

delegations on whose behalf he was speaking with regard to the report as a whole and he reserved the right to intervene on any specific point if the need to do so arose during the debate.

43. Mr. TEIXEIRA DA MOTTA (Portugal), supported by Mr. ORTNER (Austria), said that possibly the pressure of time and the fact that no summary records had been prepared for the Sub-Committee's session could explain a

series of inaccuracies in the report, which did not truly reflect what had taken place at that session. For that reason, his delegation's position would not necessarily be in line with some parts of the report. He expressed his reservations on some points included in the report and reserved the right to deal with them more fully when he thought it might be necessary to do so.

The meeting rose at 12.10 p.m.

2048th meeting

Wednesday, 20 April 1977, at 11 a.m.

President: Mr. Ladislav ŠMÍD (Czechoslovakia).

E/SR.2048

AGENDA ITEM 1

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (continued)

1. The PRESIDENT suggested that, taking into account the discussion at the preceding meeting and the informal consultations held since then, the Council should take note of the fact that the provisional agenda for the fifth session of the Committee on Natural Resources would include an item entitled "United Nations Water Conference" and that, under that item, the Secretary-General of the Conference would inform the Committee of the results of the Conference.

2. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom) asked if it were the case that the Water Conference had requested that the Committee on Natural Resources should consider certain proposals made at the Conference, and whether the Committee's views on the subject would be available to the Council at its sixty-third session.

3. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) said that in the resolution adopted by the Water Conference on institutional arrangements for international co-operation in the water sector, it had been recommended that the proposals for interagency co-ordination presented to the Conference in the report of ACC and the Environment Co-ordination Board should be examined by the Committee on Natural Resources at its fifth session with a view to submitting its recommendations to the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-third session for consideration and implementation. Obviously, the last part of that recommendation clearly indicated that the Conference intended the Council to be the sole organ empowered to consider and implement its recommendations.

4. Miss RICHTER (Argentina) pointed out that the Economic and Social Council had already had before it the report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its fourth session.¹ That report had contained the provisional agenda

for the fifth session, which had included an item on the Water Conference. Since the Council had already approved that report of the Committee on Natural Resources, she wondered what more the Council could do in that regard at the present time.

5. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) explained that, when considering the reports of the Committee on Natural Resources, the Council did not approve the provisional agendas included therein. Thus, the Council had not yet taken any decision concerning the provisional agenda for the fifth session of the Committee on Natural Resources, nor was it being asked to do so now. However, since doubts had been raised concerning the legality of the inclusion of an item in the provisional agenda of the Committee, the Secretary-General wanted the Council to take note of the inclusion of that item.

6. Mr. YORK (Federal Republic of Germany) said that he was prepared to accept the President's suggestion, on the understanding that the Committee on Natural Resources was authorized to examine the proposals of ACC referred to it by the Water Conference, make recommendations thereon to the Council and consider the deliberations of the Conference without exceeding its powers under its terms of reference.

7. The PRESIDENT said that that was his interpretation also.

8. Mr. LINDENBERG SETTE (Brazil) requested clarification as to whether the Committee on Natural Resources would be empowered to consider the decisions of the Conference and to make recommendations to the Council on those decisions in general or only on the question which the Conference had referred to it specifically.

9. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) said that the Committee on Natural Resources could not approve the recommendations of the Conference, since they were addressed to the Council. Nevertheless, the Council could at present, if it saw fit, entrust to the Committee such tasks as it deemed appropriate.

¹ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 3.*

10. Mr. YORK (Federal Republic of Germany) said he was not proposing that any special task should be entrusted to the Committee. He merely desired that restrictions that were not laid down in its terms of reference should not be imposed on it.

11. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objection, he would take it that the Council took note of the fact that the provisional agenda for the fifth session of the Committee on Natural Resources would include an item entitled "United Nations Water Conference" and that, under that item, the Secretary-General of the Conference would inform the Committee of the results of the Conference.

It was so decided (decision 214 (LXII)).

AGENDA ITEM 3

Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (*continued*) (E/5920, E/5921, E/5922)

12. Mr. AL-HUSSAMY (Syrian Arab Republic) said that, with deep concern over the danger represented by racism and racial discrimination and with faith in the role which the United Nations could play in eliminating all ideologies and practices based on racism, his delegation had always striven to participate actively in the elaboration and implementation of international instruments to combat those evils, including the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (General

Assembly resolution 2106 A (XX)), the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid* (General Assembly resolution 3068 (XXVIII)) and the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII), annex). It had likewise supported the General Assembly resolutions aimed at identifying all manifestations of racism and providing for adequate means for the implementation of the Programme for the Decade. That was the spirit that should inspire preparations for the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, which should be one of the most meaningful events of the Decade.

13. For all those reasons, he commended the work done by the Preparatory Sub-Committee for the Conference and reaffirmed his delegation's decision to co-operate in all activities designed to ensure the success of the Conference. Nevertheless, since the report of the Preparatory Sub-Committee (E/5922) included the reservations made by some of its members, his delegation felt obliged to point out to the Council the danger of an attitude aimed at preventing the Conference from considering what must be its main topic, as was expressed clearly in paragraph 13 of the Programme for the Decade. It should be borne in mind that all the instruments and resolutions adopted by the United Nations on racism and racial discrimination were interrelated and expressed the sentiment of the international community.

The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.

2049th meeting

Thursday, 21 April 1977, at 3.40 p.m.

President: Mr. Ladislav ŠMÍD (Czechoslovakia).

E/SR.2049

AGENDA ITEM 3

Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (*continued*) (E/5920, E/5921, E/5922)

1. Miss RICHTER (Argentina) said that, in participating in the discussion of the question of racism and racial discrimination, her delegation was fully aware of the importance of the topic and of the implications for States of the decisions to be adopted at the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. The fact that the General Assembly had considered it necessary to convene a world conference indicated that the measures adopted so far, although they had been valuable measures in the right direction, had not been sufficient to meet expectations and attain the goals set.

2. Proof of that was provided by the fact that the General Assembly and the Security Council were obliged time and time again to consider the situation in southern Africa,

which had given rise to situations of exceptional political gravity that went beyond the strictly humanitarian framework in which the problem had been analysed. The point was not to assign responsibilities but to co-operate closely in the search for solutions. It should be noted that the gravity of the existing situation was not caused by any indifference on the part of the United Nations to the emergence of a trend which currently appeared to be irresistible; on the contrary, the General Assembly and the Security Council had, particularly following the adoption of the historic resolution 1514 (XV), adopted decisions in which they had acknowledged that the situation in southern Africa was endangering international peace and security, and had recommended specific measures.

3. Most States had succeeded in modelling their international behaviour on the principles advocated by the United Nations. It was encouraging to note that groups of countries with a definite influence on world events shared the concern about the maintenance of colonial situations and of the policies of *apartheid*, to which the United