

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

THIRD SPECIAL SESSION

Summary record of the 2045th plenary meeting held at Headquarters, New York

2045th meeting

Wednesday, 23 February 1977, at 12.50 p.m.

President: Mr. Ladislav ŠMÍD (Czechoslovakia).

E/SR.2045

Adoption of the agenda

1. The PRESIDENT said that, in accordance with rule 11 of the rules of procedure of the Council, he wished to propose the following draft agenda for the third special session of the Council:

1. Adoption of the agenda;
2. Election of a Vice-President of the Council;
3. World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination:
 - (a) Membership of the Preparatory Sub-Committee for the Conference;
 - (b) Venue of the Conference.

The agenda of the third special session was adopted.¹

AGENDA ITEM 2

Election of a Vice-President of the Council

2. The PRESIDENT said that, in accordance with rule 22 of its rules of procedure, the Council was required to elect a Vice-President to replace Mr. Rafael Rivas (Colombia), who had resigned. Mr. Donald O. Mills (Jamaica) had been nominated by the Latin American group to serve as Vice-President for 1977.

Mr. Donald O. Mills (Jamaica) was elected Vice-President by acclamation.

3. Mr. LASCARRO (Colombia) paid a tribute to Mr. Mills and congratulated him on his election to the office of Vice-President of the Council.

4. The PRESIDENT said that it had been decided that Mr. Mills would assume the functions of Chairman of the

Economic Committee and he proposed that the other Vice-President, Mr. Abdalla Mahgoub (Sudan), should assume the functions of Chairman of the Committee on Negotiations with Intergovernmental Agencies.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 3

World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (E/5911, E/L.1754):

- (a) Membership of the Preparatory Sub-Committee for the Conference;
- (b) Venue of the Conference

5. The PRESIDENT said that, in pursuance of the decision taken by the Council, at its organizational session, to enlarge the membership of the Preparatory Sub-Committee from 16 to 23 members of the Council (decision 206 (ORG-77)), he had held consultations with the Chairmen of the regional groups. However, some of the States nominated by the regional groups for membership in that Sub-Committee were not currently members of the Council. That problem had been discussed in considerable detail with the Chairmen of the regional groups concerned, who did not believe that they would be in a position to nominate exclusively members of the Council. It had also been pointed out that, in any case, the Sub-Committee would be in existence beyond December 1977 and that the same problem might therefore arise if members of the Sub-Committee ceased to be members of the Council on 31 December 1977. In an informal meeting of the members of the Council, it had been agreed that the only possible solution was to amend resolution 1990 (LX) and decision 206 (ORG-77) so that all States Members of the United Nations might be eligible for membership in the Sub-Committee.

¹ Subsequently circulated as document E/5935.

6. He drew attention to a letter from the Government of Ghana to the Secretary-General (E/5911) withdrawing the invitation to hold the World Conference in that country. It was therefore necessary to review the terms of reference of the Preparatory Sub-Committee which provided, *inter alia*, that the preparations for the Conference should be made in consultation with the Secretary-General and the Government of Ghana. The situation was urgent, as the Sub-Committee was scheduled to hold its first session at Headquarters from 14 to 25 March 1977. Accordingly, he proposed the adoption of draft resolution E/L.1754.

7. Mr. MYERSON (United States of America) said that the United States delegation had not participated in the adoption of resolution 1990 (LX) or any of the other decisions associated with it. He requested therefore that the records of the Council should reflect the fact that his delegation was not participating in the decision on draft resolution E/L.1754.

8. Mr. YORK (Federal Republic of Germany) said that it was his delegation's understanding that the draft resolution did not constitute an endorsement of any list of candidates presented thus far by the regional groups and that an opportunity would be given to the latter to reconsider their nominations in the light of the changed basis of eligibility.

9. The PRESIDENT said that he would inform the regional groups of that possibility after the adoption of the draft resolution.

10. Mr. ROUGE (France) said that his delegation did not wish to raise any objections to the draft resolution although it had some doubts about it. He hoped that his delegation's attitude would be interpreted as an indication of its goodwill and that similar goodwill would be forthcoming if, in the future, the Council was called upon to demonstrate greater flexibility with regard to the *Ad Hoc Inter-*

governmental Working Group on the Problem of Corrupt Practices. The problem of the membership of that Working Group should be resolved in the same spirit of understanding as was shown in the case of the issue dealt with in draft resolution E/L.1754.

11. Mr. MAKEYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had made clear its position on the membership of the Preparatory Sub-Committee at the informal meeting preceding the special session. The regional groups had already submitted their lists of candidates and the Council should confirm their nominations. The adoption of draft resolution E/L.1754 need not delay the work of the Preparatory Sub-Committee, which should begin on time.

12. Mr. STOFOROPOULOS (Greece) said that he understood that the President would proceed to confirm members of the Preparatory Sub-Committee as soon as the lists of nominations prepared in the light of the change envisaged in draft resolution E/L.1754 were received from the Chairmen of the regional groups and that it would not be necessary to await the receipt of the nominations of all regional groups before doing so.

13. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt draft resolution E/L.1754 without a vote.

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 2046 (S-III)).

Closure of the session

14. The PRESIDENT declared the third special session closed.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.