



**POPULATION COMMISSION**  
**REPORT ON THE SECOND SPECIAL SESSION**

(19 – 30 March 1973)

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**  
**OFFICIAL RECORDS: FIFTY-FOURTH SESSION**

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#### NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| ACC    | Administrative Committee on Co-ordination                                    |
| CICRED | Committee for International Co-ordination of National Research in Demography |
| ECA    | Economic Commission for Africa   |
| ECAFE  | Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East                                |
| ECE    | Economic Commission for Europe   |
| ECLA   | Economic Commission for Latin America  |
| ILO    | International Labour Organisation  |
| IPPF   | International Planned Parenthood Federation                                  |
| IUSSP  | International Union for the Scientific Study of Population                   |
| UNDP   | United Nations Development Programme   |
| UNESCO | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization             |
| UNESOB | United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut                          |
| UNFPA  | United Nations Fund for Population Activities                                |
| WHO    | World Health Organization  |

## I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

### Duration of the session

1. In accordance with the decision of the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-third session, the Population Commission held its second special session at United Nations Headquarters from 19 to 30 March 1973. The Commission held 19 plenary meetings (268th to 286th meetings).

### Attendance

2. The session was attended by representatives and/or alternates of States members of the Commission, observers from other States Members of the United Nations and representatives of bodies of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations. These are listed in annex I.

### Election of officers

3. The Commission confirmed its decision that officers elected at its sixteenth session would continue to serve the special session. However, since the terms of office of Czechoslovakia and India expired on 31 December 1972, it was necessary to elect a new chairman and one new vice-chairman. At its 268th meeting on 19 March 1973 the Commission elected Mrs. V. Russ (Romania) as Chairman and Mr. V. Prachuabmoh (Thailand) as Vice-Chairman. Mr. K. T. de Graft-Johnson (Ghana) and Mr. N. Urrutia (Peru) also functioned as Vice-Chairmen and Mr. M. Boserup (Denmark) as Rapporteur.

### Working Group of the Population Commission

4. The Commission, at its 271st meeting, decided to establish an ad hoc working group to consider questions of documentation for the World Population Conference, 1974. The members were Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia, the Philippines, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, as well as the Chairman of the Commission (Romania), the Rapporteur (Denmark), the Secretary-General of the World Population Conference, 1974 and the Director of the Population Division. The Commission discussed the report of the ad hoc working group at its 278th and 279th meetings on 26 March.

### Agenda

5. At its 268th meeting the Commission adopted the provisional agenda contained in document E/CN.9/274/Rev.1, as revised during the discussion. The agenda as adopted (E/CN.9/274/Rev.2) is reproduced in annex II.

## II. WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE, 1974

### Background to the general discussion

6. The Commission met for the second time in its capacity as the intergovernmental preparatory body of the World Population Conference, 1974 and the World Population Year, 1974, a role which had been assigned to it by the Economic and Social Council (resolution 1672 B (LII)). In taking note of the report of the Commission's first special session in that role, 1/ the Council, at its resumed fifty-third session, formally endorsed a proposal that the Commission should meet at approximately six-month intervals during the period between August 1972 and the opening of the Conference in August 1974. The current session was convened in pursuance of that action by the Council.

7. The Secretary-General of the World Population Conference submitted two reports on the development of Conference preparations since the Commission's first special session in August 1972. One of those reports (E/CN.9/275) dealt mainly with substantive preparations, while the other (E/CN.9/278) also concerned matters relating to the broader framework of the Conference.

8. The Commission recalled the provisions of Council resolution 1672 (LII), which inter alia requested the Secretary-General to appoint, within the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and at the Assistant Secretary-General level, a Secretary-General for the World Population Conference and those World Population Year activities specifically related to the Conference, among them the symposia, equipped with the necessary secretariat resources, by drawing particularly upon the expertise and competence of the United Nations system as well as the Advisory Committee of Experts on the World Population Plan of Action. Note was taken by the Commission of the provisions made by the Secretary-General of the Conference, referred to in paragraph 3 of document E/CN.9/278, to give effect to the arrangements described as follows in paragraph 5 of the note on the administrative and financial implications of the Conference (E/5221):

"Within the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Conference preparations will be carried out under the direction of the Secretary-General of the Conference. These preparations include both executive and substantive elements: the executive functions will be carried out by the Office of the Secretary-General of the Conference; the substantive functions will be carried out by the Population Division."

The preparations would, of course, be under the final responsibility of the Secretary-General of the Conference.

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1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 12.

Statement by the Secretary-General of the Conference

9. The Secretary-General of the World Population Conference, 1974, in introducing the two documents before the Commission under the item, said he was aware when he was appointed that the Commission had been entrusted with the responsibility of being the intergovernmental preparatory body for the Conference and, in that capacity, had already recommended a tentative agenda for the Conference and had agreed upon a number of preparatory steps that were already in train. He considered it his duty to ensure that those steps would be taken in the best possible fashion, while adhering to the time-table.

10. He noted that the key to the fundamental purpose of the Conference, namely "to promote human welfare and development", was to be found in the first of the two basic resolutions of the Economic and Social Council (resolutions 1484 (XLVIII) and 1672 (LII)).

11. The United Nations had already covered much ground both in the definition of principles and in more concrete matters having to do with population.

12. He re-emphasized the fact that demographic policies were not being and could not be substituted for development policies, of which they should be regarded as an integral part. International co-operation in population matters could in no way impose a limit on that to be directed towards economic and social development, as the General Assembly had specifically affirmed in its resolution 3019 (XXVII).

13. He pointed out that some experts considered that the demographic process currently under way, whereby world population might reach 6,500 million by the year 2000, had no precedent in history and might never be repeated. He found that some countries, while they did not deny the world phenomenon, considered their situations unique.

14. Birth rates were highest in developing countries and in rural areas, generally the poorest. Without prejudice to the understandable differences among politicians and scientists regarding the relationship between demographic growth and economic development, there should be no obstacle to the unconditional and universal acceptance of human rights recognized at Teheran in 1968, 2/ which included the right to information and the means to make parenthood not a matter of chance but of free choice. All countries could formulate policies that were not incompatible with the respect for basic human rights.

15. He did not wish to give the impression that the Conference should be concerned only with problems relating to the third world; developed countries would have much to say and would be interested in questions of fertility as well as of mortality and international migration.

16. The four symposia, the subsequent regional consultations hoped for, scientific papers prepared by experts and replies to the United Nations questionnaire from Governments would serve as a basis for the preparation of the draft World Population Plan of Action.

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2/ See Final Act of the International Conference on Human Rights (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.68.XIV.2), chap. III, resolution XVIII.



17. He went on to inform the Commission that the Government of Cyprus had withdrawn its invitation to the Conference and that Costa Rica had invited the Conference to meet in its capital city.

18. Speaking of the parallel activities of the Conference, he outlined three possibilities, none of which excluded the others, for the organization of the population forum: a series of lectures by eminent scientists organized by the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population; a series of national and regional activities of youth groups, which he understood was under study by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and could culminate in parallel activities within the framework of the forum; finally the group of non-governmental organizations represented at New York and Geneva should plan and manage the forum in consultation with the United Nations, but independently.

19. The role of non-governmental organizations in the Conference itself would be governed by the relevant stipulations of Council resolution 1296 (XLIV), unless the Council decided otherwise.

20. Concluding, he said that he did not see why population should be an area of divergence among Member States if previously approved United Nations principles in the matter were respected, as well as others on which agreement might be reached, and if the spirit embodied in the United Nations Charter prevailed.

#### Statement by the Director of the Population Division

21. The Director of the Population Division, recalling that the World Population Conference, 1974 would be a meeting of the representatives of Governments concerned with policy and decision-making, noted that the sequence of activities leading from the substantive preparations for the Conference to the drafting of the World Population Plan of Action and the policy discussions in the Conference gave explicit recognition to the interdependence of political and scientific debate. The substantive preparations for the Conference would provide a review of the existing state of knowledge in the field of population, which would highlight fundamental trends and relationships, permit assessments of the implications of alternative courses of action and facilitate discussion of the diversity of experience and circumstances. While knowledge was still limited in many areas, it was hoped that the substantive preparations for the Conference would contribute to a clearer definition of the issues involved and assist materially the decision-making processes of the Conference. The culmination of all these efforts would be the World Population Plan of Action, which, as the Advisory Committee of Experts on the Plan had advised, should be founded on an understanding of the varied social, economic and cultural conditions in the world and hence take account of the varied attitudes of Governments toward population problems. Such a diversified approach, the Director suggested, should be adopted not only with respect to space but also in relation to time, since the population problem arose differently at different stages of development. It was essential, however, to anticipate, in so far as possible, population problems which might arise in the future, so that appropriate policies could be undertaken in advance in order to prevent serious imbalances that might otherwise occur.

22. The symposia and their interrelationships were also discussed by the Director. In particular, he noted that the problem of the environment could not be properly

discussed in isolation from development and should not lead to the neglect of the major problem of poverty in developing countries. In those countries the improvement of the environment and the quality of life were dependent on economic growth, which would in turn facilitate the fight against hunger, illiteracy and housing deficiencies.

23. The task ahead was a heavy and urgent one, the Director stated, and its success depended on a great effort on the part of the United Nations system, the co-operation of non-governmental organizations, and the expertise of consultants, specialists and participants. It also involved the United Nations Fund for Population Activities which was making an important financial contribution to the Conference and was organizing the World Population Year, of which the Conference was a major event.

#### General discussion

24. After having heard the statements by the Secretary-General of the Conference and the Director of the Population Division, the Commission held an exchange of views about the general aims and possibilities of the Conference. There was general agreement with the view stated by the Secretary-General (see E/CN.9/278, paras. 9-10) that international co-operation, in the population area as in other fields, must be conditioned by the sovereignty of States, and that the forces of nationalism must realistically be taken into account. Some delegates expressed the hope that Governments would nevertheless be able to take significant steps towards an agreed approach to population problems and to initiate joint action. In their opinion, there were other factors which might be even more influential than nationalism, namely, the retarding effect on development of too rapid a population growth. Other delegates were more inclined to stress the importance of social and economic factors in the population field and the diversity of actual situations with regard to population. Those delegates felt that more efforts should be concentrated on the provision and analysis of data and on research services for Governments, which would assist them in deciding on what policies to adopt. In that context it was mentioned that, in the absence of a free flow of people and resources across national frontiers, it was hardly realistic to expect an identity of national objectives to emerge in the foreseeable future, however desirable such a concordance of views might be. There was agreement, nevertheless, that in view of the intimate relationship between socio-economic conditions and developments in the population field the Conference would unavoidably provide an occasion for discussions of present and prospective flows of aid resources from the developed to the developing countries.

