole, provided certain changes were made. However, if a separate vote was taken on operative paragraph 6, his delegation would abstain for reasons which it had made clear in the Economic Committee, namely, that the regular budget of the United Nations was intended to finance the Organization's administrative expenses and not its operating expenses.

10. Moreover, like the representative of France, he considered that the use of the word "Decides" at the beginning of operative paragraph 6 was out of order, since the Council was not qualified to decide on the use of resources and only the General Assembly could do so.

11. Mr. ROUAMBA (Upper Volta) pointed out that, since the Council "decided" in operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution that the Secretary-General should continue the field studies, it would be normal procedure to give him the means to do so; the use of the word "Decides" at the beginning of operative paragraph 6 was the logical consequence of the adoption of operative paragraph 2. If the Council were to replace the word "Decides" by "Recommends", operative paragraph 2 would be greatly weakened.

12. Mr. DECASTIAUX (Belgium) remarked that his delegation would abstain on the draft resolution for reasons which it had made clear in the Economic Committee. He supported the French representative's amendments to operative paragraphs 5 and 6.

13. Mr. GREGH (France) said that, whatever word was used, the problem remained. It was not for the Council to decide on the financing of costs; the use of the word "Recommends" had an added advantage in that it did not exclude the possibility of the studies being financed outside the regular budget.

14. Mr. DANIELI (United Republic of Tanzania) proposed, in a spirit of compromise, that the word "Decides" in the English text of paragraph 6 should be replaced by the word "Requests".

15. Mr. FIGUEREDO PLANCHART (Venezuela) said he shared the views of the representative of Upper Volta. He wished to know the opinion of the Secretariat on the procedural point involved and on the practical consequences, from the financial point of view, of using the word "Decides".

16. Mr. ROUAMBA (Upper Volta) observed that the operative part of the draft resolution formed a homogeneous whole. If the Council decided to continue the case studies, it should give the Secretary-General an idea of how that work would be financed. He considered that a mere recommendation was not sufficient; in any case, he desired further information on the matter.

17. Mr. DE SEYNES (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) said that the present exchange of views clearly illustrated the contradictions inevitably confronting the Secretariat with regard to the procedures for budgetary decisions and decisions about programmes. The Council was perfectly entitled to take the decision proposed in operative paragraph 2. Its budgetary consequences, however, could no longer affect the budget estimates for 1969, and the situation would have to be reviewed when the Secretary-General submitted next autumn a request for supplementary funds drawn up in the light of the Council's decisions.

18. In answer to a comment by Mr. DANIELI (United Republic of Tanzania), Mr. GREGH (France) said that although his delegation would have to abstain in the vote on the draft resolution, it would take an interest in the application of the text, and for that reason wished it to be legally sound. However, it accepted the word "Requests", which could be translated by "Prie" or "Demande", as a replacement for the word "Recommends".

19. Mr. ROUAMBA (Upper Volta) pointed out that the use of the word "Requests" would completely alter the structure of operative paragraph 6.

20. Mr. VARELA (Panama) said that that comment also applied to the Spanish text. After the explanations by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, he had no doubt that the Council could adopt operative paragraph 6 as it stood.

21. Mr. FIGUEREDO PLANCHART (Venezuela) did not think that operative paragraph 6 was incorrect from the legal standpoint.

22. The PRESIDENT put to the vote the French amendment to replace the word "Decides" in operative paragraph 6 of draft resolution A by the word "Requests".

The amendment was rejected by 13 votes to 10.

23. The PRESIDENT put to the vote draft resolution A as a whole, operative paragraph 5 of which was amended orally by the representative of France.

Draft resolution A as a whole, as amended, was adopted by 22 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.

24. Mr. FIGUEREDO PLANCHART (Venezuela), in explanation of his vote for the draft resolution, said that his delegation hoped that the case studies would be ready in 1969 and the interregional meeting of experts mentioned in operative paragraph 6 could be held that same year.

B. TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY

25. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to vote on draft resolution B contained in the report of the Economic Committee (E/4528).

Draft resolution B was adopted unanimously.

26. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking in explanation of vote, said he hoped that the conclusions to the study mentioned in operative paragraph 2 would take into account the views of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development on the establishment of an inter-governmental committee. In view of the number of bodies dealing with the transfer of technology, it did not seem desirable to establish such a committee.

27. Mr. DUBEY (India) said that if the views of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and of the Advisory Committee had been as convincing as the USSR representative implied, the Council would have taken a decision at once on the establishment of an inter-governmental committee, and that it would not then have been necessary to provide for the study mentioned

in operative paragraph 2. In any case, the draft resolution did not mean to anticipate the conclusions of that study.

AGENDA ITEM 17

International co-operation in cartography (E/4456 and Corr.1, E/4477)

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE (E/4531)

28. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to vote on draft resolutions I, II and III contained in paragraph 20 of the report of the Economic Committee (E/4531), the adoption of which that Committee recommended to the Council.

I. THE CONVENING OF A SIXTH UNITED NATIONS REGIONAL CARTOGRAPHIC CONFERENCE FOR ASIA AND THE FAR EAST

Draft resolution I was adopted unanimously.

29. Mr. MUZIK (Czechoslovakia) reiterated his delegation's position with regard to the invitations to the Sixth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Far East; there could be no real international co-operation if certain countries were excluded from the Conference. The principle of universality was an absolute prerequisite for real international co-operation.

30. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) supported that view.

II. STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

III. AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY AND PHOTOGRAMMETRY

Draft resolutions II and III were adopted unanimously.

The meeting rose at 1.5 p.m.