

Policy and Programme Co-ordination Committee would decide when those meetings were to take place.

55. Replying to the question put by the representative of Japan, he said that no reference was made in the report of the Secretariat to Council resolution 1898 (LVII) because the report concerned would not be submitted to the Committee on Science and Technology for Development until 1976.

56. The absence of a reference to General Assembly resolution 3282 (XXIX) had been due to an omission on the part of the Secretariat, for which he apologized. Resolution 3281 (XXIX), concerning the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, had not been mentioned because it had not been referred specifically to the Economic and Social Council.

The meeting rose at 6.20 p.m.

1937th meeting

Wednesday, 15 January 1975, at 10.50 a.m.

President: Iqbal AKHUND (Pakistan).

E/SR.1937

AGENDA ITEM 3

Rationalization of the work of the Council and basic programme of work for 1975 (continued)
(E/5604 and Corr.1, E/L.1619 and 1621)

AGENDA ITEM 4

Actions arising out of decisions of the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session (concluded)
(E/L.1618)

AGENDA ITEM 7

Provisional agenda for the fifty-eighth session
(E/L.1620)

1. The PRESIDENT said that, as a result of the formal and informal meetings held in the past two days, the Council had before it two draft decisions contained in documents E/L.1619 and E/L.1621.

2. It appeared to be the consensus of the Council that the report of the Secretariat (E/5604 and Corr.1) had greatly assisted it in considering the question of the pattern of meetings and in clarifying the various issues involved. It was quite clear that rules 4 and 5 of the rules of procedure provided the procedural basis which would give the Council the necessary flexibility to enable it to hold special sessions to consider specific matters at the most opportune time. The Council had further agreed that changes in its pattern of meetings were closely related to the structure of its subsidiary machinery, which would be reviewed at its fifty-eighth session. While 1975 was an exceptional year, the Council had agreed to bear in mind the suggestions concerning changes in its pattern of meetings, particularly in relation to the holding of special sessions, contained in the Secretariat report, with a view to further rationalizing its work.

3. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the draft decisions contained in document E/L.1619 and E/L.1621 without a vote.

The draft decisions were adopted [decisions 64 (ORG-75) and 65 (ORG-75)].

4. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) said that he wished to place on record certain additional decisions concerning the programme of work which had

been reached in informal discussions. Work programme question 23 (Agrarian reform) would be integrated into item 9, instead of item 6 of the agenda for the fifty-eighth session. The report of the World Food Conference would be submitted to the Council at its fifty-ninth session, together with the report of the World Food Council on its first session. General Assembly resolution 3282 (XXIX) on the strengthening of the role of the United Nations with regard to the maintenance and consolidation of international peace and security, the development of co-operation among all nations and the promotion of the rules of international law in relations between States would be drawn to the attention of the Council at its fifty-eighth session, in the context of the item on rationalization of the work of the Council (item 3), as requested in paragraph 4 of that resolution.

5. The Council had before it document E/L.1620 concerning documentation for the fifty-eighth session. At its fifty-seventh session, the Council had decided not to consider reports of more than 32 pages unless special authorization to exceed that length had been given by the Council. He therefore wished to request the Council to waive the 32-page rule in respect of the following three documents: for the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-eighth session, under item 9, the report called for in Council resolution 1896 (LVII), section I, and 1911 (LVII), section I; under item 7 for the same session, the report of the Secretary-General called for in General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII); for the Committee on Natural Resources at its fourth session, the report of the Secretary-General on a comprehensive plan of action for the development of natural resources called for in Council resolution 1761 A (LIV).

6. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council decided to waive the 32-page rule in respect of the documents mentioned by the Secretary.

It was so decided [decision 66 (ORG-75)].

7. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) said that two questions concerning documentation remained to be settled.

8. First, the Chairman of the Joint Inspection Unit had asked that the attention of the Council should be drawn to the report by Mr. Bertrand on medium-

term planning in the United Nations system;¹ the Council might wish to bring the report to the attention of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) and allow the latter to advise it on the best possible course of action.

9. Secondly, the programme and budget procedures currently in effect called for the examination during the next four months by a number of programme-formulating bodies, including the Council, of the relevant parts of the medium-term plan for the period 1976-1979 and the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1975-1976. The recommendations of those bodies would subsequently be taken into account by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions when it met in May and June 1975 to formulate its proposals to the General Assembly on the level of appropriations for the next biennium.