25. The Commission concurred with the statements made by the Secretary-General of the Conference and the Director of the Population Division that the success of the Conference would depend on the collaboration of many bodies and organizations, such as the United Nations regional economic commissions and the specialized agencies. Several delegates stated that various non-governmental organizations, many of which were already deeply involved in the Conference preparations could be expected to make an important contribution to the Conference. The Commission in addition called attention to the need to establish close working relations with the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme and to keep closely

in touch with the preparations for Founex II. 3/ It had been suggested in the Steering Committee for Founex II, which was scheduled to meet in February 1974, that Founex II should give special emphasis to the place of population in the general activity of the United Nations Environment Programme. It was also considered that efforts should be made to see that Governments not currently members of the Population Commission should have an opportunity to participate in the preparatory work of the Conference. The Commission also wished to reiterate the view expressed at its first special session that the Conference, being a major event during the Second United Nations Development Decade, should be geared to providing a valuable input for assessment of the status in the mid-term review and appraisal in the field of population.

### Symposia

26. The Commission was informed of the steps that the Secretary-General of the Conference had taken in drawing up plans for the four symposia proposed by the Commission at its first special session in August 1972. 4/ The Secretary-General of the Conference reported in document E/CN.9/275 (paras. 10 and 11) that consultations had taken place concerning the advisability of combining some of the symposia. It was felt, however, that, while population and the family and population and human rights were closely related subjects, there was a need for separate discussions of those questions to give emphasis to the family as the basic unit of social organization and population dynamics. On the other hand, recognition was given to the important interrelationship between population structure and change, as well as between human rights and questions of population policy. Similarly, the Secretary-General of the Conference concurred with the views of the Commission expressed at its previous session that the two symposia dealing respectively with population and development and population, natural resources and environment, should be retained, since they would reflect different aspects of the interrelations between population, development, natural resources and environment. Moreover, such a separation gave explicit recognition to the recommendation of the United Nations Conference on Human Environment that "during the preparations for the 1974 World Population Conference, special attention shall be given to population concerns as they relate to the environment, and more particularly, to the environment of human settlements". 5/ One member of the Commission thought that it would be preferable to hold only two symposia, by merging, on the one hand, the symposium on population and development with the one on population, natural resources and environment, and, on the other hand, the symposium on population and the family with the one on population and human rights. In respect of the number of symposia, the same member made comments on the draft agenda of the symposia contained in annex I of document E/CN.9/275, and suggested some changes which, in his opinion, would improve the draft agenda.

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3/ The Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment had convened a panel of 27 senior experts from all parts of the world at Founex, near Geneva, from 4 to 12 June 1971, to report on development and environment. This meeting is commonly referred to as "Founex I".

4/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 12, paras. 15, 26, 27 and 30.

5/ A/CONF.48/14 and Corr.1, part one, chap. II, sect. B, recommendation 11.

However, most members of the Commission concurred with the decision to hold four separate symposia, while requesting the Secretary-General to see that the closest links possible were established between the related symposia.

27. The Commission learned that an agreement had been reached with the Government of Egypt for the first of the symposia, on population and development, to be held at Cairo from 4 to 14 June 1973. The second symposium, on population and the family, <sup>6/</sup> was scheduled to be held in August 1973 at a site presently under negotiation. The Government of Sweden had offered to serve as the host country for the symposium on population, resources and the environment, which would take place from 24 September to 5 October 1973, and the fourth symposium, on population and human rights, would be held in the Netherlands early in January 1974.

28. The Secretary-General reported that between 20 and 25 participants would be invited to each symposium, each one in his personal capacity as a specialist in a field relevant to at least one specific subject area of the meeting. The participants would be drawn from various geographic and cultural regions of the world and from countries at different stages of development. Owing to the interdisciplinary nature of the symposia, the invited experts were also selected so as to ensure representation of the various disciplines involved. It was considered essential that the discussions at the symposia should reflect the variety of conditions and problems existing in different parts of the world and among different categories of the population.

29. The Commission expressed its appreciation for the work of the Secretariat in elaborating the programmes of the symposia. In the Commission's view the four symposia were highly important, since it was through them that expert scientific opinion on the leading issues of the Conference would be formulated and brought before the representatives of participating Governments in the Conference documents. The symposia were not intended to provide occasions for exhaustive academic discussions, but rather to focus attention on particularly critical problem areas relevant to the issues to come before the Conference, so as to provide the Conference with the best available scientific advice and suggest an array of options for action. While the reports of the symposia would reflect the technical discussions, it was also essential that the purpose of serving the aims of the Conference should be kept constantly in mind. In that connexion, the Commission stressed the importance of enlisting the services of individuals particularly skilled in the conversion of highly scientific materials into non-technical conference papers, which could be of assistance to Governments in taking policy decisions. The Commission wished to have available for its information at its seventeenth session in October-November 1973 the reports of the first three symposia, at least in draft form.

30. As regards the general approach to the work and the reports of the symposia, it was agreed that the focus should be on the interrelationship between population factors and the subject area of each symposium. Furthermore, since the purpose of the symposia was to facilitate the work of Governments attending the Conference, each symposium should give priority to those elements of the subject which were of major relevance to the purpose of the Conference and on which important advice

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<sup>6/</sup> This is the symposium referred to as dealing with "population and the cultural aspects of family well-being" in paragraph 26 of the report of the first special session of the Commission.

could be given to the Conference. It was further stressed that the symposia should plainly indicate gaps and uncertainties in knowledge within the field concerned. Finally, the Commission emphasized that the conclusions of the symposia should aim at assisting Governments at the Conference in reaching decisions on policies, but divergent views among the experts taking part in the symposia should be frankly spelled out and explained, and in the formulation of conclusions no attempt should be made to obscure real differences of opinion by artificial consensus or compromise.

31. The Commission expressed satisfaction with the quality of the substantive advice it had received from the Population Division as the office in charge of the technical preparations for the World Population Conference, including the symposia in accordance with the provisions described in paragraph 8 above. It recognized that in view of the diverse subject matter of the different symposia and the time available before the convening of the meetings there could be no standardized approach in respect of their preparation. Much importance was attached to the appointment of rapporteurs who would have the difficult task of summarizing the documentation, deliberations and findings of the four symposia, and a number of suggestions were put forward as to how the reporting could be most effectively carried out. It was agreed that the Population Division should be in charge of the appointment of rapporteurs - who might be either staff members or specialists recruited from outside the United Nations - as well as moderators and any other persons connected with the symposia. The possibility was mentioned of recruiting project managers to be in charge of each of the four symposia. It was recognized, however, that such an arrangement presented difficulties, since it was not easy to find highly qualified individuals who on short notice could make available their services for this purpose. A suggestion was made to appoint an official who would be in charge of co-ordinating the work of adapting the technical reports of the symposia for use in the conference papers. The Commission expressed serious doubts, however, as to whether it would be possible to find any one individual with sufficient expertise in all four highly specialized subjects of the symposia to perform this task adequately. It was agreed that the Population Division should be given considerable flexibility in completing the arrangements for preparing for the symposia, taking into consideration the recommendations made by members of the Commission at the current session concerning the content of the agenda.

32. Regarding the symposium on population and development, the Secretary-General reported that the list of participants in the symposium was nearly complete and that other preparations were at an advanced stage. The Commission also took note of the proposed plans for the symposium, including the provisions for documentation and the organization of the discussions. It had before it the provisional agenda for the symposium, and was provided with annotations to the provisional agenda. It was suggested that, among the topics for discussion at the symposium, attention should also be given to the economic and social implications of a stationary or declining population in a number of economically more developed countries and to the special case of countries with low population density.

33. The symposium on population and the family had been proposed by the Commission at its first special session specifically to extend the scope of the Conference in order to obtain further scientific advice on the processes by which population dynamics were determined at the level of the family as the basic unit of population structure. The Commission was informed that the change in title of the symposium did not imply any alteration in the substantive content of the meeting, which was

still concerned with family well-being, in accordance with the discussion at the first special session. The provisional agenda for the symposium was before the Commission and annotations for the agenda were provided at the session. The Commission noted that the provisional agenda provided for discussions of the family within the broad context of social, cultural and other conditions affecting it. Mention was made of the need to give greater emphasis to mortality and the dissolution of marriages resulting from the deaths of males. The view was also expressed that full account should be taken of variations in conditions of the family according to different cultures and regions. It was observed that the symposium provided an opportunity for the systematic discussion of the influence of policies upon family structure and functions and upon family size.

34. The view was expressed that the problems which were the concern of the symposium on population, resources and environment were more pressing in the industrialized countries. Nevertheless, it was recognized that those problems manifested themselves also in developing countries particularly in the case of natural resources. In discussing the plans for the symposium, it was emphasized that close co-operation with the United Nations Environment Programme would be desirable. In reviewing the provisional agenda for the symposium, it was suggested that consideration should be given to the implications of consumption patterns for the availability and distribution of natural resources.

35. In connexion with the symposium on population and human rights, the Commission emphasized its importance, both because of its direct relationship with the World Population Plan of Action and its implications for three other items of the Conference agenda. In considering the provisional agenda for the symposium, the Commission was aware that, as this was the last of the symposia to be held, arrangements for it were still somewhat flexible and consultations were still continuing. The close relationship of that symposium to the one on population and the family and its implications for population policy were mentioned by some members. It was considered, however, that the human rights to be discussed should not be confined to family rights, since the international instruments on human rights, which were the object of consideration, were related to the rights of individuals as well; they referred to civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. While jurists could be expected to play a distinct role in the symposium, the interdisciplinary character of the meeting made it desirable that persons from other fields should also be included among the participants. Particular stress was placed upon the importance of the status of women as an issue in human rights. It was also mentioned that one of the questions to be discussed should be the right to family planning information and means taking into account the traditions, culture and other conditions prevailing in each country.

