

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL
OFFICIAL RECORDS



FIFTH YEAR, TENTH SESSION
347th MEETING
WEDNESDAY 8 FEBRUARY 1950, AT 3 P.M.
LAKE SUCCESS, NEW YORK

President: Mr. Hernán SANTA CRUZ (Chile).

Implementation of recommendations on economic and social matters (E/1561, E/1561/Add.1, E/1561/Add.2, E/1567, E/1585, E/1585/Corr.1, E/1585/Add.1, E/1585/Add.2 and E/AC.31/1) (continued)

1. The PRESIDENT called for further discussion on paragraph 25 of the report (E/1585) of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Implementation of Recommendations on Economic and Social Matters. The Council should decide what action it wished to take with regard to General Assembly resolution 125 (II) in view of the fact that UNESCO had initiated a study relating to the same subject (E/1585/Add.2).
2. Mr. PLIMSOLL (Australia) felt that the Council should continue to take an interest in the implementation of resolution 125 (II), since, under the Charter, co-ordination was one of its specific functions. He fully appreciated the important work carried out by UNESCO, but could not understand how that organization had come to initiate a study of the administration of Member Government participation in international organizations without detailed consultation and agreement with the United Nations Secretariat. Nevertheless, since the study had been initiated, the United Nations should take it into account. He explained that the *Ad Hoc* Committee had not intended that resolution 125 (II) should be circulated again to Governments until April 1950 with a reminder to be sent out in April 1951 (E/1585, paragraph 12). It seemed, therefore, that the *ad hoc* Committee's recommendation could well be adopted but that resolution 125 (II) should not be circulated until April 1951. By that time the Secretary-General would have received the report from UNESCO and he would be able to take it into account when framing his request for information and, in addition, governments would be able to take account of the UNESCO report in making their replies. Moreover, the Council would hold two further sessions in the interval and any new points which might arise during those sessions could also be taken into account.
3. The lack of clear agreement between UNESCO and the United Nations as to fields of work revealed by the initiation of that study should not be overlooked by the Council during its debate on co-ordination between the United Nations and the specialized agencies, and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination should at that time be asked to study action to prevent over-

lapping and conflict in requests to governments for information on the part of the United Nations and specialized agencies and report to the following session of the Council.

4. Mr. AMANRICH (France) agreed with the representative of Australia and supported the suggestion he had made. In his opinion, the draft questionnaire outlined in annex I to document E/1585/Add.2 was too detailed, and, while he agreed that the Secretary-General's request for information could take the UNESCO study into account, he hoped that if a questionnaire was appended to such a request it would be drafted in much more general terms.
 5. Sir Ramaswami MUDALIAR (India) fully agreed with the remarks made by the representatives of Australia and France. He too felt that UNESCO had gone somewhat beyond its field of competence in initiating the study in question. The question was one which should be considered by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, which could hear the opinions of the specialized agencies and report to the Economic and Social Council.
 6. Mr. BORBERG (Denmark) and Mr. WOULBROUN (Belgium) agreed with the remarks made by the representative of Australia.
The suggestion made by the representative of Australia was adopted.
- Application of the Republic of Korea for membership in UNESCO (E/1558 and E/L.2)**
7. The PRESIDENT opened the discussion on the application of the Republic of Korea for membership in UNESCO.
 8. Mr. MAKIN (Australia) recalled that, in December 1948, the General Assembly had adopted resolution 195 (III) declaring the Government of the Republic of Korea to be a lawful government. He was therefore submitting a draft resolution (E/L.2) which stated that the Council had no objection to the admission of the Republic of Korea to UNESCO, in accordance with the terms of the Agreement between the United Nations and that organization. He urged the adoption of the draft resolution and added that his Government would heartily welcome the Republic of Korea as a fellow member of UNESCO.
 9. Sir Ramaswami MUDALIAR (India) and Mr. CHANG (China) associated themselves with the statement made by the representative of Australia and warmly supported the draft resolution.

The draft resolution submitted by the representative of Australia (E/L.2) was adopted unanimously.

Application of the Republic of the United States of Indonesia for membership in UNESCO (E/1592 and E/L.3)

10. The PRESIDENT opened the discussion on the application of the Republic of the United States of Indonesia for membership in UNESCO.

11. Sir RAMASWAMI MUDALIAR (India) recalled that the United States of Indonesia had gained its independence on 28 December 1949 and had very shortly afterwards submitted its application for membership in UNESCO. It was with no little emotion that the countries of South-east Asia had witnessed the creation of the Republic of the United States of Indonesia, and he felt sure that those countries would join with him in welcoming the Republic as a fellow member of UNESCO. He hoped indeed that Indonesia would soon become an honoured Member of the United Nations itself, and that it might one day be a member of the Economic and Social Council. He was therefore submitting a draft resolution (E/L.3) which stated that the Council had no objection to the admission of the United States of Indonesia to UNESCO, in accordance with article II of the Agreement between the United Nations and that organization.