10. The Office of Financial Services was making every effort to complete the necessary documentation for submission to CPC, which was scheduled to meet from 10 to 13 March to consider the parts of the plan and programme budget dealing with economic, social and human rights activities. The relevant parts of those documents would also be submitted in the course of March and April to the Trade and Development Board, the Industrial Development Board, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme and the regional economic commissions.

11. In that regard, the Office of Financial Services continued to face deadline problems to which no solution had been found. Although the process of preparing the next plan and budget had been initiated as early as April 1974 and considerable progress had been made in assembling the basic material, it had not been possible to arrive at any final positions until the General Assembly had taken its decisions at the twenty-ninth session on such fundamental matters as the revised programme and budget proposal for the current biennium. As a result of the effects on the budget of variations in the rates of exchange, of inflation and of the salary increases for staff in the Professional category proposed by the International Civil Service Advisory Board, as well as of decisions taken by programme-formulating bodies, including the General Assembly, in the course of 1974, those revisions had been of an unusually extensive nature. Taking into account the minimum time required for the finalization of the material by the Office of Financial Services and its reproduction in the official languages by the Department of Conference Services, it would regrettably not be possible to make the relevant parts of those presentations available as early as six weeks before the fifteenth session of CPC, as its members would have preferred. Every effort would be made to produce by 10 February—that is, one month before CPC met—at least the medium-term plan as well as those parts of the programme budget of most immediate interest, notably the budget section related to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Thereafter, it was hoped to produce the remaining sections of concern to CPC as early as possible before it met.

12. Pending some rationalization of the machinery for the examination of plans and programme budgets at the intergovernmental level which might achieve a more manageable time-table—an issue to be examined by a special working group in the course of 1975—

the Office of Financial Services trusted that the Council would appreciate the difficulties it had had thus far in adhering to a more satisfactory schedule for the provision of the necessary documentation in time.

13. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council agreed that the report by Mr. Bertrand should be drawn to the attention of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its fifteenth session.

It was so decided [decision 69 (ORG-75)].

14. Mr. MACKENZIE (United Kingdom) said that the work of CPC would become impossible if the relevant documents were not available in time. It was to be hoped that the deadline of 10 February would be met.

15. Mr. KITI (Kenya) endorsed the statement of the representative of the United Kingdom. In 1973, documentation had been delayed to such an extent that CPC had been unable to accomplish its work, which finally had been referred to the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly. The Secretariat should make an extra effort in the light of that experience.

16. Mr. SANDERS (United States of America) said that he wished to join the preceding speakers in urging that the 10 February deadline should be met. It was also to be hoped that the recommendations concerning the quality of documentation would be taken into account.

17. In connexion with the waiver of the 32-page rule, it should be stressed that the subsidiary bodies of the Council were not to assume that the rule would always be waived so easily. In the future, the Council should be given adequate opportunity to consider whether or not to waive it.

AGENDA ITEM 5

Participation in the Conference of the International Women's Year (E/5605)

18. The PRESIDENT recalled that in connexion with the Conference of the International Women's Year, the General Assembly had already decided to send invitations to States and national liberation movements. The Secretary-General had sought the guidance of the Council as to the invitations that should be sent to specialized agencies, other intergovernmental organization and non-governmental organizations.

19. Mr. G. A. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, according to General Assembly resolution 3010 (XXVII), one of the purposes of International Women's Year was to recognize the importance of women's increasing contribution to the development of friendly relations and co-operation among States and to the strengthening of world peace. Economic and Social Council resolution 1851 (LVI) described achieving the widest involvement of women in strengthening international peace and eliminating racism and racial discrimination as a major aim of the international conference to be held during the Year. The draft provisional agenda contained in paragraph 14 of the Secretary-General's progress report (E/5605) was therefore unsatisfactory. No provision was made for that particularly important objective. Women had a major contribution to make in the field of strengthening international peace. It was to be hoped that the Secretariat would take into account that point of view, which had been expressed by many delegations both

¹ A/9646.

in the General Assembly and in the Economic and Social Council, and include as a separate item on the agenda the question of the contribution of women to the development of peaceful relations among States, the strengthening of world peace and the elimination of racism and racial discrimination.

20. Chapter III of the progress report concerned invitations to the Conference. The question of participation in the Conference had, of course, been settled by the General Assembly in its resolution 3276 (XXIX). The proposal to invite "all States" had been made by a large group of non-aligned countries and had been adopted by the Assembly. It was his delegation's understanding that, in accordance with that formula, invitations would be sent to the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam and to the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Viet-Nam, both of which were sovereign States and were thus equally entitled to participate in the Conference with other sovereign States. The General Assembly had also decided in resolution 3276 (XXIX) to invite the national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and/or by the League of Arab States.