#### World Population Plan of Action

36. The Commission was informed that the preliminary draft of the World Population Plan of Action would be submitted to its seventeenth session later in the year. The presentation at the current session related to the progress of work on the

technical background study for the World Population Plan of Action, which was also being undertaken with the assistance of the Advisory Committee. <sup>7/</sup> The Commission was assured that the technical background study was designed not to duplicate, but to supplement other preparatory work for the Conference. In fact, one of the major inputs of the draft of the World Population Plan of Action would be the results of the four symposia, although before reaching appropriate formulations for the draft the results would need to be examined for consistency and for conversion into recommendations for action. The results and recommendations of the regional population conferences in Latin America, Africa and Asia that had already taken place or might still take place and of the conference to be held shortly by the Economic and Social Office in Beirut would necessarily constitute another major input. In addition, there would be contributions from the standing bodies on population, such as the Conference of African Demographers.

37. After the draft of the World Population Plan of Action was completed at the Advisory Committee level, it would again be adjusted in the light of subsequent governmental and other consultations, some of which might be held regionally. That would require consultation between the Secretary-General of the Conference and Governments in the different regions.

38. In accordance with the views of the Population Commission expressed at earlier sessions, <sup>8/</sup> a broad definition of population policy had been adopted, namely, one that included various measures and programmes designed to affect fertility, policies relating to mortality and morbidity and the geographic distribution of the population. The Commission was also informed that attempts were being made to ensure the proper linkage of the World Population Plan of Action with other international programmes, such as the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade (General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV)) and similar programmes of the specialized agencies.

39. The Commission approved the direction of work on the technical background study, particularly with regard to the broad definition of population problems adopted in the study. Such a broad definition would permit taking into account the diversity of demographic conditions existing in the world. While excessive rates of population growth, a high population density or a very strong urbanization might be the major population problem in many countries, in others the principal population problem could relate to insufficient population density, to an unequal geographic distribution of the population, to migration or to excessive mortality. In some developing regions, especially in Africa, population problems were seen in the wider context of family and individual welfare, especially of children and mothers.

40. The Commission also noted that the results of the symposia and particularly of the regional population conferences would be brought to the attention of the

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<sup>7/</sup> One member suggested that the name "World Population Plan of Action" should be changed because, in his view, such a plan, in order to be acceptable, should not include normative items and should cover only the activities of the United Nations system and not actions by Member States.

<sup>8/</sup> See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3, paras. 55-68; and *ibid.*, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 12, para. 48.

Advisory Committee of Experts on the World Population Plan of Action and taken into account in the draft of the World Population Plan of Action itself. In that regard, the hope was expressed that countries of Europe or developed countries in general might be able to consult with each other with a view to making a contribution similar to that made by the population conferences in the developing regions.

41. The Commission considered whether, at the Conference, the draft of the World Population Plan of Action should be discussed first in the committees or only in plenary session, but decision on that point was postponed until the next meeting of the Commission. It was noted that the procedure followed with regard to the recommendations for action of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment might not be applicable to the draft of the World Population Plan of Action because of possible significant differences in the nature of the two documents.

42. The Commission re-emphasized that the draft of the World Population Plan of Action should be based on the principle of national sovereignty. The view was expressed that the draft of the World Population Plan of Action should attempt to promote national research to help Governments make national decisions in the field of population policies and to improve the capacity of the United Nations system to assist Governments in that regard. It was understood, however, that, as with other aspects of social and economic development, there might be international implications and responsibilities arising from actions at the national level.

43. The Commission also emphasized the importance of the close relationship between population and development for the proper formulation of the draft of the World Population Plan of Action. Economic and social development exercised crucial influences on population trends and hence constituted essential aspects of the population policy of each country. In that regard, the World Population Plan of Action should ultimately help countries to integrate the population factor in their development plans and programmes so that it could be treated in its proper context of economic and social development.

44. The Commission was informed that contacts had been made with a number of Governments to ensure broader geographical representation in the Advisory Committee of Experts for the World Population Plan of Action. That was in accordance with the recommendation of the Commission at its first special session, contained in paragraph 57 of its report.

#### Documentation

45. As noted in paragraph 4 above, the Commission set up an ad hoc working group to review the documentation for the Conference. In considering the report of the working group (E/CN.9/L.103 and amend.1), the Commission made the proposals outlined in the following paragraphs.

#### Conference documents

46. The Commission reaffirmed the recommendation of the Commission at its first special session that the official conference documents should be limited to four papers, not necessarily of equal length, totalling roughly 500 pages, and a draft World Population Plan of Action, the length of which would be determined later. The Conference documents should be issued to Governments not less than 90 days before the Conference. It was left for further consideration at the next session



of the Commission whether the technical background study for the World Population Plan of Action would also be presented to the Conference.

#### Other documentation for the Conference

47. It was understood that the documentation under that heading referred to specially commissioned papers, which would function as inputs to the five Conference documents.

48. The Population Commission recommended that the papers should consist of two categories, namely, background and symposium papers, and that those formerly referred to as invited specialists' papers should be treated as having the status of either background or symposium papers.

49. Although the Commission recognized the need to reduce the documentation as much as possible, it felt that the list of background papers given in annex II of document E/CN.9/275 could not easily be shortened, since texts were either ready in draft or in a fairly advanced stage of preparation. In respect of the papers listed in paragraphs 50 and 51 of that document, the Commission felt that a paper on social and economic factors affecting fertility would be of particular value.

50. The suggested paper on population and family was to be transferred to the documentation for the symposium on population and the family.

51. A concise up-to-date paper on the activities and programmes of bodies of the United Nations system (with minimal reference to mandates) was considered desirable. It would be prepared by the United Nations Secretariat in consultation with the interested specialized agencies, the regional economic commissions and the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut. It could be revised shortly before the World Population Conference, 1974, and could constitute an additional background paper.

52. The Commission recommended that the Secretariat should be allowed to finalize the list of background papers in accordance with the time-table.

53. The Commission approved the suggestion of the Director of the Population Division that he convene a reading group, which would include experts and representatives of Governments chosen with a view to regional representation and diversity of positions in regard to population, to select from the documents prepared for the Conference those which would seem to be most useful to Governments for the purposes of the Conference. The Commission requested that the number of such selected documents be held to approximately 20 and that they be translated into the working languages of the Conference and distributed to Governments not later than 90 days before the Conference.

54. The Commission requested that, in addition to such selected documents, the following should be translated into the working languages of the Conference and distributed to Governments not later than 90 days before the Conference:

- (a) The reports of the symposia; and

(b) The recommendations of regional intergovernmental meetings held in preparation for the Conference, including the recommendations and declaration of the Second Asian Population Conference (see E/CN.11/1065 and E/CN.11/L.342).

55. The Commission requested that a list of all other documents prepared for the Conference should be circulated to Governments not later than 90 days before the Conference and that those documents should be available upon request in limited copies and in the language of origin.

56. The Commission also requested that documents containing new information of substantial importance might be prepared up to the time of the Conference and be available in the Conference library.

57. The Commission further approved the proposal of the Director of the Population Division that, in addition to the reading group mentioned in paragraph 53 above, he might convene a reading committee to make a selection of documents for publication. The group could be identical in composition to the group referred to in paragraph 53 above.

58. The Commission took note of proposals regarding the timing of publication of selected papers; the matter would be decided later.

Analysis of country statements or report on the second inquiry among Governments on population growth and development

59. The Commission, noting that Conference delegates needed information on the attitudes of Governments to population problems and policies related to those problems, considered that the analysis of replies to the second inquiry or, where they were identical, the country statements might fill that need. It recognized that there was some problem in the likely dates of submission of the replies to the questionnaire which had been sent out, but nevertheless felt that the analysis could be made available before the Conference. The Commission recommended that the Secretariat should communicate a request to Governments that they give priority to answering the sections of the questionnaire relating to policy issues. The Commission recognized that information submitted by Governments after 31 August 1973 would come too late for the analysis. Replies to the second inquiry that also served as country statements, and other country statements, if submitted after that date, would be available in the original languages in the Conference library.

60. The Commission recommended that a paper should be prepared on policies and programmes of Governments on population and development matters for the use of delegations; this would constitute an additional background paper.

61. The Commission was informed that the proposals regarding documentation would involve an additional expenditure of \$US 72,500. It was understood that the expenses incurred in convening the reading group would be absorbed in the consultants' funds available in the Conference budget.

Contributions of the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies

62. The Commission was informed that arrangements had been made with the appropriate specialized agencies for the preparation of a number of background papers (E/CN.9/275, annex II), and that the arrangements had been reviewed by the ACC Sub-Committee on Population at its seventh session, held from 8 to 13 March 1973.

63. It was noted that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization was preparing three background documents dealing with the relationships between population and education and population and environment, respectively. A third paper being prepared by UNESCO related to communications in economic and social development programmes (including family planning). The World Health Organization had prepared three draft papers dealing, respectively, with research on the biomedical aspects of fertility regulation and operational aspects of family planning programmes; the role of family planning services in health programmes; and health aspects of population trends and prospects. In addition, WHO had considered the possibility of holding three seminars, each dealing with one of the subject areas mentioned above, or alternatively, one seminar which would cover all these areas. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development was providing a background paper dealing with the management problem in national family planning programmes. A paper on the role of international assistance in the population fields, which would deal with technical and financial aid being given by all international sources, both within and outside the United Nations system, was being prepared by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities.

64. The Commission noted that two background papers were being submitted by the ILO and FAO: one on world and regional labour force prospects to the year 2000 and one on population and food and agriculture development, which would present the latest projections of labour force, agricultural labour force and agricultural population. Those projections would be complementary to the projections of total population prepared by the United Nations. It was also mentioned that the ILO was preparing, on a continuing basis as part of its World Employment Plan, a computer model on population and employment, in interaction with a set of social economic variables.

65. The Secretary-General of the World Population Conference informed the Commission that the specialized agencies would make a significant contribution to the documentation for the symposia. Moreover, they would be consulted for comments on the reports of the symposia and their comments would in turn be taken into account in the preparation of the Conference documents. The agencies would also be consulted on the draft versions of the Conference documents.

66. In the discussion of those activities, some members of the Commission emphasized the need for taking into account the differences in socio-economic and cultural conditions and the different policy approaches being adopted in the developmental activities of various countries. The need to proceed from concrete data at the national and regional levels before drawing general inferences was mentioned. Note was also taken of the need to consult the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme regarding the background documents on population and environment to be prepared by UNESCO.

