



ADDENDUM TO THE REPORT
OF THE
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
(15-18 November 1966)

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OFFICIAL RECORDS : TWENTY-FIRST SESSION
SUPPLEMENT No. 3A (A/6303/Add.I)

UNITED NATIONS

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NOTE

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(15-18 November 1966)

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^a Item on the agenda of the twenty-first session of the General Assembly.

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ON THE FIRST PART OF ITS RESUMED FORTY-FIRST SESSION

(15-18 November 1966)

Chapter I

REPORT OF THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY*

1. The annual report of the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to the General Assembly (A/6315/-Rev.1),¹ which consisted of the Board's reports on its third and fourth sessions, was submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its resumed forty-first session, in accordance with paragraph 22 of General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX).

2. In the course of the discussion in the Council,² several delegations, while satisfied with the report itself, expressed regret that it confirmed the view that the progress made so far towards implementation of the recommendations of the first Conference had been disappointingly slow. Commenting on the fact that there was a lack of positive achievement at the very time when the trade situation of the developing countries was continuing to deteriorate, one delegation stated that it was essentially due to the absence of a firm political will on the part of the Governments of most developed countries. Other delegations felt that, while there was broad agreement regarding the need to expand the international trade of developing countries, the lack of concrete action in the recent past had been due to the failure to concentrate international efforts on specific and well-defined objectives and also to the difficulty of establishing an accepted order of priority among the many problems that called for concerted action. The hope was expressed by several delegations that the second Conference would reverse the unfortunate trend indicated in the Board's report, particularly if the activities of the Conference were concentrated on those specific topics with regard to which a consensus could be most easily achieved.

3. Commenting on future UNCTAD activities, several members encouraged the Board to assist in the development of international trade through a series of actions aimed in particular at promoting exports from the developing countries. Support was expressed for the proposal that UNCTAD should participate actively in the United Nations technical assistance activities and that it should be represented by its Secretary-General in the Inter-Agency Consultative Board of the United Nations Development Programme.

4. Many delegations expressed satisfaction at the working relationship that had developed between UNCTAD and the specialized agencies and other United Nations institutions, a development which was particularly gratifying to the Council as the organ entrusted with special responsibility for co-ordination. Several delegations commended the Board for successfully reducing the number of meetings of its subsidiary bodies.

5. In answer to a request for an assessment of the over-all position in the field of trade and development, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD expressed his growing concern at the situation of the developing countries. They were far from achieving the growth rates that had been set as one of the targets of the Development Decade, and their relative share in international trade was constantly deteriorating. Strong concerted efforts were required in order to tackle the problem of development, both at the national and at the international level. If a unity of purpose could be achieved with regard to the urgent need for remedial action, then the second UNCTAD Conference could be made a success.

6. At the conclusion of the debate the Council unanimously adopted a resolution (1188 (XLI)) in which it took note of the report of the Trade and Development Board and transmitted it to the General Assembly.

* Item on the agenda of the twenty-first session of the General Assembly.

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-first Session, Supplement No. 15.*

² E/SR.1451.

Chapter II

ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNITED NATIONS CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND*

7. In the light of General Assembly resolution 2042 (XX), the Council at its resumed forty-first session considered the report of the Committee on a United Nations Capital Development Fund on its session held from 12 to 16 September 1966 (A/6418).³ The Council also had before it chapter IX of the report of the United Nations Development Programme on its second session (E/4219),⁴ which set forth the views expressed by the Governing Council during its consideration of the recommendation contained in annex A.IV.8 to the Final Act of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,⁵ on the gradual transformation of the United Nations Development Programme into a Capital Development Fund.

8. During the discussion in the Economic and Social Council,⁶ a number of delegations reiterated the position taken by the majority of the members of the Committee in favour of the early establishment of the Fund. Some other delegations reserved their position or stated that it had not changed.

9. The Council took note of the report of the Committee on a United Nations Capital Development Fund.

* Item on the agenda of the twenty-first session of the General Assembly.

³ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-first Session, Annexes*, agenda item 38.

⁴ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 11A*.

⁵ See *Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development*, vol. I, *Final Act and Report* (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 64.II.B.11) p. 47.

⁶ E/SR.1447.

