



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/40/3*
30 August 1985

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fortieth session

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

* The present document is a mimeographed version of the report of the Economic and Social Council for the year 1985. The final report will be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/40/3/Rev.1).

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FOREWORD

At its second regular session of 1985, the fortieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, the Economic and Social Council in its general debate reviewed the international economic and social situation. In accordance with an earlier decision, it gave special focus to international co-operation in the interrelated areas of money, finance, debt and trade. It also discussed the role of the United Nations in the effort to promote international economic co-operation in an increasingly interdependent world.

Although the fundamental views and positions of many Member States may not have changed much since last year, this year's general debate seemed to reflect some changes in perceptions and attitudes that have occurred in recent years, in both developed and developing countries. There is now a fuller recognition of the crucial links of international trade with economic development and technical progress, and of the need to reverse protectionist trends. There is now general agreement on the need for greater international monetary and financial stability. There is a greater focus on domestic policies of all countries, in some cases because they have profound repercussions on other countries and in other cases because they are decisive to development performance. It is recognized that development is a complex process which calls for action on many fronts. There is a widely shared concern about the economic impact of the arms race, the diversion of resources from economic and social development it entails and the political tensions that give rise to it. The debt crisis has illustrated the need for a greater insight into the interrelatedness of the issues in money, finance and trade, where policies have to be mutually reinforcing and not conflicting. It seemed to be the view of many delegations that it had been useful this year to discuss these issues in an integrated manner.

It also seems to me that these new elements contributed a certain measure of convergence, as some delegations also pointed out. It is natural that agreement was greater in the identification of the major concerns than in the analysis of the issues and that there remain differences of view about policy conclusions, but I should like to suggest to the General Assembly that this convergence should be pursued.

Interdependence and international co-operation in money, finance, debt and trade

In 1984, the world economy revived, led by the vigorous recovery of the economy of the United States of America, and world trade registered an impressive increase (9 per cent). At the same time, many developing countries continued to face serious problems in their efforts for development in a still very difficult international economic environment.

In its general debate the Council looked to the future rather than the past, however. It explored the policy challenges posed by the expected decline in the rate of growth of developed market economies and world trade in the immediate future, as well as measures which might in the medium-term and long-term contribute to stability and development. Some delegations stressed the importance of enhancing economic security and confidence-building in international economic relations, which they should like to restructure to establish a new international economic order.

Growth potential and the capacity for flexible structural adjustment are in large part determined by national policies, including laws and regulations of great diversity. On the other hand, even the largest countries depend on international trade and capital flow for their prosperity. Close interdependence thus makes national policies a matter of concern to other countries. Co-operation through processes of surveillance and conditionality in the Bretton Woods institutions, and co-operative measures in GATT, UNCTAD, and regional bodies, assume special importance in the correction of the unsustainable imbalances in the present world economy. Large economic powers must recognize the international repercussions of their domestic policy choices. In developing countries, as illustrated in some successful cases in Asia, domestic economic performance affects the ability to attract external resources, whether in the form of private capital or official assistance.

It is widely recognized that the resumption of growth and development and the stabilization of the international debt situation require progress in the key areas of money, finance and trade, and such progress is within reach.

Trade

In discussing trade policies, a new round of multilateral trade negotiations in GATT is called for by many delegations, and there is a widely shared view that we must (a) address unfinished business from the Tokyo Round and consider the implementation of the commitments undertaken at the 1982 GATT Ministerial Meeting and discussed at the sixth session of UNCTAD; (b) improve and strengthen GATT rules and bring into its framework sectoral arrangements negotiated outside the GATT legal framework; and (c) start careful preparation of a new round of multilateral trade negotiations, the agenda and the scope of which must reflect the interests of all countries.

Since the growing trade tensions among countries are partly caused by international monetary instability, parallel efforts must be made to achieve greater exchange rate stability. Persistent exchange rate misalignments and excessive exchange rate volatility unrelated to economic fundamentals of trade competitiveness add to uncertainty and financial risks for investors and traders, and accentuate protectionist tendencies and misallocation of resources.

Depressed commodity prices and unfavourable terms of trade have a large part in the present difficulties of many developing countries. Appeals are made for speedy ratification and entry into force of the Common Fund for Commodities and implementation of commodity agreements. Some pin their hopes on the Compensatory Financing Facility of IMF, which owes its origin to a proposal made in the Economic and Social Council a long time ago, but the question remains how to increase low-conditionality assistance in times when concessional funds are so scarce. This genuine controversy pervades many other issues as well, and it should be faced frankly in our future discussions.

Money

The need for greater monetary stability has been explicitly recognized in all quarters. Greater stability in financial and currency markets could be attained through mutually consistent economic policies in key countries, enhanced multilateral surveillance and the removal of unjustifiable barriers and structural rigidities and, where appropriate, through central bank intervention.

International liquidity is now largely acquired through credit arrangements. This has introduced an important element of flexibility in the process of liquidity creation, but the functioning of the system depends on countries' creditworthiness. While some countries can "earn" their creditworthiness through increased exports and sound domestic policies, others have no access to private credits, and are largely dependent on other sources of financing. Since conditions in international markets are affected by the macro policies of key countries, the terms on which liquidity is supplied reflect the policies and performance not only of the borrowers themselves but also those of the major industrialized countries. Therefore, as with greater exchange rate stability, there is a case for enhanced multilateral co-ordination of economic policies in key countries. Serious consideration of a new allocation of SDRs and a further increase of IMF resources is called for by quite a number of delegations to respond to the need for adequate official international liquidity, particularly in developing countries.

Even though Governments share many concerns about the weaknesses of the present international monetary and financial system, they differ in their assessment of how and to what degree it has served the international community. While the need to improve the functioning of the present system or to reform it is widely recognized, there is also a difference between those that believe that an international conference is called for and those that expect adequate results from efforts within IMF itself. Greater concreteness in the consideration of the measures necessary in this area should make it possible to narrow the difference. There is clearly scope and need for continuing discussion in several forums, including the United Nations.

Finance

The primary importance of the efforts of the developing countries themselves to increase domestic savings and mobilize those resources to priority areas is widely acknowledged. At the same time, the need to increase the flow of public and private foreign capital to developing countries in order to supplement their own efforts is recognized. Although there is less agreement on the need to endow multilateral financial institutions with larger resources to support adjustment programmes and fulfil their role as financial catalysts, many countries are now ready to consider a general increase in the capital of the World Bank, as well as further replenishment of IDA and IFAD. At the same time, the need for greater efficiency and co-ordination of development assistance by both donors and recipients is underlined. However, a more effective utilization of resources should not be considered a substitute for an increase in the volume of aid. The United Nations operational activities for development, such as those of UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA, are of undisputed value, and more contributions from countries that do not participate actively in their financing are called for.

The particular needs of certain categories of countries must be addressed. In the case of the low-income developing countries, particularly those of sub-Saharan Africa, it is generally recognized that increased levels of highly concessional ODA are needed, as those countries have virtually no access to commercial credit. In this respect, the consensus commitments of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries must be fully implemented. For lower middle-income countries, which have only limited access to commercial credit but do not qualify for concessional financing, the opening of a "third window" at the World Bank has been proposed and should be given consideration. Nevertheless, all countries should note the potential contribution which, under conditions

dictated by national policies and regulations, foreign direct investment could make in transferring not only capital but also technology and skills to developing countries.

The focus of the discussion on this theme was on the mix between adjustment and financing. There is wide agreement that short-term adjustment measures should be compatible with long-term growth and the resumption of private and public investment. In this connection, the recent net transfer of resources from developing to developed countries is particularly disturbing, and this trend should be reversed.

The adjustment process in some countries is having adverse social effects, such as rising unemployment, malnutrition and child mortality. In addition to the humanitarian aspects, it is recognized that such developments are destructive of conditions for future economic and social development. It seems to be generally agreed that every effort must be made by all Governments and international organizations concerned to prevent the adjustment burden from taking such unacceptable forms.