67. Upon the suggestion of the delegation of the United States, and with the agreement of the delegation of Brazil, it was proposed that the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system, in preparing their papers, should include among whatever other matters they deemed important the following:

(a) A description of the effects of current population factors on those socio-economic matters for which each specialized agency had responsibility: health, education, employment, food etc., and the reciprocal effects each such socio-economic matter had on population factors;

(b) A discussion of actions in the population field and action in relations to socio-economic factors needed to help overcome adverse effects of those factors and to strengthen their positive effects;

(c) A discussion of principal and practicable actions in the substantive field which each specialized agency could take to help resolve, when and if required by member States, the factors having adverse effects, or to help accelerate those positive effects.

68. In discussing that proposal, the Commission agreed that, so far as was practical in view of the limits imposed by the time-table, the United Nations bodies in the preparation of their documents for the World Population Conference, 1974, should be guided by the recommendations contained in the report of the second special session of the Commission, particularly the guidelines set out in paragraph 46 above, and that they should take into account the crucial importance of the interrelationships between population and economic and social development.

#### Role of the regional economic commissions and the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut

69. The Commission was informed by the Secretary-General of the Conference that he had reviewed the plans and programmes of the Conference at the meeting of the executive secretaries held in January at United Nations Headquarters, and that they had indicated their full support. Close relations needed to be maintained with the regional economic commissions.

70. The Commission noted several ways in which it was proposed to involve the regional economic commissions. The regional commissions would be able to give countries, upon their request, such assistance as they might require to complete their replies to questionnaires for the second inquiry on population and development. The regional economic commissions would also be involved in the preliminary analysis of the replies from countries within their region. Secondly, efforts would be made to draw up general guidelines for conclusions pertinent to the respective regions similar to the results achieved by the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East at the Second Asian Population Conference. Finally, utilization would be made of the conclusions of the regional conferences held in Latin America, Africa and Asia and the Far East, and of conferences for Europe and for UNESOB countries planned to be held before the World Population Conference. It was also proposed to consult the regional economic commissions for comments on the reports of the symposia and to take those comments into account in the preparation of the Conference documents. The regional economic commissions would also be consulted on the draft versions of the Conference documents.

71. In view of the fact that no common approach had emerged in respect of Africa and Latin America, it was suggested that special emphasis should be placed on preparatory activities for those two areas. The possibility of getting a co-ordinated Latin American viewpoint was under consideration at the meeting of the Economic Commission for Latin America at Quito, and it was hoped that a regional conference at the political level could be organized by ECLA in 1974 to consider the Latin American approach to the World Population Conference. In respect of Africa, the Secretary-General of the Conference proposed to undertake a personal visit to some countries of the region in June 1973 and to maintain continuing contact with them through a special consultant whom he had designated to assist him at the political level.

72. The Commission supported the intention of the Secretary-General of the Conference to enlist the full co-operation of the regional economic commissions and expressed appreciation of the continuing and important role they had been playing in the development of a better understanding of population problems and action needed in the countries of the regions. In that context, it was considered important that the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions should be kept fully informed of and fully involved in all contacts with Governments in the various regions. Further, it would be useful to associate the resident representatives of the United Nations Development Programme with all the preparatory work in the individual countries. The Commission requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to suggest to the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme that he send a special message to the Programme's resident representatives asking them to assist individual countries in activities for the observation of the World Population Year and in preparations for the World Population Conference.

73. The representative of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East informed the Commission that knowledge and experience built up in the population field could prove helpful in several ways in the preparatory work for the Conference. The Executive Secretary of ECAFE informed the Commission that population would be one of the priority areas of interest to the Government of China and that ECAFE could assist in the preparation of a paper on China if the Commission were to decide that such a paper should be produced. ECAFE would be able to provide for extensive exchange of information through its regional network of population correspondents, through audiovisual films and periodic publication of tabloid reports, Asian Population Programme News and other information which the Commission made available on a continuing basis in the countries of the region. ECAFE could also help through its close contacts with intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations working in the field. The role that ECAFE could play as a catalyst and co-ordinator in respect of Conference activities in the Asian region was emphasized.

74. The representative of the Economic Commission for Africa stressed the need to take into account the differences between and within the regions in drawing up the World Population Plan of Action. In that context, the socio-economic studies at the micro-level and the macro-level under way at ECA should give useful insights on ways of approaching population problems in the African context. The Commission's attention was drawn to the conclusions of the African Population Conference, held at Accra, Ghana, from 9 to 18 December 1971, and, in particular, to the report of the Conference of African Demographers, held at Accra from 20 to 22 December 1971, which reviewed, at the level of government representatives, the results of the

African Population Conference as being indicative of the attitudes of African countries to population questions. It was mentioned that every effort would be made to utilize the existing clearing-house facilities of the Secretariat and the close co-ordination arrangements which the Economic Commission had with intergovernmental bodies (the Organization for African Unity, Common Organization of the African, Malagasy and Mauritian States, the Central African Customs and Economic Union, the Maghreb), as well as with the specialized agencies, to provide the support that the Secretary-General of the Conference might need in connexion with the Conference. The Economic Commission would be prepared to appoint a liaison officer to assist the Secretary-General of the Conference in the co-ordination of work in the region. Further, if desired, it would be prepared to send qualified staff with knowledge of the problems of individual countries to accompany the Secretary-General of the Conference or his associates on their visits to individual countries.

75. The representative of the Economic Commission for Europe informed the Commission that the ECE secretariat was preparing a paper on recent demographic trends in Europe and outlook until the year 2000, which would be a summary review of population trends in the region, with special focus on fertility and nuptiality. The paper could be used as an input to the assessment of the world demographic situation, which could be included as part of the background documentation for the Conference. The paper would be ready by the end of September 1973.

76. The ECE secretariat was considering the possibility of convening a symposium on population trends and policies in Europe in March or April 1974. The final decision on the matter would be taken by ECE at its annual session in May 1973. If approved, the meeting would provide an opportunity for an exchange of views among government experts on population policies in Europe. Thus, the meeting could perform a useful function in clarifying the attitudes of Governments in a region where population problems were often different from those facing the developing countries. Some members of the Commission expressed appreciation of the ECE secretariat's plans in support of preparations for the World Population Conference.

77. The Commission re-emphasized the great importance it placed on direct contacts with individual countries and the need for the Secretary-General of the Conference and his advisers to visit as many countries as possible in order to keep the Government fully informed and, further, to ensure that participation in the Conference would be at the highest level, politically and technically. The hope was expressed that the use of high-level consultants and travel for that purpose would not be unduly restrained by financial obstacles. It was also mentioned that, in advance of such visits, countries should be officially informed of the purposes of the Conference and the high priority placed by the Secretariat on work in population fields. In that connexion, the need to associate all the available resources of the secretariats at Headquarters and in the regional economic commissions, as well as those in the specialized agencies, was mentioned. The Commission emphasized that the very nature of the World Population Conference called for intensive efforts to obtain the widest range of support at the political level, and that the success of the Conference would largely depend on the preparatory work done in that area. The Commission welcomed the efforts made so far by the Secretary-General of the Conference and stressed the need for him to obtain every support for that work.

Substantive contributions of organizations outside the United Nations

78. The Commission was informed of the contributions that a number of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations were planning to make either to the World Population Conference or as part of the World Population Year, 1974.

79. The International Union for the Scientific Study of Population planned to publish and circulate the results of studies of its research committees dealing with various interrelations between population and economic and social development. The reports of two regional population conferences sponsored by the Union in co-operation with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Latin American Demographic Centre - the Latin American Regional Population Conference, held from 17 to 22 August 1970 at Mexico, D.F., and the African Population Conference, held from 9 to 18 December 1971 at Accra, Ghana, could provide inputs for World Population Conference documents, as would the report of the General Conference of IUSSP, to be held at Liège, Belgium, from 27 August to 1 September 1973. The Committee for International Co-ordination of National Research in Demography, through the contacts it was establishing with national research centres, was arranging for the preparation of approximately 80 country monographs on population. A seminar it was organizing on population growth targets would be held at the University of the West Indies, Trinidad, from 3 to 9 April 1973. Two other seminars were planned - one on international migration, to be organized with the co-operation of the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration, and the other on infant mortality in relation to the level of fertility.

80. The Commission noted that two meetings which would be of interest to the World Population Conference would be held in the latter part of 1973. The International Planned Parenthood Federation was holding its twenty-first anniversary conference at Brighton, England, from 20 to 26 October 1973, and the International Economic Association planned a conference on the economics of population growth, to be held at St. Raphael, France, early in September 1973.

81. In addition to the organizations whose representatives had reported on the plans of their organizations for special seminars and publications in relation to the World Population Year, 1974, at the Commission's first special session, the Commission heard a statement by the representative of the Friends World Committee for Consultation on the plans of his organization.

82. The representative of the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration, in describing his organization's activities with respect to the World Population Year, 1974, expressed the Committee's willingness to prepare a paper on the economic and social aspects of international migration, which would serve as direct or indirect input to the World Population Conference documentation.

Site of the Conference: costs of Geneva or alternative  
sites compared with New York

83. The Commission had before it a conference room paper that had previously been prepared as an informal background note relating to some basic requirements for a possible site for the Conference, taking into account recent United Nations experience in organizing large intergovernmental conferences. The Secretary-General of the Conference stated that, in the event of the Conference being held

away from an established headquarters of the United Nations bodies, the requirement laid down in General Assembly resolution 2609 (XXIV), paragraph 10, which read as follows, must be applied:

"Decides that United Nations bodies may hold sessions away from their established headquarters when a Government issuing an invitation for a session to be held within its territory has agreed to defray, after consultation with the Secretary-General as to their nature and possible extent, the actual additional costs directly or indirectly involved".

He also referred to the recommendations made by the Commission at its previous special session, which read in part as follows: "the site should be such as to provide adequate facilities for accommodation for conference meetings and secretariat operations, and for press and communications". 9/

84. The view was expressed that since the cost to a host Government could not be estimated with any precision until the number of participants in the Conference was known, it was desirable to establish the prospective size in order that Governments which were considering the possibility of acting as host would be in a position to take a decision. Other representatives noted, however, that it would not be appropriate to attempt to impose restrictions on the size of delegations to an intergovernmental conference, and that Governments themselves might not always be able to determine the size of their delegations until they had a clearer idea of the scope and nature of the deliberations of the Conference. In view of the many advance preparations that had to be made, the Commission hoped that a decision on the site could be taken by the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-fourth session.

85. The Commission was informed that there would be an estimated additional outlay of \$57,800 should the Conference be held at Geneva rather than in New York. Those estimates were based on the assumption that the Conference, if it were held at Geneva, would be held over the period 5 to 16 August 1974. The representative of the Office of Financial Services answered a number of questions about that estimate. One representative considered that the estimate for travel included in the breakdown of that figure was excessive.

