



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Resumed Forty-seventh Session
OFFICIAL RECORDS

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President: Mr. Raymond SCHEYVEN (Belgium).

AGENDA ITEM 13

Report of the resumed Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (E/4755 and Corr.1 and Add.1)

1. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had before it the report of the Chairman of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) and the Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) on the resumed Joint Meetings of the two Committees, which had taken place on 23 October 1969 (E/4755 and Corr.1 and Add.1). At the Joint Meetings in July, consideration of questions relating to the restructuring of the co-ordination machinery had been postponed until October and in its resolution 1458 (XLVII), the Council had indicated that it looked forward to receiving at its resumed forty-seventh session the report of the resumed Joint Meetings. At its forty-seventh session, the Council had also decided to refer to the Joint Meeting a proposal contained in a working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the organization of the work of the Council, to the effect that the Joint Meetings of CPC and ACC should take place every two years, unless more frequent meetings were required because of special circumstances. The report dealt with the restructuring of the machinery for co-ordinating the activities of the United Nations system, and in addition contained, in paragraph 17, a recommendation that the practice of holding Joint Annual Meetings should be continued.

2. Mr. MARTIN-WITKOWSKI (France) said it was a pity that the report had only just been circulated; as a result his

delegation had not had time to study it. His delegation still held the position it had taken at the end of the Joint Meetings of CPC and ACC and wished to emphasize that the report was the work of the two Chairmen and not of the two Committees.

3. Mr. PATRIOTA (Chairman of the Enlarged Committee for Programme and Co-ordination) said that the report complemented that on the first part of the series of Joint Meetings which had been held in July 1969 in Geneva. During the last two meetings on 23 October, the members of both Committees had expressed their views and heard a statement by the Secretary-General and comments by the executive heads of four specialized agencies. Concerning the first chapter of the thirty-fifth report of ACC¹ paragraph 16 contained the views expressed by the Chairman of CPC in the report under consideration (E/4755 and Corr.1) at the conclusion of the debate. Paragraph 18 stated that the Joint Meeting had agreed that, as in the past, a report to the Council should be prepared by the Chairmen of the two Committees, in consultation with the Secretariat. In that report, an attempt was made to describe the existing situation as accurately as possible. The participants in the CPC meeting and the Joint Meetings had agreed that the practice of holding annual meetings was useful and should be continued.

4. The PRESIDENT proposed that the Council should adopt the following draft resolution:

"The Economic and Social Council

"Takes note of the report of the Chairman of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on the resumed Joint Meetings of those Committees."

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 2

General review of the programmes and activities in the economic, social, technical co-operation and related fields of the United Nations, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations Children's Fund and all other institutions and agencies related to the United Nations system (*concluded*) (E/4744 (vol. I), E/4744 (vol. I)/Add.1 and Corr.1, E/4744 (vol. II) and Corr.1 and 3, E/4748/Rev.1, E/L.1286)

5. Mr. BLAU (United States of America) introduced draft resolution E/L.1286, in which his delegation had tried to

¹ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-seventh Session, Annexes, agenda item 18, documents E/4668 and Add.1.*

summarize the consensus resulting from the limited debate which had taken place on the question so far. It was unlikely that either the Second Committee or the General Assembly at its plenary meetings would be able to complete consideration of the question before the November meeting of the Council. The action contemplated in paragraph 2 of the draft resolution probably could not be taken before the January session of the Council.

6. Mr. MARTIN-WITKOWSKI (France) recalled the comments made by the delegations of the United States and the Soviet Union at the 1644th meeting. The USSR delegation had rightly pointed out that co-ordination problems were the responsibility of the Council, which must not abandon its primary function or refer a question to the General Assembly without also transmitting its own comments on it. The members of the Council had been unable to give the problem the consideration it deserved, and it should be emphasized that a resumed session was not a suitable occasion for considering a question of that kind. Only at its summer session was the Economic and Social Council apparently in a position to reach a decision, through the agency of its Co-ordination Committee. He therefore proposed that paragraph 2 of the draft resolution be reworded as follows:

"Notes the recommendation of the Committee and agrees to revert to all questions raised in the report after they have been considered by the General Assembly."

7. Mr. BLAU (United States of America) said he did not quite understand the French representative's proposal. The Council would under that proposal seem to be taking note of the report twice. The purpose of paragraph 2 of the draft resolution as he had proposed was to draw attention to the recommendations of the Committee contained in chapter III, section A, of its report. Those questions were obviously not a matter for the Council, since they related to a subsidiary organ of the Council. In order to make the text of the draft more acceptable to the representative of France, he suggested that paragraph 2 should be amended as follows:

"Notes in particular the recommendations of the Committee contained in chapter III, section A, of its report and agrees to revert to this question after the report has been examined by the General Assembly."

8. Mr. MARTIN-WITKOWSKI (France) expressed approval of the new text and said his only objection was that he saw some difficulty in isolating specific recommendations.

9. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he thought the draft resolution as amended by the United States delegation was satisfactory as a compromise, although his delegation had preferred the first version, which seemed clearer.