Debt

There is general recognition that the debt problem is far from being solved and that it has to be cast in the broader context of trade and monetary relations as well as development finance, in view of the impact that high real interest rates, exchange-rate instability, financial stringency, depressed commodity markets and creeping protectionism have had on the debt-servicing capacity of developing countries. It is widely recognized that the solution to the debt problem requires sustained, determined and co-ordinated efforts on the part of debtors and creditors, multilateral institutions and commercial banks, which all share responsibility in the matter.

Such positive developments as multi-year reschedulings and lower rescheduling costs, are to be noted with satisfaction and should be encouraged. A number of additional ways in which the debt burden could be made more manageable have also been advanced, among them the stretching out of repayment, grace and consolidation periods; the creation of a compensatory interest rate facility; the capping of interest rates; linking debt service payments to export receipts; and easing the conditionalities on the use of IMF and world Bank resources and enlarging these resources.

Another positive development is the cancellation or the readjustment of ODA debt of least developed countries undertaken by some donor countries and being considered by others. This should be further pursued.

A difference of opinion seems to exist between those who argue for the current case-by-case approach and those who plead for a more general and intergovernmental dialogue between creditors and debtors. However, I think that this conflict is more apparent than real, and that close consideration will show that these approaches are not incompatible and that there is ground to expect greater convergence when the matter has been more fully explored.

Review of the immediate and longer-term aspects of the critical economic situation in Africa

The Council reviewed, as a priority question, the immediate and longer-term aspects of the critical economic situation in Africa and the follow-up of the response by the international community and the United Nations system. Over 70 delegations participated in the debate which led to the adoption by consensus of a resolution on Africa entitled "Critical economic situation in Africa" (resolution 1985/80).

Three main conclusions can be drawn from the debate.

First, the deliberations in the Council led to a better knowledge of the specific difficulties confronting sub-Saharan Africa and highlighted commonly agreed priorities for action to redress the situation. As many delegations indicated, the report of the Secretary-General on the critical economic situation in Africa, the Second Special Memorandum of the ECA Conference of Ministers to the Economic and Social Council and the declaration on the economic situation in Africa adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity all pointed out the need to continue action to deal with the emergency situation in several African countries. The initiatives of the Secretary-General in this regard, and the performance of the temporary Office for Emergency Operations in Africa he had set up for that purpose, were praised. However, there was general agreement on the need to give priority attention to relaunching the development process in Africa, and to mobilizing increased domestic and international resources for that purpose, in order to avoid the recurrence or the perpetuation in Africa of an emergency situation like the present one. The priority to be given to the agricultural sector was noted, as was the need to concentrate on the maintenance and rehabilitation of the industrial, transport and communications infrastructure. Particular emphasis was laid on the need to restore external resources of African countries, which had witnessed a serious erosion these last few years. In that context, the importance of the debt problem was noted, and measures relating to debt relief and ways and means to increase ODA were discussed.

Secondly, the discussions evidenced the support the international community as a whole was providing, or intended to provide, to African countries. There was a clear indication that most donor countries had stepped up their efforts of assistance to affected countries, particularly as concerned the emergency situation. It also appeared that steps were being taken by donors to increase development assistance. There was some recognition that the unfavourable external environment had had a serious impact on African economies, and that there was need to assist these countries in their adjustment efforts by appropriate means.

Thirdly, the debate in the Council gave African countries the opportunity to highlight the action they had been taking, either to fight the drought-induced emergency or to deal with pressing economic problems. In particular, action taken to restore the internal as well as the external balance was mentioned; indications were given by African countries that adjustment efforts had yielded results, but had been realized at a high social cost. Emphasis was put on the need, in the future, to concentrate on policies aimed at increasing production rather than cutting demand.

In the resolution that was adopted following the debate, the Council reaffirmed that the present situation facing African countries is still critical. It stressed the need for the international community as a whole to increase its concrete support to Africa by addressing the medium-term and long-term needs for the rehabilitation and sustained development of the African economies. It also recalled the decision of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU to request a special session of the General Assembly to consider African problems, and took note of the appeal of the African Heads of State and Government for the convening of an international conference on Africa's external debt.

Multilateral co-operation and the role of the United Nations

Many delegations expressed concern about an "erosion of multilateralism" at a time when strengthening international co-operation is called for.

In discussing the role of the United Nations, several delegations reminded the Council of the provisions of Chapters IX and X of the United Nations Charter, according to which the United Nations shall promote economic and social progress and development, and solutions of international economic and social problems. It was stressed that the United Nations offered the only universal forum for consideration of policy issues on how national and international measures in the interrelated areas of economic problems could be made more coherent and effective. At the same time, it was emphasized that specific issues had to be discussed and negotiated in the appropriate specialized bodies. With this in mind, the important areas of concern to Member States referred to above must continue to be addressed in the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly, and other appropriate forums in the United Nations, with a view to finding ways and means of effective international co-operation in those areas.

The deliberations at this Council session have been of high quality and benefited from being relatively sharply focused on an agenda of issues where there seemed to be a basis for pursuing efforts to find common solutions so that the momentum of constructive dialogue could be kept alive and further promoted.

(Signed) T. KOBAYASHI
President of the
Economic and Social Council

Geneva, July 1985

Chapter I

MATTERS CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

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Long-term trends in economic development (Council decision 1985/179)

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Resolutions and decisions brought to the attention of the General Assembly

Ensuring the timely distribution of conference documents (Council resolution 1985/20)

National experience in promoting the co-operative movement (Council resolution 1985/22)

Youth in the contemporary world (Council resolution 1985/23)

Welfare of migrant workers and their families (Council resolution 1985/24)

International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade (Council resolution 1985/25)

Interregional consultation on developmental social welfare policies and programmes (Council resolution 1985/26)

Efforts and measures for securing the implementation and enjoyment by youth of human rights, particularly the rights to life, education and work (Council resolution 1985/27)

First review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging (Council resolution 1985/28)

Co-ordination and information in the field of youth (Council resolution 1985/30)

Social aspects of development (Council resolution 1985/31)

National experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress (Council resolution 1985/32)

Capital punishment (Council resolution 1985/33)

United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons (Council resolution 1985/35)

Progress of work of the Commission for Social Development (Council resolution 1985/36)

Provisional agenda and documentation for the thirtieth session of the Commission for Social Development (Council decision 1985/133)

Provisional rules of procedure for United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders (Council decision 1985/134)

NARCOTIC DRUGS

Resolutions and decisions brought to the attention of the General Assembly

Co-operation for the control of illicit drug trafficking and drug abuse in the African region (Council resolution 1985/11)

Measures against the diversion in international commerce of specific precursors, chemicals and solvents used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances (Council resolution 1985/12)

The need to reduce the risk of illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances carried by commercial carriers (Council resolution 1985/13)

Promotion of preventive education and community participation against drug abuse (Council resolution 1985/14)

Improvement of the control of international trade in psychotropic substances listed in Schedules III and IV of the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances (Council resolution 1985/15)

Supply of and demand for opiates for medical and scientific needs (Council resolution 1985/16)

Provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (Council decision 1985/128)

Statement of the Secretary-General on the question of narcotic drugs (Council decision 1985/131)

SPECIAL ECONOMIC, HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE

Resolution brought to the attention of the General Assembly

Assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon (Council resolution 1985/56)

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION AND CO-ORDINATION WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

Resolutions and decision brought to the attention of the General Assembly

Economic and technical aspects of marine affairs (Council resolution 1985/75)

Report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on the work of its twenty-fifth session (Council resolution 1985/76)

Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (Council resolution 1985/77)

Hiring and use of consultant services (Council resolution 1985/78)

International year for the mobilization of financial and technological resources to increase food and agricultural production in Africa (Council decision 1985/199)

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

Resolutions brought to the attention of the General Assembly

Assistance to the Palestinian people (Council resolution 1985/57)