86. A draft resolution (E/CN.9/L.105) was introduced by the representative of the United Kingdom on behalf of Denmark, Ghana, Japan, the Philippines, Thailand and the United Kingdom. In its operative part, the draft resolution stated the belief that the World Population Conference should if possible be held in a developing country; expressed a preference for Geneva as between Geneva and New York; requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to pursue his inquiries and to present his findings to the Council at its fifty-fourth session; and invited the Council at its fifty-fourth session to take a firm decision on the site of the Conference, having in mind the contents of that resolution, and in the light of the additional information provided by the Secretary-General of the Conference.

87. At the request of the representative of Brazil, a separate vote was taken on operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, which read as follows: "Expresses its preference for Geneva as between Geneva and New York". The paragraph was adopted by 17 votes to none, with 5 abstentions. The draft resolution as a whole was then adopted unanimously. (For the text, see para. 164 below.)

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9/ Ibid., para. 19.



88. The Commission expressed its gratitude to the Governments of Cyprus and Costa Rica, which had earlier announced their wish to host the World Population Conference, had that been practicable.

89. The Secretary-General of the Conference announced that the Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations had, on behalf of his Government, extended to the Secretary-General of the Conference an invitation to hold the Conference in August 1974 at Bucharest. The representative of Romania formally informed the Commission of that invitation. He considered that the invitation was in the spirit of the resolution on the site of the conference, which expressed the wish to hold the Conference in a developing country. He concluded by saying that his Government was prepared to meet the requirements and obligations of a host country.

90. Members of the Commission expressed their grateful appreciation of the offer of the Romanian Government to be the host of the World Population Conference. It was agreed that the Secretary-General should further examine the Romanian invitation and report to the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-fourth session under the provisions of the Commission's resolution on the conference site.

#### Costs of the Conference: budget

91. The Commission had before it for comment the note on the administrative and financial implications of the World Population Conference, 1974 (E/5221), which had been presented to the Economic and Social Council at its resumed fifty-third session. The note had been prepared for the Council at the request of the Commission at its first special session.

92. In answer to questions, the representative of the Office of Financial Services informed the Commission that, at its last special session, it had requested the Secretariat to prepare comprehensive information on the financial implications of the Conference. Consequently, the report was comprehensive in scope. Those elements which formed part of the United Nations regular budget and applied to the year 1973 had been reviewed by the Advisory Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Questions and approved by the General Assembly. The part that would be reflected in the regular budget for 1974 would be included in the programme budget to be submitted to the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session. Funds had been approved for 1973 by UNFPA for that part of the Fund's contribution that would apply for that year, and the Executive Director of UNFPA had confirmed the availability of resources for 1974.

93. Several questions were raised on specific points in the note and the representative of the Office of Financial Services replied to them.

94. The Secretary-General of the Conference, while recognizing that budgetary constraints existed within the United Nations, stated that he hoped that the funds available to him could be used with some flexibility in the light of changing requirements. In a period of financial stringency, expenditures had to be applied to essential purposes only.

95. He informed the Commission that he had received a donation of \$US 80,000 from a foundation in Mexico that wished to remain anonymous, to be used for the purposes of the Conference over and above those funds which already existed. A United Nations special trust fund had been opened to receive that donation, which would be applied to meet the cost of supplementary activities relating to the Conference. An understanding had been reached with the United Nations authorities concerned that the grant would be applied for such purposes as developing contacts with the information media, additional travel and representation. He expressed the hope that other voluntary contributions would be received to augment that or similar trust funds.

96. Several representatives placed special emphasis on the need for the Secretary-General or his senior representatives to visit countries where their presence might prove helpful in the preparations for the Conference.

97. The Executive Director of UNFPA assured the Commission of the full support he was prepared to give to the Secretary-General of the Conference in planning and carrying out his consultations with Governments. It seemed to some representatives that, in spite of drawings that might be made on the Secretary-General's trust fund for that purpose, the funds available for travel would quite probably need to be supplemented.

98. The Deputy Executive Director of UNFPA expressed the readiness of his organization to provide financial support for the World Population Conference, 1974. It was the view of the Fund that the United Nations should provide the basic costs of holding such a conference from its regular budget, but that supplementary funding should be made available to make that important endeavour a successful undertaking. The Fund had already pledged \$US 895,000 for the preparatory work for the Conference in 1972 and 1973. The Commission was informed that the Fund was further prepared to pledge an amount of \$US 905,000 to cover the expenses of the remaining preparatory work, the Conference itself and all related activities. The contributions from UNFPA would mainly be for the financing of additional staff posts required, consultants, convening of symposia and other costs related to the Conference, but the Fund was prepared to consider any necessary adjustments and changes desired by the Secretary-General of the Conference within the over-all ceiling of the total pledge of the Fund of \$US 1.8 million. The contributions were based upon the budget prepared for the Conference on the assumption that it would be held at the United Nations Headquarters. The Fund was not in a position to finance the additional expenses, if any, of holding the Conference elsewhere. Some delegations inquired whether sufficient funds were available to the Secretary-General of the Conference to enable him to prepare and organize a conference of such size and significance. In reply it was stated that, for 1973, it would appear that funds would probably be sufficient for essential activities.

99. Members of the Commission noted with appreciation the support for the Conference pledged by UNFPA.

100. The Commission requested that for its session in October-November 1973, and again for the special session in 1974, reports should be presented on the status of the budget, updating document E/5221, and on expenditures pursuant to that document.

### Responsibilities of the plenary, committees etc.

101. It was recognized that the tentative plan of organization for the Conference, with a plenary, three committees and possibly a working group, discussed at the previous special session, was based on the experience of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment and should be regarded as provisional until the Conference objectives could be seen in clearer perspective.

102. A government statement in plenary would focus on policy and areas of specific concern, keeping in mind the possible outcome of the Conference. Some restraint in the length of those statements needed to be observed, for as many as 150 such statements might have to be accommodated.

103. To the minds of some, whether three committees and a working group would all be needed depended to some extent on whether the draft World Population Plan of Action would be considered in its entirety or divided up between those bodies.

104. That in turn could hinge on the place of the draft plan in the strategy of the Conference. While some considered that its adoption would be the cardinal feature of the Conference, others viewed the plan as still tentative in concept and linked to the other principal items.

105. It was agreed to return to the organization of the Conference at the next regular session and the third special session of the Commission, on the basis of proposals which would be elaborated by the Secretary-General of the Conference.

106. The Commission reviewed briefly the substantive items for inclusion in the provisional agenda for the Conference and requested that an annotated draft provisional agenda be prepared for review at the Commission's next session. On that occasion the Commission could further consider the way in which questions relating to population and human rights might best be incorporated.

### Rules of procedure

107. The Commission requested the Secretary-General to prepare a preliminary draft of rules of procedure for the World Population Conference, 1974, for circulation to Governments by 30 June 1973. In that connexion, it was considered that the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council and the conferences that had been convened by the Council should be taken into account. It was noted that the rules of procedure of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment would be particularly useful in view of the character of that Conference. The rules should, of course, make adequate provision for meeting the specific needs of the World Population Conference, 1974, particularly with respect to the role of non-governmental organizations, in the light of the deliberations of the Commission.

108. It was agreed that the preliminary draft should be available for consideration by the Commission at its seventeenth session in October-November 1973, and that the final text should be before the Commission not later than March 1974, the date of its third special session, so that it could be forwarded to the Conference for adoption. Some representatives stated that the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council should be applied with regard to non-governmental organizations.

Parallel activities: participation of non-governmental organizations

109. The Secretary-General of the Conference drew attention to paragraphs 19 and 20 of his statement (E/CN.9/278) on the outcome of the explorations he had undertaken at the suggestion of the Commission at its first special session on the possibility of holding, at the time of the Conference, a forum similar to the one at Stockholm. Since his statement had been prepared he had held further consultations, on which he had reported in his opening remarks (see paras. 18 and 19 above). It seemed that there were several possibilities, none of which excluded the others. The first was that IUSSP undertake to present a series of lectures on scientific topics related to the Conference, to be given by eminent scientists; a second would be for youth activities, which might be undertaken as part of the World Population Year, to culminate on the eve of the Conference or within the framework of the forum, or both; and a third would be for non-governmental organizations to plan and organize a tribune separate from the Conference itself. That arrangement could provide a framework which would give the academic community and persons concerned with moral, philosophical, religious and cultural aspects of population questions the opportunity to express their views.

110. The Secretary-General of the Conference stated he had met with the current President and some other members of the Governing Council of IUSSP. They had reiterated a previous statement to the Commission of the Union's willingness to provide a series of scientific lectures for delegates to the Conference and qualified professional groups by distinguished scientists who could for a large part be drawn from disciplines other than those relating strictly to demography.

111. Regarding the role of youth groups, the Secretary-General of the Conference had learned that, as part of the World Population Year, 1974 and of the suggested continuing activities of the Centre for Social and Humanitarian Matters, relations were to be developed with youth groups so that they could participate nationally and regionally in a variety of activities, possibly culminating in an assembly immediately before the Conference, as well as in a population forum that might be organized as a parallel activity at the time of the Conference.

112. He had received a communication from the President of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council informing him that, after extensive discussions by the Board of the Conference at Geneva and in New York, the Conference wished to state its willingness to sponsor, plan and manage the proposed population forum. In the opinion of the Conference, that would facilitate and enhance relations between non-governmental organizations and the United Nations. It would provide facilities and opportunities for as many groups as possible with legitimate interests to share their experiences. Those groups could reach beyond the several hundreds that had consultative status with the United Nations. The Conference, in its capacity as sponsor of the forum, would be prepared to name a planning and management committee which would have its own staff. It recognized that an effective forum would depend upon arrangements with the host country. While the Conference would expect the responsibility for the management of the forum to rest with the committee, it would like to see close working relations with the Secretary-General of the World Population Conference. Such an arrangement would enable voluntary agencies, professional associations, women's groups and youth

and trade union groups, among many others, to increase their awareness of the significance of population issues, a factor that was particularly important as the mid-point of the Second United Nations Development Decade approached. The Secretary-General concluded that he had received a similar communication from the Population Council.