21. The report of the Secretary-General raised the question of inviting the specialized agencies and inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations. However, the Council was not entitled to modify the General Assembly resolution by expanding the list of participants. The interested specialized agencies should participate, in accordance with past practice, but to invite the intergovernmental organizations listed in paragraph 34 would be a violation of General Assembly resolution 3276 (XXIX). With regard to invitations to non-governmental organizations, the Secretariat should furnish the Council as soon as possible with a list of the organizations in consultative status which it might be deemed advisable to invite. The same applied to the organizations mentioned in paragraph 38. His delegation wished to know which were the specific organizations concerned; it also wished to reiterate its position of principle, namely, that the Council could not modify the provisions of a General Assembly resolution.

22. The meeting of non-governmental organizations mentioned in paragraphs 40 and 41 of the report was outside the framework of the activities of the United Nations, and the Economic and Social Council was not entitled to express any approval of it.

23. Mr. BARCELO (Mexico) said that, in his Government's view, women could only be fully incorporated into social life through an integral change in the society in which they lived. When inaugurating the national programme for the International Women's Year, the President of Mexico has stressed the need for women capable of contributing to the building of a more just future and of peace, and the concomitant need for men capable of abandoning outdated notions of domination.

24. The progress report of the Secretary-General augured well for the success of the Conference, which would be the culmination of the work carried out to improve the status of women since the United Nations Conference on International Organization at San Francisco in 1945; it was a goal warmly supported by Mexico, whose manifest interest in that work was borne out by its offer to act as host to the Conference of the International Women's Year. As an indication of the high priority his Government attached to the Con-

ference, the President of Mexico had appointed a distinguished jurist, Mr. Pedro Ojeda Paullada, Attorney General of the Republic, as the Co-ordinator of the national programme which would culminate in the Conference.

25. His Government had worked hard for the full incorporation of women into Mexican society, making equality between men and women a part of the Constitution, guaranteeing women the right to decide freely and responsibly the number of children they would have, and enabling a woman to give Mexican nationality to her foreign husband resident in Mexico. Mexicans agreed with their Government that neither a revolutionary society nor a democratic State could exist unless men and women had equal opportunities. The legal reforms recently carried out in Mexico constituted a just recognition of women and would make possible a real change in their living conditions.

26. In addition to recent legislation, a national programme had been initiated for 1975 in which federal, state and municipal authorities were participating with the co-operation of interested organizations and private groups. The programme included such items as guidance on nutrition and would be largely directed towards the rural population and the lower-income groups in urban areas. A family guidance and family planning programme and an information centre for women had also been established. In addition, the Government would issue a commemorative coin and a postage stamp for the International Women's Year and the Conference. New attitudes would be needed to develop the creative co-operation of women, and old prejudices must be overcome. When inaugurating the activities in Mexico for the International Women's Year, the President had said that the Year must not simply be an occasion for reflections on the status of women, but must lead to more rapid change and a strengthening of Mexico's social programmes; it must put an end to prejudice and serve as an opportunity to create a world in which the generous and intelligent efforts of women could produce the best possible results. Mexico looked forward to welcoming delegations from all the peoples of the world at the Conference.

27. Mr. BADAWI (Egypt) welcomed the appointment by Mexico of a national Co-ordinator, which should help to ensure the success of the Conference.

28. With regard to the progress report of the Secretary-General, he pointed out that the provisional agenda for the Conference in paragraph 14 did not clearly reflect the theme of peace, which was to be one of the three themes of International Women's Year, the others being equality and development. His delegation would like a separate item on the role of women in the strengthening of international peace and security to be included in the provisional agenda. If that was not possible, he suggested that it should become a subitem of item 2 or 3. It was clear that the question of decolonization and the elimination of racism and racial discrimination would be discussed, and his delegation believed that the Conference should deal with the situation of women and children in armed conflicts and under colonial domination or foreign occupation. Apparently those subjects were not covered in the basic documentation referred to in paragraph 17 (a), and his delegation felt that it would be useful if they could be. He was sure that the Secretariat had such documentation available and that there would not be much difficulty in reproducing it for the Conference.

29. In paragraph 21 of the report, the Secretary-General recommended that 19 and 20 June should be scheduled for pre-Conference informal meetings. His delegation welcomed the suggestion for such meetings, since they would help to ensure the success of the Conference, but feared that many representatives would not have arrived in Mexico City so far in advance of the opening of the Conference. He therefore suggested that the Conference should be extended by two days and that 23 and 24 June should be devoted to pre-Conference informal meetings.