Economic development projects in the occupied Palestinian territories (Council resolution 1985/58)

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (Council resolution 1985/59)

CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS FOR 1986 AND 1987

Resolution and decisions brought to the attention of the
General Assembly

Ninth special session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (Council resolution 1985/79)

Summary records of sessional committees and subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council (Council decision 1985/200)

Provisional agenda and documentation for the ninth special session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (Council decision 1985/201)

Calendar of conferences and meetings for 1986 and 1987 (Council decision 1985/202)

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL
AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Resolution and decisions brought to the attention of the
General Assembly

Review of the composition, organization and administrative arrangements of the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Council resolution 1985/17)

Reporting procedure under article 16 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Council decision 1985/132)

Provisional agenda for 1986 of the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Council decision 1985/161)

Bureau for 1986 of the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Council decision 1985/162)

ELECTIONS AND NOMINATIONS

Decision calling for action by the General Assembly

Elections, appointments and nominations to subsidiary and related bodies of the Council (Council decision 1985/160)

Decisions brought to the attention of the General Assembly

Membership of subsidiary bodies of the Council: elections and confirmations (Council decision 1985/111)

Elections (Council decision 1985/204)

ORGANIZATIONAL AND OTHER MATTERS

Decisions brought to the attention of the General Assembly

Basic programme of work of the Economic and Social Council for 1985 and 1986 (Council decision 1985/101)

Resumed session of the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade (Council decisions 1985/103 and 1985/116)

Draft convention against the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs (Council decision 1985/104)

Scheduling of the sessions of the Human Rights Committee (Council decision 1985/105)

Scheduling of the sessions of the Trade and Development Board (Council decision 1985/106)

Review of the functioning of the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (Council decision 1985/107)

Resumed twenty-first session of the Committee for Development Planning (Council decision 1985/108)

Twentieth session of the Economic Commission for Africa and eleventh meeting of the Conference of Ministers of the Commission (Council decisions 1985/109 and 1985/112)

Resolution of the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean concerning El Salvador (Council decision 1985/110)

Summary of estimates of programme budget implications of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council during its first and second regular sessions of 1985 (Council decision 1985/205)

Chapter II

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICY, INCLUDING REGIONAL AND SECTORAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. The Economic and Social Council held a general discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments, at its second regular session of 1985 (agenda item 3). The general discussion took place at the 29th to 42nd meetings, from 4 to 12 July 1985; an account of it is contained in the relevant summary records (E/1985/SR.29-42). At the 28th meeting, on 3 July, the President of the Council and the Secretary-General made opening statements.

2. In accordance with its resolution 1984/82, the Council was to devote special attention, in the context of the general discussion, to an assessment of the role of the United Nations in promoting international economic and social co-operation and to the consideration of ways of strengthening the role of the Organization and of further enhancing its effectiveness in that regard. Delegations were further invited to focus their deliberations on international co-operation in the interrelated areas of money, finance, debt and trade (decision 1985/159).

OPENING STATEMENTS

3. In his opening statement, the President of the Council said that the second regular session of 1985 was taking place in a more propitious political and economic environment but that increased and better co-ordinated economic and technical co-operation was required to deal with the diverse and serious problems still confronting the world economy. Although the vigorous growth in the economy of the United States of America had had a positive impact on the exports and incomes of many countries, there were several elements of uncertainty regarding the global recovery, in particular whether it would be strong and durable enough to have a positive and lasting effect on unemployment, interest rates, protectionist pressures, budget deficits, the debt problem and the plight of many countries in Africa.

4. The Economic and Social Council was the right forum in which to discuss such problems and create an atmosphere of international co-operation conducive to their solution. He warned against excessive politicization of a discussion of what were essentially economic problems, lest members should turn elsewhere for opportunities to discuss those issues seriously. The usefulness and effectiveness of the Council would be put to the test in the handling of the two main items of the agenda, namely, the discussion on international co-operation in the interrelated areas of money, finance, debt and trade under item 3 and the review of the immediate and longer-term aspects of the critical situation in Africa under item 4.

5. The Secretary-General, in his address to the Council, welcomed the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations as an opportunity for Member States to recommit themselves to the goals and objectives of the Charter - economic, social and political - on the basis of a careful assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the Organization.

6. In referring to the current situation, the Secretary-General noted that the economic situation of the industrialized countries had improved noticeably in 1984

but that growth was now losing momentum. The industrialized countries had to try to sustain a high level of non-inflationary growth in order to reduce unemployment and facilitate the adjustment process. Sustained growth in the industrialized countries was also necessary to strengthen and broaden economic activity in the developing countries, many of which continued to experience severe difficulties despite impressive efforts to correct their imbalances. Another major slow-down in the global economy could have dangerous consequences for countries whose social and political fabric was already strained, as well as for the international financial system. Since the late 1970s the burden of global adjustment had fallen heavily on the developing countries. Adjustment should be combined with growth, and the responsibility for improving the international economic environment in order to make this possible fell heavily on the developed countries, individually and collectively.

7. Turning to the areas of trade, money and finance, the Secretary-General expressed concern about the growing trend towards protectionism. If carefully prepared to take into account the interests of all parties, a new round of trade negotiations would be helpful, and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) would have an important role to play in that regard. Preparations for a new round of trade negotiations would be facilitated by the removal of existing trade barriers; the renegotiation of the Multifibre Arrangement provided a good opportunity for such liberalization. He appealed for establishing or strengthening international commodity agreements, bringing the Common Fund for Commodities into operation, liberalizing access to the Compensatory Financing Facility of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and vigorously pursuing the UNCTAD proposal for a commodity-related compensatory facility. He favoured a new issue of special drawing rights and an expansion of the resource base of IMF and the World Bank. Noting the negative impact that unstable and misaligned currencies and large shifts in short-term capital movements had on production, investment and trade, he welcomed the initiative of the industrialized countries in undertaking a comprehensive discussion of the monetary system and said it was time to consider the developing countries' proposal for a international conference on money and finance for development. He stressed the need for increased official development assistance and the importance, especially for the lower-income countries, of both the mid-term review of the seventh replenishment of the International Development Association (IDA) and the replenishment of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Ways and means had to be found for resuming net commercial lending to developing countries.

8. Although alarm about the overall debt situation had receded, the problem had not been solved. For a large number of developing countries, the burden of debt servicing in relation to export earnings remained extremely heavy. In many cases there was a net transfer of resources from debtor to creditor countries, which had to be reversed if the development process was to resume. All aspects of the problem should be examined, including political aspects, since a satisfactory solution to the debt problem required not only continued adjustment on the part of debtor countries but also a more equitable sharing of the burden by creditor Governments and institutions, through lower interest rates and long-term reschedulings of interest and principal for the smaller as well as the larger debtors. Official creditors should consider writing off the debts of the low-income countries.

9. Referring to the situation in sub-Saharan Africa, the Secretary-General expressed concern that the mobilization of resources for humanitarian assistance

had not been paralleled by increased assistance for development and that development aid had been diverted to meet the present emergency. That was particularly worrisome in view of the expected decline in net resource flows to Africa over the next few years. He called on the international community to support the efforts of the Governments of African countries to deal with the long-standing structural problems of their economies.

10. Even if the greatest threats to the survival of mankind stemmed from political conflicts, economic prosperity and social progress were essential to the pursuit of peace and security. The Secretary-General expressed the hope that the debate in the Council would contribute to the examination of the role of multilateral co-operation in the world economy and of the ways in which the United Nations system could best serve its member States. Multilateral co-operation in economic affairs had been indispensable to the progress made in the world economy in the post-war period. Trends in the world economy pointed to the need for greater and more effective co-operation to eradicate poverty and redress inequities, but multilateral co-operation was currently beset by many difficulties. He pointed to the many areas in which the United Nations system had played a prominent role, such as technical assistance, humanitarian concerns, population, literacy, the codification of international law, environmental issues, national food strategies, and the status of women and their participation in development. Recalling such accomplishments should serve to strengthen international co-operation for the challenges that lay ahead, in particular, the need to create climate conducive to growth and development throughout the world.