113. In her statement before the Commission, the President of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council stated that the non-governmental organizations at Geneva and in New York viewed the prospect of participating in the forum as exciting and stimulating and as a very important element in focusing universal attention on the World Population Conference and making it a success. It was intended that the forum should include those of the 500 non-governmental organizations in consultative status that would be interested in participating in it, as well as other groups, both international and national, and that it should cover a broad spectrum of scientific, religious, philosophical and cultural interests, as well as the fullest possible participation of youth. It was hoped that the undertaking would be independent of the United Nations, but that it would maintain a close working link with the Secretary-General of the Conference. The necessary financial resources for planning and conducting the tribune must be assured promptly.

114. The representative of the Friends World Committee for Consultation and representatives of the International Planned Parenthood Federation supported the proposal made on behalf of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council; the IPPF would be prepared to assist in the financing of its participation in the forum.

115. The President of IUSSP said that his Union would be prepared to co-operate in the activities of the population forum. He hoped that its role would be to provide a meaningful scientific component in an atmosphere of scientific objectivity, through such activities as lectures by distinguished scientists and round-tables. The Union would require financial assistance in order to arrange those activities.

116. The Commission took note of those statements and of the plans of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council to select a committee to plan, organize and manage a population forum as an activity parallel to the Conference. It was agreed that the United Nations should not bear responsibility for the planning and organization of the forum, although it was expected that the Secretary-General would assist the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations by providing it with information and access to the documents as they were prepared.

117. It was expected that the organizers of the forum would ensure the widest possible participation of the bodies concerned, including youth groups and the scientific community. It was hoped that the event would be one which, while giving full opportunity for the expression of divergent views, would be conducted as an orderly and carefully managed event. The budget of the Conference would not be able to provide financial assistance for the forum, except for the \$12,600 that had already been approved as the total amount available from the Conference budget for the forum (see E/5221, para. 21).

### Consultation of youth

118. The Commission expressed the hope that, whatever the arrangements made by youth groups, particularly as part of the World Population Year, 1974, they would participate in the forum. In addition, the representative of France had submitted a document (E/CN.9/L.102) dealing with the consultation of youth on population questions outside the forum and before the Conference itself. The hope was also expressed by the Commission that the youth organizations would have an opportunity to state their views and claims on particular youth problems related to present population trends, and, perhaps more important, to study and report on the long-term problem itself as seen from the point of view of generations that could look forward to an active life well into the twenty-fifth century.

119. It was recognized that certain constraints would have to exist in a conference that was intergovernmental in character and of such short duration. Several members stressed the fact that some bodies, particularly youth groups, might wish to make their views known to the Conference itself, and that that possibility should be borne in mind by the Secretary-General of the Conference when preparing the draft rules of procedure for the Conference (see paras. 107 and 108 above).

### III. WORLD POPULATION YEAR, 1974

#### Arrangements for the World Population Year

120. The Commission had before it a progress report by the Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (E/CN.9/276 and Corr.1 and Add.1) on preparations for the World Population Year, 1974.

121. The Executive Director of UNFPA, in an introductory statement, stated that the Fund had welcomed the responsibility of preparing for the World Population Year, 1974, because it would intensify and expand the Fund's own efforts and lead to a more closely co-ordinated population effort; it would also provide an opportunity for setting up short-term targets for the achievement of population goals and, it was hoped, would result in the development of innovative approaches to population problems.

122. He said that the programme was being launched at international, national and individual levels and that special attention was being given to the involvement of women and youth. The Fund had taken the initial administrative steps of staffing and closely co-ordinating arrangements with the secretariat of the World Population Conference, 1974 and the Population Division; co-ordination with the executing agencies was being carried out through the Fund's Inter-Agency Consultative Committee.

123. The principles applied for World Population Year, 1974 projects differed very little from those underlying the Fund's normal policies, he continued. The Fund felt that the Year was not an end in itself, but the beginning of a sustained effort to achieve world-wide awareness of a need to find a balance between population and resources. Its approach was flexible and neutral, which, he stressed, did not imply passivity. The Fund's policy had always been to maintain strict neutrality with regard to government decisions on population programmes, but to act as quickly as possible in giving assistance.

124. The Fund's projects were substantive and informative. The main thrust was to encourage maximum involvement of Governments in promoting population activities in their countries and participating in international programmes and exchange. So far, some 30 countries had embarked on special World Population Year programmes and some had established national commissions. The Fund continued to encourage that trend.

125. As UNFPA assistance, under the Fund's mandate, was extended almost exclusively to developing countries, more was known about the population situation in the third world than about what was happening in the more economically advanced areas, he continued. Consequently, the addendum made few references to the involvement of the industrialized nations in, for example, such fields as research on human reproduction or on the problems of old age. The Fund would welcome suggestions and information on programmes of that kind being advanced in connexion with the Year. The Year called for nothing less than universal commitment, and it was vitally important that industrialized nations should also take steps to set up national commissions and to make known their population programmes and policies. Only in

that way would it be possible to determine the contribution that those countries could make to the international sum of knowledge and towards improving the dialogue and understanding between the rich and poor nations.

126. He hoped that all Governments would inform the Fund as soon as possible of the types of programmes they were contemplating and those in which they would require assistance from outside sources.

127. In conclusion, he said that the World Population Year, 1974, was a communications task of unprecedented dimensions. But the era was also one of unprecedented communications facilities and techniques. The Fund's major endeavour would be to try to convince communicators everywhere that the population question was a crucial global concern requiring the commitment of their skills and resources, as well as those of people directly and substantively involved in population work.

128. In the Commission's discussion of the arrangements for the World Population Year, 1974, appreciation was expressed to the Executive Director of UNFPA for the report and the work done so far.

129. It was stressed by some members that the problems to be tackled by UNFPA and other organizations in the World Population Year, 1974, should refer not only to population growth but also to such matters as the pressure of population on resources and the environment. Other members wanted major attention to be given to the reciprocal relations between population, resources, environment and economic and social development. Appreciation was expressed of the fact that the Fund's activities were not exclusively directed towards countries with a high rate of population growth; in that connexion, the Fund's project in Cameroon, aimed at raising fertility rates, was endorsed. Another member said that each Government should contribute to the World Population Year, 1974, by studying and publicizing its own situation in regard to population. Members concurred with the Executive Director on the importance of maintaining flexibility and neutrality in responding to requests from countries for assistance.

130. It was also stressed by several members that the Fund must increase its efforts to bring about the creation of national commissions in as many countries as possible. One member wondered whether it was not too optimistic to expect all countries to set up such bodies. Members also urged the full utilization of the regional economic commissions for the advancement of population activities.

131. One member, while stressing the need to publicize information on population problems as widely as possible, expressed some doubts as to whether the UNFPA document sufficiently covered the wide variety of those problems. He urged that information about the World Population Year, 1974, should be more fully related to the economic and social conditions in which population developments took place. The interdependence of those aspects must be brought out, and the approach must be objective and broad.

132. Among other suggestions was a call to overcome the recruitment difficulties faced in some World Population Year projects, such as the World Fertility Survey and the African Census Programme. One member suggested that the need for sex education in schools should be emphasized; the distribution of population between urban and rural areas and the problem of migration were also important questions. A call was made for broad participation in the seminars of the Committee for International Co-ordination of National Research in Demography and for broad dissemination of their conclusions.



133. The World Fertility Survey and the African Census Programme, undertaken as part of the World Population Year efforts, were generally endorsed. One member called for more detailed information on the progress of the Census Programme and pointed to the problem of financing local costs in Africa by UNFPA. He also urged that the limited manpower for those projects in Africa be utilized economically.

134. The need was stressed for communication aimed at the local level as part of the efforts undertaken for the World Population Year and it was urged that regional professional groups should be encouraged. It was necessary to transform demographic questions into issues that could readily be understood by the public. Some members urged that the volume of quotations on population problems prepared by UNFPA should contain both pro-natalist and anti-natalist views. The need for individual countries to obtain as much material as possible on the situation in other countries was also stressed. One member observed that the popular booklet being prepared by UNFPA should avoid the danger of distortion often caused by attempts to simplify population information. Another member said that it should be made clear that there were more impediments to development than a high rate of population growth.

135. The Executive Director, in response to the issues raised, said he would take into account the suggestions made regarding the approach to the World Population Year programme. In reply to a comment on the number of ILO seminars, he pointed out that those were ILO-assisted exercises to be carried out at the national level in various countries and that they were therefore practical and represented only a small part of the total workload of the ILO. Referring to the population booklet on population listed in the programme highlight in the addendum to his report, the Executive Director said that the editor of the publication was an experienced development journalist who was well aware of the danger involved and was therefore unlikely to make the mistake of distorting through oversimplification. As stated in the UNFPA documents, the World Population Year programme would make it a point to encompass the population problems of both developed and developing worlds.

#### Micro-economic and macro-economic population studies of the Economic Commission for Africa

136. A representative of the Economic Commission for Africa, reporting on the progress of the studies, said that by 1974 all African countries would be covered by macro-studies and at least half by micro-studies. The former studies were based on United Nations projections and those of the ILO and FAO having to do with manpower. He stressed the specific high mortality problem faced by Africa.

137. It was stressed in the discussion that the lack of data in some African countries did not contribute to the quality of the studies. The availability of data should be considered before new studies were commissioned, and doubt was expressed about the priority of such studies in view of the over-all lack of skilled manpower. The resources of ECA were already stretched to the limit, and care should be taken not to duplicate work done by other institutions, such as CICRED. The ECA should limit the number of papers to be commissioned with that in mind.

138. The hope was expressed that whatever papers were commissioned would be ready for the World Population Conference, 1974. The usefulness of the studies was endorsed by several members. It was also urged that people within the countries should be commissioned to prepare such studies, and emphasis was laid on the quality of the results of such an undertaking.

## World Fertility Survey

139. The Director of the World Fertility Survey of the International Statistical Institute stated that the Survey was a major international programme with the aims of providing scientific information which would enable each country to describe and interpret its situation with regard to human fertility and to help compare fertility and the factors that affect it in different countries and regions. That would facilitate national efforts in development planning and provide a sounder basis for the study of population growth.

140. The Survey is being organized by the International Statistical Institute in collaboration with the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population and other organizations, such as the Population Council. It was supported by UNFPA, various United Nations bodies and the United States Agency for International Development; additional support was being sought from Governments.

141. The project would be directed from an office in London. It would strive for national survey results of high quality through national staff, assisted by the central staff of the World Fertility Survey.

142. Each national survey would be expected to cover a common set of core items, and an opportunity would be given to expand the inquiry into related areas of national interest.