30. On the question of invitations to non-governmental organizations, his delegation had no objection to such organizations participating in the Conference, since they had an important role to play in promoting its goals. However, in order for their participation to be effective and objective, the non-governmental organizations invited must be ones which subscribed to the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations and were involved in activities that were relevant to the subjects to be discussed at the Conference. It would be helpful for the Council to know which non-governmental organizations it was intended to invite, and also which were the "other organizations" referred to in paragraph 38.

31. The Secretariat would no doubt draw upon its experience of the successful procedures used at the World Population Conference in order to ensure the success of the Conference of the International Women's Year.

32. Mr. TUROT (France) thanked the Secretariat for providing the very useful report in document E/5605, which he assumed would be one of the documents before the Consultative Committee for the Conference when it met in March. His delegation had voted for General Assembly resolution 3276 (XXIX), but it maintained the reservation expressed at the time, namely, that it did not recognize the group of persons which claimed to speak for the population of French Territories.

33. His delegation, on behalf of the States members of the European Economic Community, had requested the General Assembly to adhere to the interpretation of the "all States" formula which appeared in the report of the Third Committee.² He wished to make it clear that his delegation had not changed its views on that point, and he thought that other delegations were of the same opinion. In the last resort, the Conference itself could of course take a decision on any problems that might arise from the participation of certain delegations. Lastly, it was self-evident that some non-governmental organizations should be invited to the Conference, and his delegation considered that a list of them and of the "other organizations" referred to in paragraph 38 of the report should be drawn up.

34. Mrs. SHUEH Jen-wu (China) said that, on the question of inviting all countries and the liberation movements recognized by OAU and the League of Arab States to participate in the Conference, her delegation had already expressed its views during the deliberations in the Third Committee concerning General Assembly resolution 3276 (XXIX). There was therefore no need to repeat those views. With regard to inviting the specialized agencies, other governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, she

wished to make it clear that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) should be strictly adhered to.

35. Mr. NEUGEBAUER (German Democratic Republic) pointed out, in connexion with chapter III of the progress report of the Secretary-General, that the question of participation in the Conference of the International Women's Year had already been decided by the General Assembly in its resolution 3276 (XXIX). In accordance with the provisions of that resolution, his delegation regarded it as a matter of course that the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Viet-Nam would be invited to the Conference. His delegation fully supported the suggestions and recommendations of the representative of the USSR regarding the participation of specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in the Conference.

36. Mr. MILLS (Jamaica) said that his Government took an active interest in the programme for the International Women's Year, which coincided with its own national programme to ensure that women took their rightful place in society. He pointed out that the title of the Conference was somewhat awkward; he did not know whether it could be changed at the present stage, but he hoped it would not give the impression that the Conference was to deal with a one-year effort. He trusted that the Conference would be successful, and said that Jamaica would participate actively in the work required. He suggested that the International Atomic Energy Agency, which was not included in the list in paragraph 34 of the report, might be invited to participate.

37. Mr. VON KYAW (Federal Republic of Germany) said that the main objectives of the Conference were to be development, equality and peace. However, unless women were granted equal treatment and fully integrated in the development process, they could not make a significant contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security. He felt that the peace theme could be dealt with under all four items in the draft provisional agenda, particularly items 1 and 4. On the question of participation in the Conference, he agreed that the non-governmental organizations referred to in paragraph 37 should be invited, because they had an important role to play in mobilizing public opinion. He could agree to the suggestion in paragraph 38, provided that organizations with a proven legitimate interest in the subject-matter of the Conference were invited.

38. Mr. AL-SHARAFI (Yemen) said that he shared the reservation expressed by the representative of Egypt regarding the "other organizations" to be invited to the Conference, as suggested in paragraph 38. His delegation would like to see a list of such organizations before the Council took any decision.

39. Mr. BAKER (United States of America) pledged his Government's support to the Secretariat and to the Government of Mexico in their efforts to ensure the success of the Conference.