11. The Secretary-General remarked that in today's world no single country - large or small - could press forward with success if the rest of the world remained inhospitable and unco-operative, and cited the warning contained in the report of the Committee for Development Planning against a drift away from order, stability, predictability and rules and towards greater arbitrariness, uncertainty and the exercise of power. Some of the tensions in the areas of trade, money and finance derived from the fact that, while the world economy had become more pluralistic, the multilateral system of co-operation had not adjusted to that shift. Co-operation among Governments had been weakened in some respects by the great expansion of private international links in production and finance, which increased efficiency but rendered national economies more vulnerable to external influences. In his view, a political reassessment of the multilateral system of international co-operation was necessary.

12. Much had to be done to make the United Nations more effective and useful to its members. The Secretary-General stressed the need to ensure greater complementarity in the work of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, and their subsidiary organs; greater concentration on issues; more thorough preparation; and more flexible forms of deliberation. He underlined the need to defend the independence of the Secretariat, improve its co-ordination, maximize its cost-effectiveness and curb the tendency to over-regulate in personnel matters. Relationships with non-governmental organizations should be improved and their contribution enhanced.

13. The Secretary-General expressed confidence in the future of the United Nations. There was no acceptable alternative to international co-operation in the economic and social spheres, but constant political efforts were required to adapt objectives, policies and methods of work. The fortieth session of the General Assembly would provide an opportunity to discuss those substantive and institutional issues and give political impetus to follow-up action.

General discussion

14. The general discussion focused on three topics: the current economic situation and the prospects for the world economy in the medium term; the need for an integrated approach to, and enhanced international co-operation in, the areas of money, finance, debt and trade; and the role of the United Nations in multilateral co-operation. In the context of the general discussion under item 3 of the agenda, special reference was made by most delegations to the critical situation in Africa, even though that was the specific subject for discussion under item 4.

Current economic situation

15. Many delegations noted that the rapid growth in world trade observed in 1984 - nearly 9 per cent - as well as the rate of growth of the developed market economies - nearly 5 per cent in real terms - represented a welcome improvement from earlier years of recession and slow growth. In the United States, gross domestic product (GDP) expanded by 6.8 per cent, and imports increased by some 25 per cent in volume terms. The GDP of other developed market economies increased by 3.3 per cent from an average of less than 1.5 per cent in 1981-1983. At the same time, inflation in the developed market economies continued to decline. The successful performance of some Asian countries, particularly the world's two most populous countries, was noted, as was the fact that the centrally planned economies experienced a rate of growth of nearly 4 per cent in their net material product.

16. However, the state of the world economy continued to be a major source of concern to all delegations. The worries expressed by the Secretary-General and the President of the Council in their opening statements regarding the diffusion and duration of the recovery were shared by most delegations. Many referred to the analysis in the World Economic Survey 1985 to the effect that, thus far, the recovery had failed to spread much beyond the United States and its main trading partners; among the industrialized countries the increase in economic activity had been uneven and, in most cases, insufficient to arrest rising levels of unemployment; and for a large number of developing countries 1984 had been yet another year of stagnant or declining per capita income and standards of living. The recovery so far had not been strong enough to reverse such negative trends as the rise in protectionism and the slump in primary commodity prices; that failure, in turn, weakened the transmission of growth impulses, with serious consequences for primary commodity exporters, particularly in Africa, and for highly indebted developing countries.

17. Another concern voiced by many delegations was that growth in the United States economy, which had been the main force behind the revival in trade and economic activity elsewhere in the world, was already slowing down. This raised the question whether the growth momentum could be maintained through expansionary impulses originating elsewhere. The special responsibility of the industrialized countries to make concerted efforts to take up the slack was generally recognized. In addition, it was pointed out that easing the severe external constraints faced by most developing countries would enable them to pursue somewhat less restrictive domestic policies and thus partake more fully in the global expansion. What emerged from the discussion was the urgency of sustaining the recovery in view of the serious political, social and financial repercussions that a new slow-down in the world economy would have.

18. Much concern was also expressed about the gross imbalances in the global economy, not only on account of the immediate problems they caused but also because of the additional uncertainty about the future they generated. Many references were made to the fiscal and trade deficits in the United States, which had led that country to absorb a large proportion of world savings and had resulted in a substantial over-valuation of the dollar, increased exchange rate volatility, high real interest rates and extensive protectionist measures.

19. Another major imbalance to which representatives referred was the net transfer of resources from developing to developed countries, which occurred for the first time in 1984. That reflected not only the considerable adjustment efforts made by developing countries to redress their external imbalances but also the inadequacy of the flows of resources to which those countries currently had access in relation both to their repayment schedules and to the burden inflicted upon them by historically high interest rates on a large volume of adjustable-interest debt. Some delegations claimed that transnational corporations also played a role in siphoning off resources from developing countries. It was pointed out that negative resource transfers of that magnitude - amounting in some cases to 5 per cent or more of GDP - could not continue indefinitely, since they jeopardized future growth by curtailing productive investment. It might not be politically feasible to go on transferring a sizeable portion of domestic output abroad in order to honour external obligations while pressing domestic needs went unmet.

20. In the course of the discussion on the state of the world economy, it was pointed out that excessive preoccupation with the strength and duration of the recovery should not obscure the fact that there remained fundamental structural problems in the world economy that a mere cyclical upturn, however vigorous, could not redress. In that connection, most delegations referred to the critical situation in sub-Saharan Africa, as well as the plight of low-income countries in other regions, whose fate appeared likely to remain problematic well into the next decade. Weak, undiversified economies, weighed down by population pressures and by the limitations imposed by underdevelopment itself, were not only extremely vulnerable to external shocks but were also often unable to take full advantage of propitious opportunities if and when they occurred. The mid-term review of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least-Developed Countries, to take place in September/October 1985, and the current session of the Economic and Social Council, at which a review of the immediate and longer-term aspects of the critical economic situation in Africa was being given priority consideration, provided the international community with opportunities to take stock of what had been accomplished and assess what still needed to be done in that important area of international co-operation.

21. The problem of indebtedness was another instance in which systemic, as opposed to merely conjunctural, factors were at play. It revealed the close interrelatedness of issues of money, trade and finance and the need for consistent and concerted action in those areas. It also highlighted the degree of interdependence that existed among all nations, not just debtors and creditors, since the future of the international monetary system was at stake. At the same time, it showed that that interdependence was highly asymmetrical, that developing countries had been made to bear a disproportionate share of the burden of adjustment so far and that, in a non-supportive international environment, difficult trade-offs existed between efforts to adjust and long-term development.

International economic co-operation

22. Shared concern about the future prospects of the world economy prompted most delegations to stress the need for enhanced international co-operation in the areas of money, finance, debt and trade. Of immediate concern was the prospective deceleration in growth in certain industrialized countries and the concomitant slow-down in world trade that could entail. Averting a new global recession required sustained non-inflationary growth in industrialized countries, greater monetary stability, enlarged market access for exports of developing countries and a larger flow of resources to those countries. It also required sustained adjustment efforts on the part of the developing countries to redress external and internal imbalances and to improve allocative efficiency in their economies.

23. Looking beyond the immediate future, concerted efforts were necessary to redress some fundamental inequities and deficiencies in the international monetary, financial and trading systems. In that context, measures were needed to restore the multilateral character of the trading régime, to improve the mechanisms for the creation and distribution of international liquidity, and to ensure an adequate flow of financial resources to developing countries in support of their development efforts. Ultimately, international co-operation was essential to safeguard world peace, and a major redeployment of military expenditures to peaceful uses would make a substantial and lasting contribution to that goal.

