

ARTICLE 62 (4)

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TEXT OF ARTICLE 62 (4)

It [the Economic and Social Council] may call, in accordance with the rules prescribed by the United Nations, international conferences on matters falling within its competence.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

1. The material contained in this study supplements that found in the *Repertory* and its *Supplements Nos. 1 and 2*, and, as in the past, relates only to the calling of conferences by the Economic and Social Council on matters falling within its competence. No reference has been made here to conferences called by the General Assembly on matters falling within the Council's competence. No significant questions arose during the period under review requiring inclusion under the Analytical Summary of Practice. As in the case of *Repertory Supplement No. 2* there was no new material for two annexes which were formerly included in the *Repertory* and *Supplement No. 1*: "Rules for the calling of international conferences of States" and "Rules for the calling of non-governmental conferences by the Economic and Social Council". The two remaining annexes have therefore been renumbered as in *Supplement No. 2*. On some occasions, the Economic and Social Council referred in its decisions to its authority to call international conferences under Article 62 (4).¹

2. In establishing the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the General Assembly, in its resolution 1995 (XIX) of 30 December 1964, directed the Trade and Development Board of that organ to establish "a committee on commodities which, *inter alia*, will carry out the functions which are now performed by the Commission on International Commodity Trade and the Interim Co-ordinating Committee for International Commodity Arrangements". Accordingly, the responsibility for authorizing the convening of intergovernmental conferences on primary commodity problems, thenceforward rested with UNCTAD and no longer with the Council. However, for the sake of comprehensiveness, all such conferences, which took place during the period covered by this *Supplement*, are included in annex I B of this study, regardless of the authority under which they were convened.

¹ See for example, E S C resolutions 834 (XXXII) and 870 (XXXIII).

I. GENERAL SURVEY

A. General

3. During the period under review, the Economic and Social Council convened nine conferences of States and decided to convene five additional conferences at a later date.² In addition, the Secretary-General continued, until the establishment of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), under the authorization of the Council, to convene conferences concerning primary commodity problems.³

4. The international conferences of States called by the Council dealt with questions concerning narcotic drugs, new sources of energy, cartography, international travel and tourism, the international map of the world on the millionth scale, trade and development, industrial development, science, technology and development, social welfare, the stan-

dardization of geographical names and the replacement of the 1949 Convention on Road Traffic and the 1949 Protocol on Road Signs and Signals.

5. One non-governmental conference convened by the Council during the period under review was the Second World Population Conference.⁴

6. Prior to the decision⁵ to convene the International Symposium on Industrial Development, the Council requested⁶ the Secretary-General to make various arrangements for it and for the regional symposia to precede it. It should be noted that the idea of a symposium on industrial development was advanced by the General Assembly when it requested the Secretary-General to initiate consultation and studies on the advisability of holding an international symposium, preceded, as appropriate, by regional and subregional symposia.⁷

7. Not included among conferences called by the

² See annex I, section A. Of the fourteen conferences listed in that annex, the first two were called by the Council in the period covered by *Repertory Supplement No. 2* and twelve were called in the period under review, of which seven (items 3-9) were convened during the period under review, and five (items 10-14) subsequent to it.

³ See annex I, section B.

⁴ See annex II.

⁵ E S C resolution 1180 (XLI).

⁶ E S C resolutions 1030 C (XXXVII) and 1081 B and G (XXXIX).

⁷ G A resolution 1940 (XVIII).

Economic and Social Council is the World Land Reform Conference held in Rome, in June-July 1966. At its thirty-ninth session the Council had invited participating Governments to contribute to the success of that conference.⁸ The conference was organized by the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in association with the International Labour Organisation and attended by participants from Member States and specialists of international standing.⁹

B. Rules prescribed by the United Nations

8. Under Article 62 (4) international conferences may be called by the Economic and Social Council in accordance with the rules prescribed by the United Nations. The rules for the calling of international conferences by the Economic and Social Council were adopted by the General Assembly in 1949 and 1950.¹⁰ Under these rules, which have not been amended, the Council may at any time decide to call an international conference on any matter within its competence. However, the General Assembly in 1963, and again in 1965 decided that not more than one major special conference of the United Nations should be scheduled in any one year.¹¹

C. Invitations and participation in connexion with international conferences of States

1. MEMBER STATES AND NON-MEMBER STATES

9. The Council invited or requested the Secretary-General to invite States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies and in some instances members of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to participate in all but one of the international conferences it called during the period under review. The question of invitations was not referred to by the Council in calling the Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. In the case of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, (UNCTAD), it was the General Assembly¹² which, endorsing the decision¹³ of the Economic and Social Council to convene that Conference, also requested the Secretary-General to invite all States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies and of IAEA to take part in it.¹⁴ The Council, in its resolution 963 (XXXVI) approved the

⁸ E S C resolution 1078 (XXXIX).