Chapter III

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

10. In accordance with the decision taken at the forty-first session,⁷ the Council considered⁸ further at the resumed session the questions of the date and the site for the International Symposium on Industrial Development. It had before it a report of the Secretary-General (E/4276 and Add.1 and 2)⁹ containing information on the financial and administrative implications of holding the Symposium at the various sites offered. The Secretary-General also informed the Council that the Government of Zambia had withdrawn its invitation to act as host for the Symposium in view of the invitation received from India, and that an invitation had also been received from Greece.

11. During the discussion in the Council, the invitations from India and Guatemala were withdrawn. The Council decided (resolution 1185 C (XLI)) that the Symposium should be held at Athens in December 1967.

12. The Council also discussed¹⁰ two questions relating to the draft rules of procedure for the Symposium (Council resolution 1180 (XLI), annex II). In its resolution 1185 A (XLI), it decided to amend draft rule 14 to provide that Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish should be the working languages of the Symposium. After considering the observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the cost of providing summary records of the proceedings of the Symposium, which had been brought to its attention in a note by the Secretary-General (E/4277), the Council, in resolution 1185 B (XLI), decided to amend draft rule 16 to state that summary records of plenary sessions should be provided.

⁷ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 1*, "Other decisions taken by the Council at its resumed forty-first session".

⁸ E/SR.1447, 1451.

⁹ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Resumed Forty-first Session, Annexes*, agenda item 5.

¹⁰ E/SR.1447, 1448.

Chapter IV

DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES*

13. Pursuant to the request made in its resolution 1127 (XLI), the Council had before it at its resumed forty-first session¹¹ an interim report on the implementation of a five-year survey programme for the development of natural resources (E/4281).¹² The main purpose of the document was to report to the Council on the consultations concerning the programme undertaken, in conformity with that resolution, with the regional economic commissions, the specialized agencies concerned, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development. A paper, which had been prepared for the Advisory Committee, on the five-year programme as a whole and on the individual surveys comprising it, was reproduced in an annex to the interim report.

14. The Council also had before it the replies of Governments (E/4186/Add.1 and 2) to the invitations extended to them by the Secretary-General on 29 April 1966 and 31 August 1966, pursuant to Council resolutions 1113 (XL) and 1127 (XLI), respectively, to communicate their views and comments on the programme.

15. In a brief discussion of the interim report, representatives observed that the comments of the Advisory Committee were very helpful and should be given full weight in the further study of the proposed programme. Representatives also welcomed the Secretary-General's intention to make full use of the experience of the organizations of the United Nations family in the planning and implementation of the programme.

16. At the conclusion of the debate, the Council took note of the interim report with appreciation.

* Item on the agenda of the twenty-first session of the General Assembly.

¹¹ E/SR.1451.

¹² *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Resumed Forty-first Session, Annexes*, agenda item 3.

Chapter V

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR DOCUMENTATION ON HOUSING, BUILDING AND PLANNING

17. At the resumed forty-first session, the Council considered¹³ a report of the Secretary-General (E/4275)¹⁴ on the establishment of an International Institute for Documentation on Housing, Building and Planning, prepared in response to the request made by the Council at its forty-first session (resolution 1166 (XLI)).

18. The report described the Secretary-General's continued consultations with regard to the establishment of the Institute and to the offer by India of a headquarters site, facilities and locally recruited staff. It contained a proposal for the preparation of a technical report on the functions and operation of the Institute and a rough estimate of the cost of establishing the Institute and of its recurrent expenditure over three years. The estimate indicated a three-year cost of the order of \$2.5 million.

19. During the discussion of the question, a number of delegations supported the establishment of the Institute and welcomed the tentative choice of New Delhi as its headquarters site. It was emphasized, however, that the document before the Council (E/4275) could only be considered an interim report, and there was general agreement on the need for a more detailed, technical report on the functions and operation of the Institute. The technical report would also provide the basis for a more precise estimate of the financial needs.

20. The Acting Director of the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning informed the Council that it was the intention of the Secretary-General to prepare the technical report before attempting to solicit funds for the establishment of the Institute. The Council took note of the Secretary-General's report (E/4275).

¹³ E/SR.1447.