Trade

24. There was widespread concern about the rising tide of protectionism and general agreement on the need to contain and roll back protectionist measures in industrialized countries. That was important for continued growth in the industrialized countries themselves and absolutely essential for developing countries to regain their growth momentum and restore their creditworthiness. On those grounds, it was argued that the graduation of developing countries from preferential schemes and the erection of artificial and often discriminatory barriers against their exports were extremely ill-advised. It was also argued that calls for reciprocity in trade relations between developed and developing countries were unjustified not only on grounds of equity but also on grounds of efficiency since, in the face of severe foreign exchange constraints, import liberalization was less likely to increase imports than to shift their composition towards previously restricted non-essential items. The marked drift away from multilateralism in trade relations was noted with concern by many delegations. With increasing frequency the norms and regulations of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade were being bypassed in favour of bilateral solutions such as voluntary export restraints and orderly market arrangements; trade restrictions were increasingly being imposed against specific suppliers in violation of the GATT principle of non-discrimination; and trade restrictions were often used for political purposes. There was clearly a need to restore the multilateral character of the trading system and to strengthen the authority of GATT. To that end, many delegations reiterated the call for countries to live up to the commitments undertaken at the Tokyo round of multilateral trade negotiations, the Ministerial Meeting of GATT in 1982 and the sixth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

25. A large number of delegations from developed countries endorsed the launching of a new round of multilateral trade negotiations as the best way to make further progress in trade liberalization. It was noted that trade liberalization, however

necessary on economic grounds, was not an easy task politically, in the face of high unemployment and uncertain growth prospects, and that the launching of a new round of trade negotiations might provide the necessary political impetus for such an endeavour. It was emphasized that if the new round of trade negotiations was to succeed, it should be carefully prepared, there should be a wide consensus on what was to be discussed and with whom, the largest possible participation should be secured and the agenda should reflect the interests of all participants.

26. Delegations from several developing countries voiced reservations about a new round of multilateral trade negotiations. Some suggested that, as a sign of good will, the commitments already undertaken under GATT should be honoured before a new round of trade negotiations was launched. Others were of the opinion that the real test of the commitment of the industrialized countries to liberalizing trade in areas of export interest to developing countries would be the dismantling of the Multifibre Arrangement when it expired in 1986 and bringing the textile trade under normal GATT rules. Some expressed serious reservations about mixing negotiations on trade in goods with negotiations on services and investments, where the same norms and principles might not apply, and suggested a two-track approach in order to avoid undesirable overlapping of issues of a different nature. Others expressed their readiness to participate in a new round of trade negotiations on goods only, provided that sectors of export interest to developing countries, such as agriculture, tropical products, natural resource-based products and textiles, were included; that the principle of special and differential treatment of developing countries on a non-reciprocal basis was preserved; and that priority was given to the unfinished business from the Tokyo round and the 1982 Ministerial Meeting.

27. Noting the links between rising trade tensions among nations and international monetary instability, several delegations called for parallel efforts to achieve greater stability in financial and currency markets. It was pointed out that tariff cuts and the removal of non-tariff barriers would have no lasting trade-enhancing impact if they could easily be counteracted by erratic exchange rate fluctuations. It was also pointed out that currency misalignments, exchange rate volatility and high interest rates led to misallocation of resources, and that they increased risk and uncertainty and discouraged investment, production and trade. It was further noted that, in order to avert the threat of protectionism, positive adjustment policies, as well as measures to increase factor mobility and improve employment conditions, were necessary.

28. Another area where action was urgently needed, in the view of many delegations, was commodities, whose average prices, in dollar terms, currently stood some 25 per cent below their 1980 levels. The slump in commodity markets had been a major reason why more than 70 developing countries, many of them in Africa, that derived most of their foreign exchange earnings from primary commodity exports had not been reached by the recovery. For primary commodity exporters, including oil producers, with a sizeable debt denominated in dollars, the burden of such debt was becoming unbearable. Yet, despite the need for greater stability in commodity markets and for enlarged schemes to stabilize the export earnings of producers, little progress was being made in preventing the subsidization and dumping of certain agricultural products, in negotiating new commodity agreements with economic provisions, in implementing the Integrated Programme for Commodities and in bringing into operation the Common Fund for Commodities. Moreover, access to the IMF Compensatory Financing Facility had even been made more restricted and conditional. Delegations therefore urged that efforts should be made to strengthen co-operation between consumers and producers in the field of commodities; that

countries that had not yet ratified the Common Fund should do so; that access to the Compensatory Financing Facility should be liberalized; and that the UNCTAD proposal for an additional commodity-specific compensatory financing facility should be pursued.

Money

29. There was general agreement on the need for greater monetary stability, and many delegations noted the effect that the disarray of recent years had had on trade balances, protectionist pressures, commodity prices, destabilizing capital flows, interest rates and the real burden of the external debt. It was also a common view that greater stability in financial and currency markets could be achieved through greater co-ordination of the macro-economic policies of the key countries, the removal of unjustified barriers and structural rigidities and, where appropriate, central bank intervention. Much attention was given to the need for enhanced multilateral surveillance to monitor policy harmonization and ensure that the international repercussions of the domestic policies of major countries were fully taken into account. A number of delegations recognized that multilateral surveillance might not be sufficient to ensure monetary stability and argued for the establishment of a compensatory facility in IMF to buffer the impact of erratic changes in interest rates and currency values.

30. Another major concern was the adequacy of the existing mechanisms for liquidity creation and distribution, in particular for meeting the liquidity needs of developing countries. Some delegations were of the view that one of the fundamental shortcomings of the existing international monetary system had been its failure to establish the special drawing right as the main international reserve asset, with provisions for systematic liquidity creation and distribution in response to the growth and stability needs of the world economy. Instead, the supply of international liquidity was the by-product of the policies followed by reserve currency countries in pursuit of largely domestic objectives, and the creation and distribution of international liquidity were largely effected through private banks. In the view of those delegations, the provision of international liquidity should not be subject to the vagaries of a market to which most developing countries did not even have access and which exposed those that did to sudden shifts, in response not only to changes in their own creditworthiness but also to market conditions beyond their control. In the view of many delegations from developing countries, it was thus urgent to reform existing monetary arrangements and, an international conference on money and finance should be convened for that purpose. The convening of such a conference was strongly supported by delegations from the centrally planned economy countries.

31. The difficulty of ensuring an adequate supply of liquidity to countries with little or no access to private financial markets was, in fact, a pre-occupation voiced by many delegations. Some were of the view that that problem could be overcome within the framework of existing arrangements and institutions. Most of the affected countries, that is, those with limited or no access to private credit, while ultimately favouring a more equitable international monetary system, pressed for immediate measures to alleviate their difficulties, such as a new allocation of special drawing rights; advancing the date of the ninth general review of quotas in IMF with a view to enlarging the quotas substantially; and relaxing the conditionality on IMF resources to take into account production and employment considerations.

Finance

32. A central theme in the discussion on development finance was the need to make short-term adjustments compatible with long-term growth. In a period of financial scarcity, a large proportion of resources for development would necessarily have to be generated by the developing countries themselves through increased domestic savings and would have to be channelled to areas where their contribution to the development process would be maximal. However, it was equally clear that those efforts had to be supported by adequate flows of finance if they were to succeed. In that regard, the negative net transfer of resources experienced in the past year was most disturbing. An adequate balance between adjustment and financing had to be found so that development prospects would not be jeopardized. In that context, attention was drawn to the detrimental impact that the severe adjustment in many countries was already having on nutritional standards, infant mortality rates and unemployment levels and, not least, on political and social stability. Few would deny that there were limits beyond which austerity measures should not be pressed.