⁹ See *Report of the World Land Reform Conference*, United Nations Publication, Sales No.: E. 68. IV. 10.

¹⁰ See *Repertory*, vol. III, under Article 62 (4), paras. 10-14, and annexes I and II.

¹¹ G A resolutions 1987 (XVIII) and 2116 (XX).

¹² G A resolutions 1785 (XVII).

¹³ E S C resolution 917 (XXXIV).

¹⁴ A proposal in the Second Committee (G A (XVII), 2nd Com., 836th mtg., para. 35) to extend the invitation to any other States which desired to take part in the Conference was not adopted (G A (XVII), 2nd Com., 837th mtg., para. 14 and 839th mtg., para. 28).

recommendations of the Preparatory Committee for UNCTAD on levels of representation, the rules of procedure, and the recommendation in paragraph 208 of the Committee's report¹⁵ concerning the invitation of intergovernmental economic organizations. Under the draft rules proposed by the Committee, each State would have one vote; observers from specialized agencies and intergovernmental bodies invited to the Conference could participate in the deliberations of the Conference without the right to vote; and non-governmental organizations in category A and B on the register or "who may be invited" could designate authorized representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Conference. The Conference could consult these organizations, either directly or through a committee or committees established for the purpose. Such consultations were, in all cases, to be arranged at the invitation of, or subject to approval by, the Conference. The draft rules also provided that organizations on the register could be heard by the Conference on the recommendation of the Secretary-General of the Conference and at the request of the Conference. The Preparatory Committee recommended in paragraph 208 of its report, referred to above, that intergovernmental, regional economic organizations interested in UNCTAD be invited to send observers to the Conference.

10. In several instances the Economic and Social Council requested that Governments should include individual experts on the subjects to be discussed;¹⁶ in the case of the conference of ministers responsible for social welfare, the Council requested that Governments should be represented by the minister or other official responsible for social welfare.¹⁷

**2. DEPENDENT TERRITORIES

3. SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

11. The Council invited directly or requested the Secretary-General to invite or, in some instances, approved the arrangements he had made to invite, interested specialized agencies and as a rule the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to all fourteen international conferences called or convened during the period under review and listed in annex I, section A. In seven of those conferences, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council, and, in some instances, specified organizations, were invited to attend.¹⁸ In two instances the Council also requested the Secretary-General to invite "other interested international organizations".¹⁹

12. Only in two instances did the Council indicate specifically the character of participation. In its resolution 870 (XXXIII) on the nature, scope

¹⁵ E S C (XXXVI), a. i. 5 (Part III), E/3799.

¹⁶ See, for example, E S C resolutions 834 (XXXII) and 870 (XXXIII).

¹⁷ E S C resolution 1140 (XLI).

¹⁸ See annex I, section A, items 1, 5, 7, 8, 12, 13 and 14.

¹⁹ E S C resolutions 928 (XXXV) and 1070 (XXXIX). See also annex I, section A, items 9 and 10.

and location of the conference on international travel and tourism, the Council requested the Secretary-General "to invite the specialized agencies and interested intergovernmental organizations to participate without vote in the deliberations of the conference" and "to invite the interested non-governmental organizations having consultative status with the Council to take part without vote in the conference". In its resolution 1180 (XLI), the Council recommended that the proceedings of the International Symposium on Industrial Development to be held during 1967 be governed by rules of procedure which, *inter alia*, stated that "representatives of the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency and of intergovernmental bodies invited to the Symposium may participate, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Symposium and its committees" and "international non-governmental organizations in Categories A and B or on the Register, concerned with the promotion of industrial development, may be invited to the Symposium" as observers, with representatives of non-governmental organizations in Category A having the right to participate in the deliberations of the Symposium without right of vote, but with the right to submit written statements.

4. INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS²⁰

13. The Council invited intergovernmental organizations to five international conferences called or convened during the period under review,²¹ the form of invitation being that used in the case of the specialized agencies.

D. Invitations and participation in connexion with non-governmental conferences

14. The Secretary-General was asked by the Council to invite to the Second World Population

²⁰ See also paras. 9, 11 and 12 above.

²¹ See annex I, section A, items 3, 6, 7, 8 and 12.

Conference experts nominated by the Governments of States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies, by interested, non-governmental scientific organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, or by the specialized agencies and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.²²

E. Preparatory and other arrangements

15. The Council continued its practice with regard to preparatory arrangements for international conferences in a manner described in the *Repertory*.²³ The Secretary-General as a rule was requested to make the necessary arrangements; sometimes he was empowered to do so with the help of a group of experts.²⁴ Preparatory committees were set up by the Council on several occasions.²⁵

16. On several occasions the Council specified the duration of a conference, such as "for not more than twelve working days",²⁶ or "for a period not exceeding twenty-five working days".²⁷

17. In the case of the Second World Population Conference, the Council requested that the Secretary-General, in connexion with his plans for financing it, should, *inter alia*, continue his efforts to obtain the maximum financial support of non-governmental organizations and foundations.²⁸

²² E S C resolution 820 C (XXXI).