12. Mr. ALI (Pakistan), Mr. MAKIN (Australia), Mr. ENTEZAM (Iran), Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America), Sir Terence SHONE (United Kingdom) and Mr. CHANG (China) warmly supported the draft resolution and felt sure that the Republic of the United States of Indonesia would make a valuable contribution to the work of UNESCO.

The draft resolution submitted by the representative of India (E/L.3) was adopted unanimously.

Inter-governmental organizations (E/818/Rev.1, E/1318, E/1574, E/1574/Add.1, E/1574/Add.2 and E/L.1)

13. The PRESIDENT opened the discussion on the question of relations with inter-governmental organizations.

14. Mr. DE OURO-PRETO (Brazil) introduced the draft resolution submitted jointly by his delegation and that of Chile (E/L.1). He noted from the Secretary-General's report (E/1574) that the International Commission for the Scientific Exploration of the Mediterranean Sea had been inactive for the past eleven years and that its former activities were to be taken over by the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean, a body which was to be established under the auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organization. It was therefore suggested in the first paragraph of the joint draft resolution that the International Commission for the Scientific Exploration of the Mediterranean Sea should be terminated.

15. With regard to the International Relief Union, he did not think any new evidence had been brought forward to warrant its continuation, and pointed out that the Co-ordination Committee had already recom-

mended¹ termination of the organization at the ninth session of the Council. The recommendation of the Committee had been postponed only upon the receipt of a letter from the President of the Committee of the International Red Cross. The draft resolution therefore recommended that steps should be taken to terminate the organization.

16. Finally, with regard to the third question dealt with in the Secretary-General's report, the draft resolution proposed that the Council should note with satisfaction the progress made by the Organization of American States in integrating and simplifying the structure of the inter-American system and in developing relations of the inter-American organizations with the United Nations and the specialized agencies. The draft resolution further requested the Secretary-General to report on further developments at a later date.

17. In conclusion, he submitted a drafting amendment to bring the wording of the first operative paragraph into line with that of the second paragraph. The first operative paragraph would read as follows:

"Recommends to Members of the United Nations which are also members of the International Commission for the Scientific Exploration of the Mediterranean Sea to take steps to terminate that organization;"

18. Mr. VALENZUELA (Chile) endorsed the remarks made by the representative of Brazil and agreed to the proposed drafting amendment. He further pointed out that the International Relief Union had no financial resources, and that its activities might be taken over by other bodies.

19. Mr. CHANG (China) said that his delegation had long held the view that the number of inter-governmental organizations should be limited to those which served a useful purpose. He therefore supported the draft resolution submitted by Brazil and Chile.

20. Mr. EUDES (Canada) stated that the Canadian delegation was in general agreement with the Secretary-General's report. He wished to draw attention, however, to paragraph 17 of annex II to document E/1574, in which the Secretary-General pointed out that the Pan-American Sanitary Organization, which had recently negotiated an agreement with the World Health Organization, was in the process of negotiating an agreement with the Council of the Organization of American States, and went on to say that it was clearly important that the latter agreement should be in full harmony with the former. Mr. Eudes fully shared that view, but feared that article 100 of the charter of the Organization of American States (E/1574, appendix A) might give rise to some inconsistency between the obligations of the Pan-American Sanitary Organization under its agreement with the World Health Organization and the functions it would assume under the agreement with the Organization of American States.

21. The Council of the OAS itself was aware of the problem, as the debate had shown during its recent session at Lima. A clear understanding was necessary on the division of authority under the two agreements.

¹ See *Official Records of the fourth session of the General Assembly*, Supplement No 3 (A/972), paragraph 417.

The Canadian delegation felt confident, however, that article 100 of the OAS charter would be so interpreted as to permit the Pan-American Sanitary Organization to perform the functions it had assumed under its agreement with WHO.

22. Sir Terence SHONE (United Kingdom) supported the Brazilian-Chilean draft resolution. He agreed with the views of the Director-General of the FAO as endorsed by the Secretary-General that there would be no material advantage in reviving the International Commission for the Scientific Exploration of the Mediterranean Sea, since its activities were to be taken over by the General Fisheries Council of the Mediterranean.

23. He also agreed that the International Relief Union should be terminated for reasons stated in document E/1318;¹ the United Kingdom had in fact withdrawn from that organization two years previously. He did not feel able to support the suggestion of the President of the International Red Cross Committee (E/1574/Add.1) that the organization should be continued, subject to a revision of the original Convention, or that consideration of the question should be deferred, as subsequently proposed in document E/1574/Add.2.