33. Many delegations pointed to the need to endow multilateral financial institutions with sufficient resources for them to adequately support adjustment programmes and fulfil their role as financial catalysts. Several delegations stated their willingness to consider a general increase in the capital of the World Bank, additional commitments to the International Development Association, and the replenishment of the International Fund for Agricultural Development. Greater co-financing of projects by the World Bank and regional development banks was also mentioned as a way of stretching financial resources for development. In addition, the potential contribution that foreign direct investment could make in transferring not only capital but also technology and skills to developing countries was pointed out. In that regard, the representative of the World Bank noted the positive role that the proposed Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency could play by issuing guarantees for foreign investment against non-commercial risks and by supplementing the activities of the Bank and the International Finance Corporation in research, investment information and technical assistance. In principle, the Agency would also facilitate investment flows among developing countries.

34. The special financial needs of certain categories of countries were also discussed. Especially in the case of the lower-income countries, it was generally acknowledged that increased levels of highly concessional official development assistance (ODA) were needed, since those countries had virtually no access to commercial credit. To that end, donor countries were once again urged to meet their ODA targets of 0.7 per cent of GNP for all developing countries and 0.15 per cent of GNP for the least developed among them, and to make the disbursement of those funds more expeditious and flexible. For lower middle-income countries that had only limited access to commercial credit but did not qualify for highly concessional finance, a proposal was made for the opening of a "third window" at the World Bank.

35. The need for greater efficiency and co-ordination of development assistance on the part of both donors and recipients was a recurrent theme in the discussion. In that regard, the potential contribution of such mechanisms as the consultative group meetings organized by the World Bank and the round-table conferences organized by the United Nations Development Programme was noted. It was pointed out, however, that a more effective utilization of resources could not be considered a substitute for an increase in the volume of aid.

Debt

36. Despite the measure of success achieved so far in the management of the debt crisis, much concern was expressed about the persisting underlying problems. It was generally acknowledged that the debt problem had to be seen in the broader context of trade and monetary relations and development finance, in view of the impact that high interest rates, exchange rate instability, financial stringency, depressed commodity markets and creeping protectionism had on the debt-servicing capacity of developing countries. It was likewise acknowledged that the solution of the debt problem was a matter of shared responsibility requiring sustained, determined and co-ordinated efforts on the part of debtors and creditors, multilateral institutions and commercial banks. Some delegations stressed the need for an intergovernmental dialogue between creditor and debtor countries, in order to ensure that the burden of adjustment was equitably shared. Many others emphasized the need to continue the pragmatic case-by-case approach by which solutions to particular debt problems were tailored to the specific circumstances of each case.

37. The adoption of sound domestic policies on the part of the debtor countries was generally considered a condition sine qua non for redressing their internal and external imbalances; at the same time, the need for a supportive external environment was emphasized. Such an environment was generally deemed to entail sustained, non-inflationary growth in industrialized countries, enlarged and predictable market access for the exports of developing countries, stable commodity markets, stable and undistorted currency markets, lower real interest rates, and greater financial flows. Unfavourable external conditions in recent years had not only placed a disproportionate share of the burden of adjustment on debtor countries but had actually negated many of the development gains achieved in earlier years. Many delegations stressed the need to ensure - through constructive dialogue - that in the future the domestic efforts of debtor countries would not be undermined by adverse external conditions beyond their control and that the adjustment imposed on them would not be so severe as to jeopardize their longer-term growth and development prospects.

38. Certain positive developments in debt relief efforts, such as multi-year reschedulings and lower rescheduling costs, were noted with satisfaction. A number of delegations called for further efforts in that regard and proposed, among other things, the extension of repayment, grace and consolidation periods, the creation of a compensatory interest and exchange rate facility, the capping of interest rates, linking debt-service payments to export receipts, and easing the conditionality on the use of resources from IMF and the World Bank. It was also suggested that technical assistance in debt-service management could help ease the burden of the debt. In the case of the least developed and other low-income countries, a plea was made by several delegations to have all or part of their official debt annulled. Several donor countries reported that they had either cancelled or made retrospective adjustments on such debts, and others stated that they were considering doing so.

39. Beyond immediate debt-relief operations, it was generally recognized that the solution to the debt problem ultimately required debtor countries to be able to expand their production and exports, restore their creditworthiness and sustain their development momentum.

Multilateral co-operation and the role of the United Nations

40. In the area of international co-operation, most delegations deplored the drift away from multilateralism and underlined many of the concerns expressed in the report of the Committee for Development Planning. In the economic as in the political sphere, unilateralism undermined confidence and threatened the order and stability of an international system painstakingly built over the past 40 years on the foundation of the Charter of the United Nations, which had benefited large countries as well as small. In the view of many delegations, the realities of interdependence among nations and the interrelatedness of issues, as well as the vexing challenges that lay ahead, made the need for concerted international action more pressing than ever. It was thus urgent to recapture the willingness to co-operate, to find joint solutions to global problems, to work towards a common view of the world and to strive together for such goals as full employment, the eradication of poverty, economic development, and peace among nations.

41. It was noted that one of the reasons for the decline in multilateralism was that it seemed slow and cumbersome and that, as a result, countries with leverage turned to bilateral and even unilateral solutions or bloc actions. It was pointed out that reality itself had become increasingly complex, that the world today was made up of countries at different stages of development, with diverse potentials and a variety of socio-economic, cultural and political systems, and whose valid aspirations had somehow to be taken into account. That a more pluralistic international community made international decision-making more difficult was a fact, but not an argument for retreating from multilateral co-operation. Rather it was an argument for improving negotiating processes and techniques in order to make multilateralism work.

42. By Article 55 of the Charter, the United Nations shall promote international co-operation for economic and social progress and development. Disappointment with achievements in those areas was said to be widespread, but many suggestions were made for improvements in the way in which Member States made use of the United Nations forum. Identifying what could, at any given time, be usefully discussed in the United Nations, and how such discussions could best be pursued, would enhance confidence in the United Nations as a body for serious and realistic discussions. In the view of several delegations, the deliberative function should be recognized as allowing for an honest exploration of vital issues and for greater mutual understanding, which could provide the basis for common action. The General Assembly, as the only forum for political debate with universal representation on a basis of equality, had an indispensable role to play in setting broad directions for international efforts and ensuring that the interests of all countries were taken into account. At the same time, several delegations emphasized that the proper fora for the negotiations of particular issues were the specialized bodies and that a clearer demarcation of functions would greatly improve the effectiveness of the United Nations.

43. A number of delegations were of the view that the role of the United Nations was deliberately being undermined by certain countries that had lost interest in multilateral co-operation. They noted that no major initiative launched in the United Nations since the proclamation of the establishment of a new international economic order had yielded any tangible results and pointed to the lack of progress in the review and appraisal of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade; in the implementation of the Integrated Programme for

Commodities and the bringing into operation of the Common Fund for Commodities; in the negotiation of international codes of conduct on transnational corporations and on the transfer of technology; in the reform of the international monetary and financial system; and, not least, in the launching of global negotiations on international economic co-operation for development.

44. Concerning the role of the Economic and Social Council itself, many delegations stated that the Council was the appropriate forum for evolving an integrated approach to the debate of interrelated issues in international economic co-operation and for narrowing differences in that field, provided that rhetorical exchanges were minimized and the debates focused on issues of substance. In that regard, a number of delegations voiced satisfaction that, at the current session of the Council, the discussion had been of high quality and germane to the topic at hand. Some delegations suggested that more informal consultations, such as those held throughout the session, would be helpful in promoting a frank exchange of views. Others suggested that a change in the format of proceedings from a sequential reading of prepared statements to a more interactive type of participation would help make the discussion more effective. It was also suggested that the executive heads of the specialized agencies should participate more actively at the committee level on issues within the competence of their organizations, rather than making statements in plenary meetings, and that the Council might establish small negotiating groups to deal with key issues with a view to bringing about agreed solutions. It was further suggested that an effort to synthesize the debate in the form of agreed conclusions or a President's summary might also help stimulate the debate. At the same time, it was noted that excessive zeal in drafting resolutions on whose substance there was no real agreement only served to trivialize the work of the Council. Finally, many delegations echoed the concerns voiced by the Secretary-General concerning the need to rationalize the work of the Council and, like him, expressed the hope that the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations would bring a new sense of purpose to the Organization.