²³ See *Repertory*, vol. III, under Article 62 (4), paras. 23 and 24.

²⁴ See, for example, E S C resolution 813 (XXXI).

²⁵ See, for example, E S C resolution 917 (XXXIV) on the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and E S C resolution 820 (XXXI) on the Second World Population Conference.

²⁶ E S C resolutions 834 (XXXII) and 870 (XXXIII).

²⁷ E S C resolution 1129 (XLI).

²⁸ E S C resolution 933 B (XXXV).

**II. ANALYTICAL SUMMARY OF PRACTICE

ANNEX I

LIST OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES OF STATES

A

1. United Nations Plenipotentiary Conference for the Adoption of a Single Convention on Narcotics Drugs; New York, January—March 1961.

Economic and Social Council resolution 689 J (XXVI).

2. United Nations Conference on New Sources of Energy (Solar Energy — Wind Power — Geothermal Energy); Rome, August 1961.

Economic and Social Council resolution 710 A (XXVII).

3. Third United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Far East; Bangkok, October—November 1961.

Economic and Social Council resolution 761 A (XXIX).

4. United Nations Technical Conference on the International Map of the World on the Millionth Scale; Bonn, August 1962.

Economic and Social Council resolutions 761 C (XXIX) and 815 (XXXI).

5. United Nations Conference on the Application of Science and Technology for the Benefit of the Less Developed Areas; Geneva, February 1963.

Economic and Social Council resolution 834 (XXXII) and decision at its resumed thirty-second session, 1184th meeting.

6. United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa; Nairobi, July 1963.

Economic and Social Council resolution 816 (XXXI) and decision at its thirty-second session, 1161st meeting.

7. United Nations Conference on International Travel and Tourism; Rome, August—September 1963.

Economic and Social Council resolutions 813 (XXXI) and 870 (XXXIII).

8. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; Geneva, March—June 1964.

Economic and Social Council resolution 917 (XXXIV)

- endorsed by General Assembly resolution 1785 (XVII) and Economic and Social Council resolution 963 (XXXVI).
9. Fourth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Far East; Manila, November–December 1964. Economic and Social Council resolution 928 (XXXV).
 10. Fifth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Far East, to be held in Canberra, March 1967. Economic and Social Council resolution 1070 (XXXIX).
 11. United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, to be convened in Geneva, September 1967.
Economic and Social Council decision at its thirty-seventh session, 1343rd meeting, and at its thirty-ninth session 1385th meeting.
 12. International Symposium on Industrial Development, to be held during 1967.
Economic and Social Council resolution 1180 (XLI).
 13. International conference to replace the Convention on Road Traffic and the Protocol on Road Signs and Signals, done in Geneva, 19 September 1949, to be held in Vienna in September–November 1968.
Economic and Social Council resolutions 1082 B (XXXIX) and 1129 (XLI), as amended by resolution 1203 (XLII).
 14. International conference of ministers responsible for social welfare, to be convened in 1968.
Economic and Social Council resolution 1140 (XLI).
- Intergovernmental conferences on primary commodity problems:^a

^a Excluding short meetings convened for the purpose of extending agreements.

United Nations Tin Conference, New York, May–June 1960; United Nations Sugar Conference, Geneva, September–October, and December 1961; United Nations Wheat Conference, Geneva, January–March 1962; United Nations Coffee Conference, New York, July–August–September 1962; United Nations Conference on Olive Oil, Geneva, February–March–April 1963; United Nations Cocoa Conference, Geneva, September–October 1963; United Nations Tin Conference, New York, March–April 1965; United Nations Sugar Conference, Geneva, September–October 1965; United Nations Cocoa Conference, New York, May–June 1966.

Economic and Social Council resolutions 296 (XI), 373 (XIII), 462 A (XV), 557 F (XVIII), G A resolution 1995 (XIX).^b

^b With the establishment of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), under G A resolution 1995 (XIX) of 30 December 1964, conferences on primary commodity problems were authorized by that body and not by the Council. Three conferences included in the list in this section took place after 1964. But the United Nations Tin Conference in 1965 was convened by the Secretary-General on the recommendation of the Interim Co-ordinating Committee for International Commodity Arrangements, prior to the establishment of UNCTAD, in November 1964. The United Nations Sugar Conference in 1965 was resumed on the recommendation of the UNCTAD Committee on Commodities and the United Nations Cocoa Conference in 1966 was convened by the Secretary-General at the request of the Trade and Development Board.

ANNEX II

NON-GOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE

1. Second World Population Conference; Belgrade, August–September, 1965.
Economic and Social Council resolutions 820 C (XXXI) and 933 B (XXXV).