143. The processing and tabulation of data would be carried out, as far as possible, in the participating countries, and the World Fertility Survey central staff would develop manuals for coding, editing and tabulating information and for the standardization of codes.

144. Each participating country would designate a national director and would negotiate a basic agreement with the World Fertility Survey central staff. Those countries requiring it would submit requests for additional technical and financial assistance. Assistance would consist of visits by short-term advisers or the appointment of long-term consultants, as well as computer programming and system design. Responsibility for preparing the report would remain with the country.

145. While the timing of the Survey would vary, field work was not expected to start before mid-1974. The period through 30 June 1974 would be a preparatory period to recruit the central staff and prepare model questionnaires, field manuals and tabulation programmes. The implementation period would be 1 July 1974 to 30 June 1977.

146. Replying to remarks made in the discussion of his report, the Director of the World Fertility Survey said that the purpose was to measure what had to be measured at a particular point in time. Later follow-up studies would be considered, but those implied questions of further funding. Problems of staffing would be overcome by an extensive training programme.

147. Members generally welcomed the undertaking, 10/ and it was suggested by one member that the Survey might be the single most important scientific programme in

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10/ One member said that since information on the World Fertility Survey had become available only a few moments before the beginning of the debate it was impossible for him to comment on it before the next session of the Commission.

the World Population Year, 1974. It was urged that the International Statistical Institute, as part of its contribution to the World Population Year, should prepare studies on fertility and its measurement based on the experience of the Survey. The hope was also expressed that the World Fertility Survey might become an opportunity for countries with available experts in the field of demographic analysis to provide technical assistance to countries suffering from a lack of such expertise.

148. The Deputy Director of UNFPA stated that the Fund had committed itself to support the Survey in its preparatory stage through June 1974, but that it had made no commitment for funding the implementation stage. He felt, however, that the Fund would be ready to provide support to individual developing countries for the period after 1974 in the form of advisers and equipment in connexion with the Survey.

#### IV. MATTERS RELATED TO THE WORLD POPULATION YEAR, 1974

##### African Census Programme

149. The Commission had before it a progress report on the African Census Programme (E/CN.9/277), prepared by the Secretary-General in response to a request made by the Commission at its first special session.

150. In considering the report, together with supplementary information provided by the representatives of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Statistical Office and the Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat, it was recalled that the programme had been approved by the ECA Conference of Ministers at its meeting at Tunis in February 1971. However, it was felt that provisions should be made to enable experts from African countries to participate more fully in the continuous review and monitoring of the Programme.

151. The Programme was designed to provide assistance to over 20 African countries with a total estimated population of about 160 million inhabitants (15 of those countries were taking their first census). The assistance reached the countries through two different channels, namely: (a) a group of regional advisers established at ECA headquarters at Addis Ababa, directed by a project officer under the Executive Secretary of ECA, and (b) directly from United Nations Headquarters through the UNDP resident representatives. The resources were provided by UNFPA, and the United Nations was acting as the executing agency. The Office of the Commissioner for Technical Co-operation, the Statistical Office and the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at Headquarters were co-operating with the Statistical Division, the Population Programme Centre in ECA and the group of ECA advisers in the implementation of the Programme.

152. The purpose of the Programme was to enable countries to collect information on a minimum list of items by universal enumeration and supplementary information on population characteristics and data for selected population groups by concurrent or subsequent sample surveys; the Programme was, therefore, conceived as a long-term endeavour, the first stage of which would be the enumeration. Attention was currently being directed to the first stage, and project proposals were generally limited to operations within a two-year period.

153. The United Nations had been requested to provide 41 experts, fellowships, vehicles and office and data-processing equipment, and payment of local cost expenses. In recent years the regional staff of the African Census Programme, assisted by other ECA staff members and United Nations Population Programme officers stationed in Africa, had carried out feasibility missions in 21 countries. The delay in the recruitment of experts, which had caused the Commission great concern, was reviewed. The Commission was informed that six out of eight regional advisers in ECA and 11 out of 23 country experts required in 1973 had already been appointed, that experts for the remaining 12 posts were being recruited, and that measures had been taken to expedite recruitment. The establishment of a mechanism of block allocation, agreed upon by the Fund at the request of the United Nations, allowed

for the recruitment of experts on a transitory basis pending final approval of country requests. That mechanism had so far permitted the acceleration of recruitment of experts.

154. The Secretariat was invited to study further the means of expediting the recruitment of experts and to make arrangements for providing adequate technical support so as to improve the effectiveness of their work.

155. There was a discussion of the problems involved in the recruitment of well-qualified experts. In recognition of the scarcity of experienced personnel, the Commission reiterated an earlier invitation to Governments to assist the Secretariat in locating suitable candidates or in making experts available for the programme, especially experts who were able to work in French. The Commission requested the Secretary-General to report on the results of inquiries made in that connexion at the next session of the Commission.

156. The reasons for the delays in responding to requests from Governments were analysed in some detail; the various origins of such delays were recognized, as were the difficulties involved in the technical assessment of the feasibility of projects submitted by Governments. The Commission appreciated the joint efforts of the various units of the Secretariat involved in the process, and several suggestions were made for achieving further improvements. A member of the Commission suggested that a focal point should exist among the units for co-ordination of the project and the Secretary-General was requested to study the matter and report to the Commission at its next session. In that connexion, the Deputy Executive Director of UNFPA informed the Commission of the Fund's plan to appoint a Co-ordinator to be stationed at Addis Ababa, whose main responsibility would be to monitor the African Census Programme.

157. In discussing that project, members of the Commission expressed appreciation for the efforts made by the units of the Secretariat concerned, in collaboration with UNFPA, to facilitate its implementation. However, it was indicated that further improvements were required in expediting responses to requests from Governments. The Commission stressed the fact that the project was a most important one and that it was of great significance in the context of the development efforts of the countries of the region, as well as in relation to the preparations for the World Population Conference, 1974, and World Population Year, 1974. In that connexion it was also recognized that availability of reliable demographic statistics was an essential requisite for drawing up population policies, and that some population programmes could be established before complete statistics were available on the subject.

158. Although the progress report under consideration was basically of an administrative nature, attention was drawn to the desirability of further studying the list of items recommended for inclusion in the African Census Programme, for consideration either in the universal enumeration or through sample surveys. The current development of the Programme had indicated the need to review the list as well as the methods envisaged for the African Census in close consultation with the representatives of the countries participating in the Programme. The Commission agreed to consider at its next session a technical report to be prepared by the Secretary-General on the matter and recommended that the subject be brought up for discussion at the next session of the Consultative Group on the African Census Programme, scheduled to take place at Addis Ababa in May 1973. It was understood that the Programme would also be reviewed by the ECA Technical Committee of Experts and the Conference of African Demographers.

## V. DEMOGRAPHIC PUBLICATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

159. The Commission recognized that three publications of the United Nations Statistical Office - the Demographic Yearbook, the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and the Population and Vital Statistics Report - constituted virtually the only sources of comprehensive, world-wide statistics on population. In view of the importance of those publications, the Commission was gratified to learn that the Statistical Office, in collaboration with the Population Division, would undertake a review of their content. The Commission expressed the hope that it would be possible to expand the demographic topics on which data were presented in those publications and improve the periodicity and timeliness of their publication. With respect to the Demographic Yearbook, some members felt strongly that detailed data on certain basic population characteristics as well as on natality, mortality, nuptiality and divorce should appear in each annual issue rather than on a cyclical basis, as was currently the case with some topics. It was also the view of some members that special tables on population and vital statistics should appear in the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics at frequent intervals, perhaps quarterly.

160. Some members of the Commission were particularly anxious that the World Population Conference should have at its disposal an up-to-date and comprehensive body of demographic data for all countries of the world, and in that connexion the possibility was mentioned of issuing the 1973 Demographic Yearbook in two volumes, on an experimental basis. It was the feeling that such a special effort to provide the best possible statistical information for the Conference would also serve as a stimulus for continuing and long-range improvements in United Nations publications in that field. However, it was pointed out that it would be impracticable unless special funding was made available immediately.

161. The Commission requested that its views on the importance of strengthening the demographic statistical publications of the United Nations should be communicated to the Statistical Commission's working group on international statistical programmes and co-ordination at its meeting in July 1973, and that a progress report on the improvement of publications on demographic statistics, including the financial implications involved, should be prepared for the consideration of the Population Commission at its seventeenth session.

## VI. PLACES AND DATES OF THE NEXT SESSIONS AND RELATED MATTERS

162. At its 283rd meeting the Commission confirmed by 13 votes to 4 with 1 abstention its own previous recommendations regarding the next sessions, namely to hold the regular seventeenth session at Geneva from 29 October to 9 November 1973 and the third special session early in 1974. The Commission agreed that the function of the Commission as the intergovernmental preparatory body for the World Population Conference, 1974, and the World Population Year, 1974, should be the main concern at the seventeenth session. However, attention would also have to be given to the normal functions of the Commission, as called for by its terms of reference, at regular sessions considering the work programme of the United Nations in the field of population. Those points should be taken into account in preparing the draft agenda for the seventeenth session. It would have to be borne in mind also that the work programme of the United Nations in the field of population might itself be affected by the outcome of the World Population Conference, 1974.

## VII. ADOPTION OF THE COMMISSION'S REPORT

163. At the 286th meeting, the Commission adopted its report on its second special session.

VIII. RECOMMENDATIONS REQUIRING ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

164. At its 283rd meeting the Commission unanimously adopted a draft resolution which it recommended for consideration and decision by the Economic and Social Council. A separate vote was requested on operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, which was adopted by 17 votes to none with 5 abstentions. The draft resolution, entitled "Site of the World Population Conference", was sponsored by the representatives of Denmark, Ghana, Japan, the Philippines, Thailand and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. It read as follows:

The Population Commission,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1484 (XLVIII), in which the Council approved the proposal to hold an intergovernmental World Population Conference in 1974,

Aware of the importance of the Conference and the need to do everything possible to ensure its success,

Expressing its appreciation to those Governments which have offered to act as host to the Conference,

Mindful that the Conference is likely to require extensive facilities,

Noting that these facilities would be available in New York or at Geneva in August 1974,

1. States its belief that the World Population Conference should if possible be held in a developing country;

2. Expresses its preference for Geneva as between Geneva and New York;

3. Requests the Secretary-General of the Conference to pursue his inquiries and to present his findings to the Council at its fifty-fourth session;

4. Invites the Council at its fifty-fourth session to take a firm decision on the site of the Conference, having in mind the contents of this resolution and in the light of the additional information provided by the Secretary-General of the Conference.