Draft resolution E/L.1286, as orally amended, was adopted unanimously.

10. Mr. GALLARDO MORENO (Mexico) recalled that at the 1644th meeting the representative of the Soviet Union had said that the work of the Enlarged Committee for

Programme and Co-ordination had no real value and that probably nobody had read the documents which had been published. His delegation was amazed at that statement, and thought that document E/4744 (vols. I and II) provided a very useful inventory, especially for small delegations. The role of the Economic and Social Council had been whittled down and must be more strongly asserted, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter.

AGENDA ITEM 14

Assistance in cases of natural disaster (E/L.1284, E/L.1285)

11. Mr. IMAM (Kuwait) submitted draft resolution E/L.1285, of which Kuwait was a sponsor; he hoped that it would be adopted unanimously in view of the tragic consequences of the floods which had occurred in Tunisia in October 1969; already 533 persons were reported to be dead and 132,000 homeless. The reference to the Executive Directors of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, inserted by mistake in paragraph 3, should be deleted.

12. Mr. ARVESEN (Norway) submitted draft resolution E/L.1285 on behalf of the sponsors, which had been joined by Sudan. The two earthquakes which had devastated the town of Banja Luka, Yugoslavia, in the evening of 26 October and the morning of 27 October 1969, had left 40,000 persons homeless and destroyed 90 per cent of the buildings, including the town hospital, all the schools and the industrial centre. The Yugoslav Government had already adopted vigorous measures to provide planned assistance for the reconstruction of the devastated area. The Norwegian Government which also sympathized with Tunisia in its misfortune, had already approved two gifts of \$21,000 each, to be remitted to Tunisia and Yugoslavia through the Red Cross.

13. Mr. SKATARETIKO (Yugoslavia), whose country had just been struck by disaster, expressed the profound sympathy felt by the Yugoslav people for Tunisia in its misfortune.

14. Mr. DECASTIAUX (Belgium) said that the catastrophe suffered by Tunisia had been keenly felt by the Belgian people. On 27 October, a Belgian plane had brought into Tunisia two and one-half tons of food; it had been followed, several days later, by another loaded with five tons of food; since then the Belgian Government had donated 5,000 tons of new wheat for distribution to the population in the disaster area; it had also sent a team of three technical experts who were to submit a report on subsequent aid requirements for consideration by the Belgian Council of Ministers on 30 October. At present, the Council of Ministers was studying ways and means of providing additional aid in the form considered to be the most appropriate. Belgium, naturally, also fully supported draft resolution E/L.1285, since it could not turn a deaf ear to the appeal of a people in distress.

15. Mr. BERARD (France), recalling the bonds forged by history, tradition and friendship between France and Tunisia, commented on the scale of the disaster which had struck the latter country. The representative of Kuwait had

already quoted some figures concerning the material damage: 250 kilometres of roads and fifty-three bridges had been washed away; the entire olive and date crops had apparently been lost and four fifths of the livestock drowned. Tunisia needed all its courage and would have to mobilize all its resources; it was ready to do so, but it was the duty of the international community to demonstrate its solidarity. He also wished to be associated with the sympathy that had been expressed for the valiant Yugoslav people, who had been afflicted by yet another disaster.

16. Mr. GUELEV (Bulgaria), conveying the profound sympathy felt by the Bulgarian people for their neighbours and brothers in Yugoslavia, requested that Bulgaria, which fully supported draft resolution E/L.1284, should be included among the sponsors of draft resolution E/L.1285.

17. Mr. AKSIN (Turkey) hoped that draft resolution E/L.1284, of which Turkey was a sponsor, would be adopted unanimously by the Council. Turkey, which had also been ravaged by earthquakes, wished to join the sponsors of draft resolution E/L.1285.

18. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) expressed his support for both draft resolutions and his sincere sympathy for the two peoples, with whom the USSR maintained friendly and cordial relations.

19. Mr. KHANACHET (Kuwait) said that Pakistan had been inadvertently omitted from the list of sponsors of draft resolution E/L.1284. He joined in the expressions of sympathy for Yugoslavia, which had suffered yet another misfortune.

20. Mr. GALLARDO MORENO (Mexico) requested that Mexico should be included among the sponsors of both draft resolutions. He pointed out that, under General Assembly resolution 2435 (XXIII), the Secretary-General could draw up to \$100,000 from the Working Capital Fund for emergency relief in natural disasters. That might be one way of speeding up assistance to the countries concerned.

21. Mr. POSNETT (United Kingdom) said that the United Kingdom, which was a sponsor of draft resolution E/L.1285, was also appalled by the disaster which had occurred in Tunisia and would fully support draft resolution E/L.1284.

22. Mr. AHMED (Pakistan) expressed his sorrow over the national disasters that had occurred in Tunisia and Yugoslavia, taking a heavy toll of human life and material wealth.

23. Mr. MARAMIS (Indonesia) joined in the expressions of sympathy for Tunisia and Yugoslavia and requested that Indonesia should be included among the sponsors of both draft resolutions.