¹⁴ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Resumed Forty-first Session, Annexes, agenda item 4.*

Chapter VI

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES*

21. The Council at its resumed forty-first session considered¹⁵ an addendum to the annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees¹⁶ containing a draft protocol designed to extend the personal scope of the Convention of 28 July 1951 relating to the Status of Refugees.

22. In an introductory statement, the High Commissioner indicated that the sole purpose of the draft protocol was to remove the date restriction contained in article I of the 1951 Convention. The Convention, to which fifty States were currently parties, had been adopted in July 1951. Although it was intended that it should be general and universal in character, the scope of the Convention was limited to persons who became refugees "as a result of events occurring before 1 January 1951". Meanwhile new refugee situations had arisen, particularly in Africa and Asia. The maintenance of the dead-line would now lead, legally speaking, to a difference between the treatment of persons who became refugees as a result of events before January 1951 and that of persons who became refugees as a result of events after that date. That was certainly undesirable and not the intention at the time when the Convention was drawn up. The maintenance of the dead-line would also lead to an increasing difference between the scope of the 1951 Convention and that of the Statute of the High Commissioner's Office, which did not contain any such restriction.

23. Upon the advice of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's programme, a protocol had been drafted for the removal of the date restriction. The Executive Committee, which met at Geneva from 31 October to 7 November 1966, had expressed the wish that the draft protocol should be submitted to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council in order that the Secretary-General might be authorized to open the protocol for accession by Governments within the shortest possible time.

24. In the course of the discussion in the Council, a number of representatives expressed support for the work of the High Commissioner's Office and agreed that the draft Protocol should be referred to the General Assembly.

25. The representative of the United Republic of Tanzania informed the Council of a resolution recently adopted by the Assembly of African Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity concerning a convention on the status of refugees in Africa. In that resolution, *inter alia*, it recalled an earlier resolution in which it had called upon member States which had not yet done so to accede to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, and had expressed appreciation of the efforts made by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to ensure the universality of the 1951 Convention and its adaptation to the existing realities of the refugee problem, especially in Africa.

26. The Council took note with approval of the addendum to the High Commissioner's report and transmitted it to the General Assembly.

* Item on the agenda of the twenty-first session of the General Assembly.

¹⁵ E/SR.1453.

¹⁶ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-first Session, Supplement No. 11A*, transmitted to the Council by a note of the Secretary-General (E/4201/Add.2).

Chapter VII

CONSTITUTIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL QUESTIONS

SECTION I. COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND CO-ORDINATION

27. The Council at its resumed forty-first session considered¹⁷ the question of the composition of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination.¹⁸ The question had been included in the agenda in order that the Council might, before electing the Committee's members for 1967, consider the recommendation which the *Ad Hoc* Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies had made with regard to the reconstitution of the Committee.¹⁹

28. The Council had before it a note by the Secretary-General (E/4280)²⁰ in which he drew attention to the *Ad Hoc* Committee's recommendations on the subject, which had been endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 2150 (XXI). The *Ad Hoc* Committee had recommended that the Council should elect twelve experts out of nominations by States Members of the United Nations, for a period of three years, on a rotational basis, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical distribution, to serve as governmental representatives in their expert capacity, and that these experts should be eligible for re-election. It had further suggested that those elected should have a high degree of experience and competence in the following or similar fields: (a) the United Nations and related organizations in the economic, financial and social areas, and (b) the governing bodies of the specialized agencies and subsidiary bodies of the United Nations.

29. During the discussion in the Council, various views were expressed as to how large the Committee's membership should be. It was proposed, on the one hand, that it should consist of sixteen members, in order to ensure equitable geographical distribution and a wide range of membership. Proposals were also made for a membership of eighteen and of fourteen. On the other hand, it was urged that the Council should constitute a committee of twelve members, in compliance with the recommendation of the *Ad Hoc* Committee of Experts. Some representatives thought that if the Council disregarded the *Ad Hoc* Committee's recommendation, which had been endorsed by the General Assembly, it would be creating a dangerous precedent, and that other bodies might do likewise. It was pointed out, however, that the *Ad Hoc* Committee's recommendations on the matter had been addressed to the Council and that the Council was entitled to modify them in points of detail; furthermore, it was the Council's

responsibility to decide on the composition of its subsidiary bodies.