* * *

45. Statements were made in the general discussion by the representatives of Brazil, Luxembourg (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations which are members of the European Economic Community), Sri Lanka, Yugoslavia, Mexico, Canada, Morocco, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Federal Republic of Germany, China, Sweden (on behalf also of Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Norway), Poland, Romania, France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, the Netherlands, Bangladesh, Japan, Bulgaria (who also made a further statement on behalf of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), New Zealand, Nigeria, Algeria, Suriname, the German Democratic Republic, Spain, Venezuela, India, Indonesia, Ecuador, Haiti, Turkey, Thailand, Somalia, Argentina, Djibouti, Malaysia, Zaire, Saudi Arabia and Colombia.

46. Statements in the general discussion were also made by the observers for Egypt (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations which are members of the Group of 77), the Sudan, Viet Nam, Italy, Switzerland, Chile, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Czechoslovakia, Mongolia, Pakistan, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Kenya, Peru, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Ethiopia, Nicaragua, Cuba and Swaziland.

47. The Chairman of the Committee for Development Planning made a statement.
48. The Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs and the Under-Secretary-General for Technical Co-operation for Development made statements.
49. Statements were made by the Executive Secretaries of the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Deputy Executive Secretary and Officer-in-Charge of the Economic Commission for Western Asia.
50. Statements were made by the Executive Director of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, the Executive Director of the World Food Council and the Deputy Secretary-General and Officer-in-Charge of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. Statements were also made by the representatives of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Children's Fund.
51. The Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, the Director-General of the International Labour Office and the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization made statements. A statement was also made by the representative of the World Bank.
52. In accordance with rule 79 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council, the representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations participated in the general debate: European Economic Community, International Center for Public Enterprises in Developing Countries, Council for Mutual Economic Assistance.
53. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status, category I, with the Council made statements: International Chamber of Commerce, World Muslim Congress, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, World Confederation of Labour, Inter-Parliamentary Union, World Federation of Trade Unions.

Documentation

54. The Council had before it the following documents:

(a) Letter dated 18 March 1985 from the Minister, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/40/184-E/1985/61);

(b) Letter dated 9 May 1985 from the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/40/303-E/1985/76);

(c) Letter dated 9 May 1985 from the Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/40/305);

(d) Letter dated 17 May 1985 from the Permanent Representative of Czechoslovakia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/40/327-E/1985/88);

(e) Letter dated 28 May 1985 from the Permanent Representative of Czechoslovakia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/40/342-E/1985/119);

(f) Note verbale dated 24 June 1985 from the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/40/407-E/1985/131);

(g) Letter dated 3 July 1985 from the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/40/458-E/1985/135);

(h) Letter dated 4 July 1985 from the Permanent Representative of Poland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/40/459-E/1985/133);

(i) Letter dated 9 July 1985 from the representatives of the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/40/476-E/1985/137);

(j) Letter dated 12 July 1985 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/40/477-E/1985/136);

(k) Letter dated 9 July 1985 from the representatives of Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/40/489-E/1985/143);

(l) Report of the Committee for Development Planning on its twenty-first and resumed twenty-first sessions (E/1985/29); 1/

(m) World Economic Survey, 1985: Current Trends and Policies in the World Economy (E/1985/54); 2/

(n) Summary of the economic and social survey of Asia and the Pacific, 1984 (E/1985/66);

(o) Summary of the survey of economic and social developments in the region of the Economic Commission for Western Asia, 1985 (E/1985/77);

(p) Summary of the survey of economic and social conditions in Africa, 1983-1984 (E/1985/81);

1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1985, Supplement No. 9.

2/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.II.C.1.

(q) Summary of the survey of economic and social conditions in Latin America, 1984 (E/1985/98);

(r) Summary of the economic survey of Europe in 1984-1985 (E/1985/101);

(s) Summary of the report of the Secretary-General on the overall socio-economic perspective of the world economy to the year 2000 (E/1985/102);

(t) Letter dated 24 June 1985 from the Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (E/1985/130);

(u) Statement submitted by the World Futures Studies Federation, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Council, on the Roster (E/1985/NGO/3).

ACTION TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL

Long-term trends in economic development

55. At the 44th meeting, on 17 July, the representative of Poland introduced a draft decision entitled "Long-term trends in economic development" (E/1985/L.46), which read as follows:

"The Economic and Social Council decides to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

'Long-term trends in economic development

'The General Assembly,

'Recalling its resolution 3508 (XXX) of 15 December 1975, by which it initiated ten years ago the examination, within the United Nations system, of long-term trends in world economic and social development,

'Recalling also its resolution 37/249 of 21 December 1982, by which it decided, inter alia, that the overall socio-economic perspective of the world economy to the year 2000 should be revised and updated,

'Convinced that a better knowledge of long-term trends in economic and social development can form a sound basis for policies determining development strategies and economic co-operation on a national, regional and global scale,

'Noting that, despite certain improvements in the world economic situation, the long-term trends and prospects for many countries and regions remain uncertain, with persistent underdevelopment and growing social insecurity,

'Conscious of the urgent necessity of reversing the growing arms race, which absorbs the resources that might otherwise satisfy acute social and economic development requirements, especially those of the developing countries,

'Considering that the examination of long-term trends in global socio-economic development should contribute to confidence-building in international economic relations and greater economic security for all countries,

'1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the overall socio-economic perspective of the world economy to the year 2000;

'2. Decides to retain the practice of the submission of comprehensive reports every five years, the next to be prepared in time for the deliberations on the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade;

'3. Commends Member States and United Nations organizations, organs and bodies for their contributions to the implementation of Assembly resolution 37/249 and calls upon them to continue to give all possible support in this endeavour;

'4. Requests the Secretary-General, when preparing the updated version of the overall socio-economic perspective, to focus on the conclusions pertaining to possible domains, mechanisms and forms of international economic co-operation designed to facilitate structural adjustment within the world economy and bring closer a new international economic order;

'5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fifth session an item entitled 'Long-term trends in social and economic development' and requests the Secretary-General to submit to it at that session the report referred to in paragraph 4 above.'

56. At the 52nd meeting, on 25 July, the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Krister Kumlin (Sweden), introduced a draft decision (E/1985/L.51), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft decision E/1985/L.46.

57. At the same meeting, the Council adopted draft decision E/1985/L.51. For the final text, see Council decision 1985/178.

58. In the light of the adoption of draft decision E/1985/L.51, draft decision E/1985/L.46 was withdrawn by the sponsor.

59. Also at the 52nd meeting, the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Kumlin (Sweden), introduced a second draft decision entitled "Long-term trends in economic development" (E/1985/L.52), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations.

60. At the same meeting, the Council adopted draft decision E/1985/L.52. For the final text, see Council decision 1985/179.