IX. ISSUES FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

World Population Conference, 1974

165. In considering matters related to the site of the Conference, the Commission took note of the offer of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Romania to host the Conference and expressed its appreciation of that offer (see paras. 89 and 90 above).

166. The Commission:

(i) Concurred with the plans under way for four symposia, on population and development, population and the family, population, resources and environment and population and human rights, to form part of the preparatory work for the Conference (see paras. 26-35 above);

(ii) Approved the direction of the work on the technical background study for the draft World Population Plan of Action (see para. 39 above) and noted that the preliminary draft of the World Population Plan of Action would be presented to the Commission at its seventeenth session;

(iii) Considered plans for documentation and made additional proposals (see paras. 45-61 above);

(iv) Requested that reports on the status of the Conference budget, updating document E/5221, and on expenditures pursuant to that document be presented to the seventeenth session of the Commission (see paras. 98 and 100 above); noted the financial implications of (a) a change in the Conference site (see para. 85 above) and (b) revision of the documentation plans (see para. 61 above); and further noted that UNFPA had pledged financial support to the Conference preparations for 1972 and 1973 and was prepared to pledge a further specified amount for 1974 (see para. 98 above);

(v) Requested that draft rules of procedure (see para. 108 above) and a draft annotated agenda (see para. 106 above) for the Conference be presented to the seventeenth session of the Commission;

(vi) Endorsed the principle of the organization of a forum as an activity parallel to but independent of the Conference (see paras. 109-119 above);

(vii) Noted that the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council was prepared to select a committee to plan, organize and manage the forum (see para. 116 above) in such a way as to encompass participation of other international and national groups as well as youth groups (see paras. 112-119 above);

(viii) Noted that the total amount available to the forum from the Conference budget was \$12,600 (see para. 117 above).

World Population Year, 1974

167. The Commission:

(i) In considering the progress report on the World Population Year, 1974, agreed on the importance of maintaining the flexibility and neutrality of the programme approach to national activities for the Year (see para. 129 above);

(ii) Welcomed the World Fertility Survey, which was to be carried out as an activity for the World Population Year, by the International Statistical Institute in collaboration with the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, with financial support from the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and the United States Agency for International Development (see paras. 139-148 above);

Matters related to the World Population Year, 1974: African Census Programme

168. The Commission:

(i) Considered the report on the African Census Programme, which was a joint undertaking by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Economic Commission for Africa, with support from the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (see paras. 149-158 above);

(ii) Noted some problems of implementation, particularly in respect of recruitment of qualified personnel (see paras. 153-155 above);

(iii) Requested that a progress report be submitted to its seventeenth session (see para. 158 above).

Other matters: United Nations publications on demographic statistics

169. The Commission:

(i) Noted that the content of those publications would be reviewed with a view to expanding their coverage and improving their periodicity and timeliness (see para. 159 above);

(ii) Requested that a progress report on the improvement of publications on demographic statistics, including the financial implications involved, should be presented to the seventeenth session (see paras. 159-161 above).

ANNEXES

Annex I

ATTENDANCE<sup>a/</sup>

Members<sup>b/</sup>

BARBADOS

Alternate: C. E. Maynard

BRAZIL

Representative: M. Ozório de Almeida  
Alternate: M. S. da Fonseca Costa Couto

COSTA RICA

Representative: V. H. Morgan

DENMARK

Representative: M. Boserup

EGYPT

Representative: G. Askar  
Alternate: E. M. Selim

FRANCE

Representative: A. Sauvy  
Alternate: J. Bourgeois-Pichat

GABON

Alternate: A. Boucah

GHANA

Representative: K. T. de Graft-Johnson  
Alternate: K. O. Kumi

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<sup>a/</sup> In accordance with the terms of General Assembly resolution 2836 (XXVI), para. 3 (f), a full list of names of participants is not given in this report.

<sup>b/</sup> Morocco did not attend.

HAITI

|                 |            |
|-----------------|------------|
| Representative: | R. Siclait |
| Alternate:      | S. Charles |

INDONESIA

|                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Representative: | R. Sardjono     |
| Alternate:      | K. Prodjolalito |

IRAN

|            |                     |
|------------|---------------------|
| Alternate: | G. H. Shahid-Nooray |
|------------|---------------------|

JAPAN

|                 |            |
|-----------------|------------|
| Representative: | T. Kuroda  |
| Alternate:      | Y. Konishi |

NETHERLANDS

|                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Representative: | D. J. van de Kaa |
| Alternate:      | H. Gajentaan     |

NIGER

|            |          |
|------------|----------|
| Alternate: | J. Amina |
|------------|----------|

PERU

|            |            |
|------------|------------|
| Alternate: | N. Urrutia |
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PHILIPPINES

|                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Representative: | M. B. Concepcion |
|-----------------|------------------|

ROMANIA

|                 |            |
|-----------------|------------|
| Representative: | V. Russ    |
| Alternate:      | V. Trebici |

RWANDA

|            |                   |
|------------|-------------------|
| Alternate: | E. Munyanshongore |
|------------|-------------------|

SWEDEN

|                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Representative: | I. Thorsson |
| Alternate:      | H. Hyrenius |

THAILAND

|                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Representative: | V. Prachuabmoh |
|-----------------|----------------|

TUNISIA

|                 |            |
|-----------------|------------|
| Representative: | C. Tnani   |
| Alternate:      | A. Hachani |

TURKEY

|                 |           |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Representative: | H. Cillov |
|-----------------|-----------|

UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

|                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Representative: | V. F. Burlin |
|-----------------|--------------|

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

|                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Representative: | A. A. Isupov |
|-----------------|--------------|

UNITED KINGDOM

|                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Representative: | J. Thompson     |
| Alternate:      | J. E. C. Macrae |

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

|                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Representative: | W. H. Draper, Jr.  |
| Alternate:      | P. P. Claxton, Jr. |

States Members of the United Nations represented by observers

Australia, Austria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Cuba, Finland, India, Kenya, Mexico, Yugoslavia

United Nations Secretariat

Department of Economic and Social Affairs: Secretary-General of the World  
Population Conference, 1974  
Office for Inter-Agency Affairs  
Office of Public Information  
Economic Commission for Europe  
Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East  
Economic Commission for Latin America  
Economic Commission for Africa

United Nations bodies

United Nations Children's Fund  
United Nations Fund for Population Activities  
United Nations Institute for Training and Research

### Specialized agencies

International Labour Organisation  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization  
World Health Organization  
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

### Other intergovernmental organizations

Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration  
League of Arab States  
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development  
Organization of American States

### Non-governmental organizations

Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the  
United Nations Economic and Social Council

### Category II

Catholic International Union for Social Service  
International Catholic Child Bureau  
International Conference of Catholic Charities  
International Planned Parenthood Federation  
International Social Service  
International Statistical Institute  
International Union for the Scientific Study of Population  
World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations

### Roster

Committee for International Co-ordination of National Research in Demography  
International Council of Voluntary Agencies  
International Humanist and Ethical Union  
Population Council

## Annex II

### AGENDA

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Preparations for the World Population Conference, 1974:
  - (a) General remarks
  - (b) Site of the Conference: costs of Geneva or alternative sites compared with New York
  - (c) Costs of the Conference: budget
  - (d) Organization of the Conference:
    - (i) Agenda
    - (ii) Responsibilities of the plenary, committees, etc.
    - (iii) Relationship of symposia, the World Population Plan of Action and the background study
    - (iv) Rules of procedure
  - (e) Documents for the Conference - how to handle all papers for the purpose of assuring maximum usability by the Conference:
    - (i) Symposium papers
    - (ii) Background papers
    - (iii) Added papers
    - (iv) Specialists' papers
  - (f) The symposia - purposes, leadership, preparations, attendance, structure (agenda):
    - (i) Population and development
    - (ii) Population, resources and environment
    - (iii) Population and the family
    - (iv) Population and human rights

- (g) Study and the World Population Plan of Action
  - (h) Role of the specialized agencies
  - (i) Role of the regional economic commissions
  - (j) Consideration of the results of the regional population conferences
  - (k) Participation of non-governmental organizations (forum)
4. Arrangements for the World Population Year, 1974:
- (a) Activities related to the World Population Year - programmes, plans, progress: information programme
  - (b) Role of the regional economic commissions and the specialized agencies
  - (c) Major activities:
    - (i) World Fertility Survey
    - (ii) Micro-economic and macro-economic population studies of the Economic Commission for Africa
  - (d) Participation of non-governmental organizations
5. Activities related to the World Population Year, 1974: African Census Programme
6. Other matters:
- (a) Demographic publications of the United Nations
  - (b) Others
7. Adoption of the report



### Annex III

#### LIST OF DOCUMENTS

|   |  |
|---|--|
| E/5221  | Administrative and financial implications of the World Population Conference, 1974: note by the Secretary-General  |
| E/CN.9/274 and Rev.1<br>and E/CN.9/274/Add.1<br>and Rev.1 | Provisional agenda and annotations   |
| E/CN.9/274/Rev.2  | Agenda   |
| E/CN.9/275  | Preparations for the World Population Conference, 1974: progress report of the Secretary-General of the Conference   |
| E/CN.9/276 and Corr.1<br>and Add.1                        | Arrangements for the World Population Year, 1974: progress report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities                             |
| E/CN.9/277  | Report on the African Census Programme (as of 15 February 1973)  |
| E/CN.9/278  | Preparations for the World Population Conference, 1974: statement by the Secretary-General of the Conference   |
| E/CN.9/L.101 and<br>Add.1-14                              | Draft report of the second special session of the Population Commission  |
| E/CN.9/L.102  | France: proposal for a consultation of youth on population questions   |
| E/CN.9/L.103 and<br>Amend.1                               | Report of the working group on documentation for the World Population Conference, 1974   |
| E/CN.9/L.104  | France: draft resolution on demographic publications of the United Nations   |
| E/CN.9/L.105  | Denmark, Ghana, Japan, Philippines, Thailand and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution on the site of the World Population Conference, 1974 |
| E/CN.9/L.106  | List of background and symposium papers for the Conference   |
| E/CN.11/1065  | Report of the Second Asian Population Conference   |
| E/CN.11/L.342   | Declaration of Population Strategy for Development   |