

**1985/68. Inclusion of Portuguese among the official working languages of the Economic Commission for Africa**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Considering* the number of States members of the Economic Commission for Africa and the growing numbers of people in those countries that use Portuguese as an official working language,

*Noting* that basic economic, social and cultural development in any country depends on the transmission of technical and scientific information through the medium of language,

*Recognizing* that, at various summit meetings in Africa, the question of the Portuguese language has been discussed and has been of concern to the heads of State and Government of five countries that officially use Portuguese,

*Realizing* that, because of language difficulties, the people of those countries do not derive maximum benefit from the technical assistance, professional training, seminars and other activities that might facilitate their integration into the social and economic programmes being carried out at the subregional and regional levels,

1. *Decides* that Portuguese should be introduced gradually as an official working language of the Economic Commission for Africa;

2. *Requests* the General Assembly to make the necessary arrangements to this effect.

*52nd plenary meeting  
26 July 1985*

**1985/69. Amendment of the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Western Asia: change of name of the Commission**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* its resolution 1818 (LV) of 9 August 1973, by which it established the Economic Commission for Western Asia and laid down its terms of reference,

*Recalling* paragraph 1 (f) of those terms of reference,

*Aware* of the extreme importance of social development in the context of the overall development of the economies of member States, and with the aim of achieving congruence between the subject-matter of the major activities undertaken by the Commission in the economic and social domains and its designation,

*Recalling* resolution 133 (XII) of 24 April 1985 of the Economic Commission for Western Asia on the designation of the Commission,<sup>43</sup>

<sup>43</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1985, Supplement No. 14 (E/1985/35)*, chap. I.

1. *Decides* to change the name of the Economic Commission for Western Asia to "Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia";

2. *Also decides* to amend the terms of reference of the Commission as contained in Council resolution 1818 (LV) to reflect the new name.

*52nd plenary meeting  
26 July 1985*

**1985/70. Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 1982/57 of 30 July 1982, 1983/62 of 29 July 1983 and 1984/75 of 27 July 1984, concerning the Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar,

*Referring* to the conclusions contained in the interim reports prepared by the Executive Secretaries of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Europe pursuant to those resolutions<sup>44</sup> and bearing in mind the discussion on this question in the First (Economic) Committee of the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1985,

1. *Takes note* of the development of studies and work on the Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar and the efforts made by Morocco and Spain as co-sponsors of the project, in consultation and co-operation with the Governments of the countries concerned and the international organizations and research institutes of the western Mediterranean region;

2. *Invites* the Governments of Morocco and Spain to continue to furnish information to Governments, international organizations, research institutes and universities in the Mediterranean area and other regions, as well as to the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic Commission for Africa, to continue consultations and co-operation with them and to make concerted efforts with a view to the elaboration of the project;

3. *Requests* Governments, international organizations and research institutes to continue to co-operate with the Governments of Morocco and Spain and with the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic Commission for Africa in developing studies and work on the project;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to explore the possibility of using extrabudgetary funds to provide the competent commissions with the necessary resources to carry out economic studies on the development of transport in the Mediterranean region in relation to the Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretaries of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic

<sup>44</sup> E/1983/87/Add.1, sect. V; E/1985/108, sect. IV.

Commission for Europe to submit an interim report on the development of project studies to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1987.

*52nd plenary meeting  
26 July 1985*

**1985/71. Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 1979/44 of 11 May 1979 and 1982/67 of 27 October 1982,

*Having considered* the report of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting on its third session,<sup>45</sup>

*Acting* upon the recommendation of the Group at its third session concerning its future work,

1. *Decides* that the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting should continue to meet on the basis of its existing mandate;

2. *Agrees* that the results of the work of the Group should be brought to the attention of Governments, standard-setting bodies, the accountancy profession, transnational corporations and other interested parties through United Nations publications.

*52nd plenary meeting  
26 July 1985*

**1985/72. Activities of transnational corporations in South Africa and Namibia and collaboration of such corporations with the racist minority régime of South Africa**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* Security Council resolution 560 (1985) of 12 March 1985,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolutions 39/72 A to G of 13 December 1984, in particular resolution 39/72 G on concerted international action for the elimination of *apartheid*,

*Reaffirming* previous resolutions of the Economic and Social Council on the activities of transnational corporations in South Africa and Namibia and the collaboration of such corporations with the racist minority régime of South Africa,

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of transnational corporations in South Africa and Namibia and the collaboration of such corporations with the racist minority régime in that

area<sup>46</sup> and the report of the Secretariat on the responsibilities of home countries with respect to the transnational corporations operating in South Africa and Namibia in violation of the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations,<sup>47</sup>

*Noting with grave concern* the deterioration of the situation in South Africa as evidenced by the recent increased brutality, indiscriminate killings and mass arrests of innocent persons, including children, by the authorities of the racist minority régime of South Africa,

*Regretting* that the inflows of foreign direct investment to South Africa have risen significantly in recent years,

*Affirming* the need for intensified action at the international level by all Governments and non-governmental organizations, including trade unions, academic institutions, parliamentarians and public officials in various countries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of transnational corporations in South Africa and Namibia and the collaboration of such corporations with the racist minority régime in that area, in particular the list of transnational corporations operating in that area, and the report of the Secretariat on the responsibilities of home countries with respect to the transnational corporations operating in South Africa and Namibia in violation of the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations;

2. *Condemns* the racist minority régime of South Africa and its brutal perpetuation of the inhuman system of *apartheid* and the illegal occupation of Namibia;

3. *Reaffirms* that the activities of transnational corporations in South Africa reinforce the racist minority régime in its perpetuation of the system of *apartheid* and its illegal occupation of Namibia;

4. *Notes with appreciation* the actions of those non-governmental organizations and academic institutions that have exerted pressure on transnational corporations collaborating with the racist minority régime for disinvestment of their assets and the proposals for legislative and other regulatory measures put forward by some parliamentarians and other public officials in various countries with a view to terminating the activities of transnational corporations in South Africa and Namibia, and requests the Secretariat to transmit the text of the present resolution to all such organizations, parliamentarians and public officials;

5. *Welcomes* as a positive first step the measures taken by certain home countries of transnational corporations to place restrictions on further investments in South Africa and on bank loans to the racist minority régime;

<sup>45</sup> E/C.10/1985/12 and Corr.1.

<sup>46</sup> E/C.10/1985/7 and Corr.1.

<sup>47</sup> E/C.10/1985/9.