24. Mr. OLDS (United States of America) said that such tragedies revealed the precarious nature of human life and aroused a spirit of heroism, sacrifice and compassion; it was to be hoped that the expressions of sympathy for Tunisia and Yugoslavia would soon be followed by concrete assistance.

25. Mr. HILL (Assistant Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs) said that, of the bodies listed in paragraph 3 of the two draft resolutions, the World Food Programme would be the main source of assistance. The Mexican representative had mentioned the possibility of applying General Assembly resolution 2435 (XXIII). The funds under that head had unfortunately already been used up for the current financial year. In fact, \$20,000 had been granted to Syria, East Pakistan, Iraq and Guatemala, respectively, while a somewhat smaller sum had also been made available to Algeria. For the following financial year enquiries had already been received for assistance in planning to meet possible natural disasters. The Secretary-General no longer had at his disposal sufficient funds to enable him to contribute towards relief in Tunisia and Yugoslavia. He was at present attempting to find additional resources in order to raise the present yearly ceiling of \$100,000.

26. Mr. NGALLI-MARSALA (Congo, Brazzaville) expressed his grief at the catastrophes which had recently befallen Tunisia and Yugoslavia and said that he would vote for both draft resolutions.

27. Mr. OSMAN (Sudan) hoped that both draft resolutions would be unanimously adopted. He added that Algeria, which had been struck by torrential rains, should also receive assistance.

28. Mr. O'ROURKE (Ireland) said he would support both draft resolutions and would inform the Irish Government without delay of the results of the Council's discussion on the matter.

29. Mr. SAKSENA (India) associated himself in the expressions of condolences to Tunisia and Yugoslavia and suggested that his delegation, being a sponsor of draft resolution E/L.1285, should also be included in the list of sponsors of draft resolution E/L.1284.

30. Mr. BRUM (Uruguay) associated himself with the condolences expressed to Tunisia and Yugoslavia and said he would support both draft resolutions.

31. Mr. BUNGE (Argentina) said that he was shocked by the natural disasters which had befallen a city and a nation.

32. Mr. SULEIMAN (Libya) recalled the close ties binding Tunisia and Libya, which had therefore asked to be one of the sponsors of draft resolution E/L.1284. He also expressed his deep sympathy for the Yugoslav people in their new plight and said that he would vote for draft resolution E/L.1285.

33. The PRESIDENT called upon the representative of Tunisia, in accordance with rule 75 of the rules of procedure.

34. Mr. EL-GOULLI (Tunisia) said that the situation in Tunisia was still alarming and that torrential rains continued to fall. He wished to express his sincere gratitude to the sponsors of draft resolution E/L.1284 and to all who had offered their sympathy. The Tunisian people and Government would remember that kindness, and at the same time expressed solidarity with the people of Yugoslavia and their Algerian brothers.

35. Mr. SKATARETIKO (Yugoslavia) thanked the sponsors of draft resolution E/L.1285 and the representatives to all the United Nations bodies which had concerned themselves with the fate of Yugoslavia. The most intensive efforts were being made at the national level to reconstruct the devastated areas and long-term plans had already been adopted.

36. The PRESIDENT said that he shared the sentiments expressed by the members of the Council. He suggested that the Council adopt draft resolution E/L.1284 as amended orally by the representative of Kuwait.

Draft resolution E/L.1284, as orally amended, was adopted unanimously.

37. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should adopt draft resolution E/L.1285.

Draft resolution E/L.1285 was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Maramis (Indonesia), Vice-President, took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 8

Report on the position concerning infringements of trade-union rights in the Portuguese colonies in Africa

38. The PRESIDENT recalled that, in paragraph 15 of resolution 1412 (XLVI), the Council had requested the International Labour Organisation to prepare for it a report on the position concerning infringements of trade-union rights in the Portuguese colonies in Africa. The Secretary-General had not yet received the ILO report. However, the matter would be considered by the Governing Body of the ILO at its meetings from 10 to 21 November 1969.

39. Mr. JHA (India), whose delegation had been one of the sponsors of resolution 1412 (XLVI), deeply regretted the fact that the ILO report had not been completed in time. However, he was aware of the difficulties which had arisen and proposed that, if the Council had the ILO report at the time, it should consider it very early in its forty-eighth session in January 1970.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 3

Report of the Trade and Development Board (concluded)

40. Mr. VIAUD (France) said he had listened with great interest to the statement made during the discussion of agenda item 3 by the representative of Indonesia (1641st meeting) on behalf of the Group of seventy-seven concerning the preparation, within the period prescribed in the resolution of the New Delhi Conference, of a generalized non-reciprocal, non-discriminatory system of tariff preferences for manufactures and semi-manufactures exported by the developing countries. After consultation with representatives of the other States members of the European Economic Community (EEC) in New York, he was in a position to say on their behalf that the Council of Ministers of the Community had decided, on 28 October 1969, that the offer of EEC concerning the tariff preferences which the Community intended to grant to the developing countries should be communicated to UNCTAD. He asked that his statement be included in the record of the meeting.

41. Mr. MARTOHADINEGORO (Indonesia) welcomed the statement made by the representative of France and said that his delegation would inform the Group of seventy-seven of its substance.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.