30. Some representatives noted that the question at issue was closely related to the proposal before the General Assembly for a general review of the economic and social activities of the United Nations family. It was accordingly suggested that the Council should postpone its decision on the question, but that a consensus of opinion in the Council should be communicated to the General Assembly. A number of representatives, while agreeing that the two questions were related to each other, considered that it would be unwise to defer the decision. One delegation, however, stressed that the Council was not concerned with taking new action but rather with reconstituting its Committee for Programme and Co-ordination in order to make it as effective as possible. The Council's work should not be affected by a proposal which was under consideration in another body.

31. There was also considerable discussion as regards the qualifications required for the members of the reconstituted Committee. While it was stressed by some representatives that it was very important that the members should be highly experienced in matters relating to the United Nations, it was also pointed out that some of the developing countries might have difficulty in nominating experts of the calibre suggested by the *Ad Hoc* Committee.

32. The Council adopted a resolution (1187 (XLI)) in which it decided that the Committee should be composed of sixteen States Members of the United Nations to be elected for a period of three years on a rotational basis and on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, as follows: four from western European and other States, two from socialist States of Eastern Europe, three from Asian States, four from African States and three from Latin American States.

33. It urged Member States wishing to take part in the work of the Committee to notify the Secretary-General as soon as possible and not later than 15 December 1966 and requested them to indicate the government expert whom they would designate to serve on the Committee, giving due consideration to the *Ad Hoc* Committee's recommendation that the experts should have a high degree of experience and competence in (a) the United Nations and related organizations in the economic, financial and social areas; and (b) the governing bodies of the specialized agencies and subsidiary bodies of the United Nations. Any alternates to such experts were required also to have knowledge of the work of the United Nations family. It decided to elect the members of the Committee in December 1966.

34. The Council invited the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary

¹⁷ E/SR.1448-1450.

¹⁸ Formerly the Special Committee on Co-ordination. The name of the Committee was changed under Council resolution 1171 (XLI).

¹⁹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-first Session, Annexes*, agenda item 80, document A/6343, para. 90 (g) and (h).

²⁰ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Resumed Forty-first Session, Annexes*, agenda item 10.

Questions to continue to take part in the work of the Committee, and requested the Committee, in addition to performing the functions already assigned to it, to study the current procedure for interagency co-operation and co-ordination. It invited the Governments of Member States, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the executive heads of the organizations in the United Nations system to extend to the Committee full co-operation and assistance. Finally, it confirmed its decision, in resolution 1171 (XLI), to continue the practice of having joint meetings of the Committee and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, at which Committee members might be represented by the heads of their delegations, and invited the President and the Vice-Presidents of the Council and the Chairman of the Co-ordination Committee to continue to take part in those joint meetings.

SECTION II. ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF SUBSIDIARY ORGANS OF THE COUNCIL

35. The Council, at its resumed forty-first session,²¹ held elections to fill the vacancies in the functional commissions and the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning ensuing from the expiry of the term of office of one third of the membership of those organs and from the Council's decision, in its resolution 1147 (XLI), to enlarge their membership.

36. The Council also elected four members of the United Nations/FAO Intergovernmental Committee of

²¹ E/SR.1152, 1153.

the World Food Programme, to hold office from 1 January 1967.²²

37. The Council decided to extend the term of office of the members of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations until 31 December 1967.

SECTION III. CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS FOR 1967

38. The Council, at its resumed forty-first session,²³ considered a draft calendar of conferences and meetings for 1967 (E/4269 and Corr.1) prepared by the Secretary-General. In the course of the discussion, a number of representatives referred to the difficulties created for delegations by the large number of United Nations meetings. Reference was also made to the need to avoid overlapping of the sessions of the Council and those of other organs dealing with economic and social matters, such as the Trade and Development Board and the Industrial Development Board.

39. The Council approved the draft calendar on the understanding that the opening date of the summer session could be further considered at the spring session in 1967.²⁴

²² For the resulting composition of the organs concerned, see *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Resumed Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 1A*, "Other decisions taken by the Council at its resumed forty-first session".

²³ E/SR.1450.

²⁴ For the calendar as adopted, see *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Resumed Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 1A*, "Other decisions taken by the Council at its resumed forty-first session".