40. With regard to invitations, he recalled that General Assembly resolution 3276 (XXIX) had been adopted on the basis of the interpretation of the "all States" formula reflected in the discussions in the Third Committee. The Council should not go beyond the terms of that resolution when extending invitations to attend the Conference. Economic and Social Council

² See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Annexes, agenda item 12, document A/9829/Add.1, para. 16.*

resolution 1851 (LVI) provided for the participation in the Conference of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council. Lastly, the Secretariat should provide the Council with a list of other non-governmental organizations which it felt should be invited to the Conference. Although he saw great merit in ensuring the widest possible participation, invitations should be extended only to organizations which functioned in a manner consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and which had a legitimate interest in the work of the Conference and a record of positive action in the field.

41. Mr. TAYLHARDAT (Venezuela) said he believed that General Assembly resolution 3276 (XXIX) had settled the question of the participation of States in the Conference and that the participation of the specialized agencies presented no problem, since it was normal practice for them to attend United Nations conferences. He also agreed that the intergovernmental organizations listed in paragraph 34 of the report, the liberation movements referred to in paragraph 35 and the non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council referred to in paragraph 37 should be allowed to participate. So far as other non-governmental organizations were concerned, only those which carried out activities directly related to the work of the Conference should be invited.

42. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) said that the question of invitations to States and national liberation movements was already covered by General Assembly resolution 3276 (XXIX). The Secretariat had approached OAU and the League of Arab States regarding the invitations to national liberation movements.

43. The Secretary-General was seeking the guidance of the Council with respect to invitations to the specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations because he did not have the authority automatically to invite them to attend *ad hoc* conferences of the United Nations. In accordance with the usual practice, once the Secretary-General was authorized to extend invitations to a particular conference, letters were addressed to all non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council—the most recent list of which was contained in document E/INF/144—and to other non-governmental organizations with a special interest in the work of the conference in question. When replies had been received, invitations were sent out. He drew attention to the provisions of Council resolution 1840 (LVI) concerning invitations to non-governmental organizations to attend the World Food Conference.

44. Mrs. BRUCE (Deputy Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, in charge of the Branch for the Promotion of Equality of Men and Women) said that the Secretariat would take into account the comments on the progress report of the Secretary-General, in particular those regarding the role of women in strengthening peace. That subject had not been singled out in a separate agenda item because it had been felt that the theme of peace would be discussed under each of the other items. The theme would be dealt with in the documentation to be submitted to the Conference.

45. Mr. BARCELO (Mexico), referring to the comments of the representative of Jamaica, suggested that the title of the Conference might be changed to read "International Women's Conference".

46. Mr. FASLA (Algeria) said he agreed that the Secretariat should provide the Council with a list of non-governmental organizations which it believed should be invited to attend the Conference.

47. In his view, the "all States" formula should be interpreted as broadly as possible.

48. Mr. G. A. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), referring to the question of invitations to States, emphasized that no consensus had emerged in the Third Committee or in the General Assembly regarding an interpretation of the "all States" formula. In resolution 3276 (XXIX), the General Assembly specifically decided to invite "all States to participate in the Conference"; he agreed with the representative of Algeria that the phrase must be interpreted broadly. Accordingly, the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Viet-Nam must be invited.

49. Economic and Social Council resolution 1851 (LVI) did not adequately settle the question which specialized agencies, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations should be invited. In future, all matters relating to participation in conferences should be firmly decided by the General Assembly itself. In the present case, the Secretariat should proceed in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3276 (XXIX) and should follow the most practical course to ensure the success of the Conference by sending invitations to the specialized agencies and to the intergovernmental organizations listed in paragraph 34 of the progress report (E/5605).

50. However, it was imperative that the Secretariat should provide the Council—either at the current session or at the fifty-eighth session—with a selective list of the non-governmental organizations which it considered would make a substantial contribution to the work of the Conference. Many of the organizations listed in document E/INF/144 could not, by their very nature, make such a contribution. The list should include only non-governmental organizations in category I or category II consultative status. After studying the list, the Council could decide which non-governmental organizations should be invited to attend the Conference.

51. Lastly, although he welcomed the Secretariat's assurances that account would be taken of the statements made in the Council concerning the agenda for the Conference, he reiterated his belief that there should be a separate item on the contribution of women to the development of friendly relations among States, the strengthening of world peace and the elimination of racism and racial discrimination. He had taken note of the request by the representative of Egypt concerning documentation relating to that item.

52. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council decided to take note of the proposals in paragraphs 33 and 34 of the progress report of the Secretary-General (E/5605), thereby endorsing those proposals, and requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-eighth session a list of the non-governmental organizations referred to in paragraphs 37 and 38 of the report with a view to enabling the Council to decide which non-governmental organizations should be invited to attend the Conference.

It was so decided [decision 67 (ORG-75), para. 1].

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.