24. With respect to the draft agreement being negotiated between the Organization of American States and the Pan-American Sanitary Organization, he wholeheartedly endorsed the remarks of the Canadian representative. As a member of WHO, the United Kingdom was naturally anxious that the agreement being negotiated by the Pan-American Sanitary Organization should be in full harmony with its agreement with WHO. If any difficulties should arise they might be brought to the attention of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, but, in any event the Secretary-General would inform the Council of any developments in accordance with the final paragraph of the joint draft resolution.

The Brazilian-Chilean resolution (E/L.1) was adopted unanimously.

Confirmation of members of the functional commissions of the Council (E/1599)

25. Mr. TSAO (China) wished to make a rectification. Dr. C. Y. Hsiao, nominated as representative of China on the Transport and Communications Commission, was not replacing Dr. Franklin L. Ho.

The Council confirmed unanimously the members of commissions listed in document E/1599.

Report by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Road and Motor Transport (E/1559 and E/1559/Add.1)

26. The PRESIDENT opened the discussion on the draft resolution submitted by the Secretary-General in his report (E/1559), and asked Mr. Lukac, Director of the Division of Transport and Communications, to explain the background of that proposal.

Mr. Lukac took a seat at the Council table.

27. Mr. LUKAC (Secretariat) reviewed the contents of document E/1559 and added that by 31 December 1949, twenty-one governments had signed the Convention on Road Traffic, sixteen had signed the Protocol on Road Signs and Signals and seventeen had signed the Protocol concerning Countries or Territories at Present Occupied — the three instruments prepared by the United Nations Conference on Road and Motor Transport held in Geneva in August-September 1949. Furthermore, in its Final Act, that Conference had made recommendations concerning further problems relating to international road transport and the establishment of a common world-wide system of road signs and signals. The Conference had recommended that the Transport and Communications Commission should periodically review the progress of work undertaken in that field under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Europe and similar bodies together with any other developments concerning international road transport and advise the Council with regard to further international action required. The recommendation in fact emphasized the desirability of an activity normally undertaken by the Transport and Communications Commission. The "similar bodies" mentioned in the recommendation referred to other regional commissions or bodies, for example Pan-American bodies, and other international organizations dealing with road transport problems, such as bodies enjoying consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

28. In connexion with a world-wide system of road signs and signals, the Conference had found it impossible, at that stage, to reach agreement on a universally acceptable system and had therefore decided to establish the Protocol which already bore the signatures of sixteen countries. In order to create a uniform system, the European and North American systems of road signs and signals would have to be combined. The Conference had recommended consideration of the question by the Transport and Communications Commission with a view to the establishment of such a world-wide system at a later stage.

29. The draft resolution prepared by the Secretary-General endorsed the recommendations of the Conference and asked the Economic and Social Council to instruct the Transport and Communications Commission accordingly.

30. Mr. KORSCHNIG (United States of America) felt that the work of the Conference had been encouraging and was prepared to support its recommendations. However, he had serious misgivings concerning the financial implications of the meetings of the proposed body of experts on the question of road signs and signals, as set forth in document E/1559/Add.1. It would appear from that document that the experts might meet over a period of years and actually constitute a new and costly permanent organization. In the view of the United States delegation, the experts should hold no more than one or two meetings; on the basis of their findings, an *ad hoc* international conference might prepare and sponsor a new international convention. In any case, it seemed wiser to find a less expensive method for elaborating such a convention.

31. Mr. MAKIN (Australia) supported the United States view. While the initial amount for a single meet-

¹ Part II, G, Organizations.

ing of the experts did not appear excessive, a long period of deliberation would involve heavy costs and should be discouraged.

32. Mr. LUKAC (Secretariat) observed that the document on financial implications (E/1559/Add.1) was perhaps slightly misleading. In fact, it was intended to hold one meeting of experts in 1950 and not more than one or two in 1951, at which it was hoped that a basis would be found for the conclusion of a convention at an international conference. If the experts were unable, at those meetings, to find a basis for uniformity, that would have to be reported to the Council and it might then be necessary to postpone further efforts for a while. A uniform world-wide system of road signs and signals was of paramount importance for the safety of road transport, and it was hoped that the Council would appreciate the need to initiate work on it. In conclusion he would draw attention to the fact that up to the present time, in the four years of its existence, the Transport and Communications Commission had never

proposed the setting up of any subsidiary body, and, in the case in question, the proposal had originated from the United Nations Conference on Road and Motor Transport.

33. Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) withdrew his objections in the light of Mr. Lukac's explanation.

The draft resolution on road and motor transport (E/1559) was adopted unanimously.

34. The PRESIDENT then outlined the programme of meetings of the two Council committees: the Economic Committee would hold two meetings the following day and would consider items 11 and 9 (a) of the agenda; the Social Committee would meet on Friday to discuss items 18, 19 and 16 of the agenda, in that order. Item 21 would be discussed in plenary.

That programme was approved.

The meeting rose at 4.30 p.m.