International economic security: a major condition for
accelerating the economic decolonization of developing
countries

61. At the 44th meeting, on 17 July, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics introduced a draft decision entitled "International economic security: a major condition for accelerating the economic decolonization of developing countries" (E/1985/L.47), which read as follows:

"The Economic and Social Council recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

'International economic security: a major condition
for accelerating the economic decolonization of
developing countries

'The General Assembly,

'Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the twenty-fifth anniversary of which is being observed by the United Nations this year,

'Recognizing that, despite the attainment of political independence, many developing countries continue to be subjected to exploitation and inequality and that the process of economic decolonization of those countries has effectively slowed down,

'Referring to its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation, and 35/56 of 5 December 1980, which laid down the foundations of the new international economic order,

'Recalling the principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, in particular the inadmissibility of the threat or use of force in international relations,

'Referring to the principle embodied in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States of the need to promote collective economic security for development, in particular of the developing countries, with strict respect for the sovereign equality of each State and through the co-operation of the whole international community,

'Reaffirming support for the demands of the developing States regarding the acceleration of their economic decolonization, the achievement of full sovereignty over their natural and other resources, their economic activities, full and equal participation in the solution of international economic problems, and the cessation of the outflow of capital and the brain drain,

'Noting that the preservation in international economic relations of any forms of exploitation, inequality and oppression, colonialism and neo-colonialism, the application of policies of blackmail, economic aggression, boycott, embargo, and trade, credit and technological blockade, and the use of economic relations for interference in the domestic affairs of States, undermine their economic security and disrupt the development of broad, equal and mutually beneficial international co-operation,

'1. Considers that the safeguarding of the economic security of all sovereign States should be regarded as a fundamental principle of relations between States and of international economic co-operation and as a vital condition for accelerating the economic decolonization of developing countries;

'2. Calls for the elimination from international economic relations of any forms of inequality, exploitation, colonialism and neo-colonialism, economic aggression and blackmail, boycott, and trade, credit and technological blockade, of any forms of interference in the domestic affairs of sovereign States, and of the use of economic relations as an instrument of political pressure, considering this to be a gross violation of the generally accepted norms of international law, the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe;

'3. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive report containing information on the use of measures constituting a threat to economic security and impeding the economic development of sovereign States for submission to the General Assembly at its forty-first session;

'4. Calls upon Governments to provide the Secretary-General with the necessary information requested in paragraph 3 above.'

62. At the 52nd meeting, on 25 July, the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Krister Kumlin (Sweden), introduced a draft decision (E/1985/L.55), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft decision E/1985/L.47).

63. At the same meeting, the Council adopted draft decision E/1985/L.55. For the final text, see Council decision 1985/180.

Conducting constructive and action-oriented international economic negotiations

64. At the 44th meeting, on 17 July, the representative of the German Democratic Republic introduced a draft resolution entitled "Conducting constructive and action-oriented international economic negotiations" (E/1985/L.48), which read as follows:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Reaffirming the fundamental purposes of the United Nations as laid down in its Charter,

"Recalling that the United Nations should promote, among others, higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development, as well as solutions of international economic, social and related problems,

"Bearing in mind that conditions of stability and well-being are necessary for peaceful and friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples,

"Particularly concerned at the deterioration in the international economic environment, especially at the very grave economic situation suffered by developing countries,

"Alarmed about the growing tendency to solve internal economic problems at the expense of other countries and to undermine normal economic and scientific-technological co-operation among nations,

"Concerned also at the impasse in international economic negotiations within the United Nations on nearly all substantial issues as a result of a retreat from multilateral co-operation by certain developed countries,

"Noting the important role and historic responsibility of Governments, statesmen and politicians for promoting international economic co-operation and for conducting fruitful multilateral negotiations to this end,

"Stressing that the purposes of the United Nations can be achieved only under conditions in which States comply fully with their obligations assumed under the Charter,

"Expressing the hope and desire that the year 1985 - the year of the fortieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations - will mark the beginning of an era of durable and global economic and social co-operation, of strengthening the role of the Organization and of further enhancing its effectiveness in this regard,

"1. Reaffirms that co-operation among all nations should be based on respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of each State, including the right of each people to choose freely its own socio-economic and political system and to exercise full sovereignty over its wealth and natural resources;

"2. Appeals to all States Members of the United Nations to reaffirm their solemn pledge to take joint and separate action in co-operation with the Organization for the achievement of the purposes set forth in the Charter on international economic and social co-operation and to contribute their genuine share of efforts to this end;

"3. Emphasizes the urgency for all Member States to contribute actively to creating an atmosphere favourable to fruitful and constructive negotiations on international economic problems within the United Nations;

"4. Stresses the willingness of the Member States to strengthen the United Nations Organization as a forum for constructive dialogue and joint efforts in solving international economic problems, especially problems

confronting the developing countries, on the basis of the principle of equality, mutual benefit and respect for the legitimate interests and rights of all peoples, and with due regard for the real situation in the world;

"5. Urges all Member States to conduct in good faith the negotiations initiated in recent years in the United Nations on international economic problems and to bring them to a successful end by reaching mutually acceptable and just solutions in accordance with the objectives agreed upon;

"6. Invites the Secretary-General to report, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its forty-first session on the progress achieved in this regard and to make conclusions as appropriate."

65. At its 52nd meeting, on 25 July, the Council had before it amendments (E/1985/L.57) to draft resolution E/1985/L.48, submitted by the United States of America, by which:

(a) The title would read: "Strengthening the role of the United Nations in the field of international economic and social co-operation";

(b) The second preambular paragraph would be replaced by the following text:

"Recognizing that the creation of conditions of stability and well-being is necessary for peaceful and friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples";

(c) The third preambular paragraph would be replaced by the following text:

"Reaffirming that the United Nations, with a view to the creation of such conditions, should promote higher standards of living, full employment, conditions of economic and social progress and development, solutions of international economic, social, health, and related problems, international cultural and educational co-operation, and universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion";

(d) The fourth preambular paragraph would read:

"Concerned at the serious economic situation of developing countries";

(e) The fifth preambular paragraph would be deleted;

(f) The sixth preambular paragraph would be deleted;

(g) In the seventh preambular paragraph, the words "statesmen and politicians" would be deleted;

(h) In the ninth preambular paragraph, the words "an era" would be replaced by the words "a new era";

(i) Operative paragraph 1 would be replaced by the following text:

"Reaffirms that co-operation among all nations should be based on respect for the right of peoples to self-determination by virtue of which they freely

determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development";

(j) In operative paragraph 2, the words "and to contribute their genuine share of effort to this end" would be deleted;

(k) In operative paragraph 3, the word "urgency" would be replaced by the word "need" and the words "to continue" would be inserted after the word "States";

(l) In operative paragraph 4, the words "and social" would be inserted after the word "economic" and the words "on the basis of the principle of equality, mutual benefit and respect for the legitimate interests and rights of all peoples, and with due regard for the real situation of the world" would be replaced by the words "in order to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom";

(m) Operative paragraph 6 would be deleted.

66. Also at the 52nd meeting, the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Krister Kumlin (Sweden), introduced a draft decision (E/1985/L.56), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/1985/L.48.

67. The representative of the United States of America made a statement.

68. At the same meeting, the Council adopted draft decision E/1985/L.56. For the final text, see Council decision 1985/181.

Alternative formats of meetings of the Economic and Social Council

69. At the 44th meeting, on 17 July, the representative of Mexico, on behalf of Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, 3/ Mexico, Morocco and the United States of America, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Alternative formats of meetings of the Economic and Social Council" (E/1985/L.49). Subsequently, Australia, 3/ Jamaica, 3/ Japan and New Zealand joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, which read as follows:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Bearing in mind that, in pursuance of its resolution 1984/82 of 27 July 1984, it should consider ways and means of strengthening the role of the United Nations and of increasing the effectiveness of its work in the economic and social sectors,

"Recalling its resolution 1982/50 of 28 July 1982 and the oral report made by the President of the Economic and Social Council during the second

3/ In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

regular session of 1983, 4/ in which he stated that, during the consultations on the revitalization of the Economic and Social Council, a renewed examination of the alternatives for the Council's own schedule of meetings was recommended, including the following possibilities or combinations thereof:

"(a) The present format, namely, an organizational session and two regular sessions, the spring session in New York and the summer session at Geneva;

"(b) The present format, but with the second regular session held in New York;

"(c) Concentration of all the work in one - perhaps slightly extended - regular session, which could be held either in New York or at Geneva or could alternate between the two,

"Decides to request the Secretary-General to prepare a report on all the practical implications of the alternative formats of meetings of the Council referred to above for the consideration of the Council in 1986."

70. At the 52nd meeting, on 25 July, statements were made by the representatives of France, Mexico, the United States of America, New Zealand, Canada, India, Colombia and Brazil and the observer for Belgium. The observer for Pakistan made a statement in which he proposed that no action be taken on the draft resolution. The representative of Bangladesh supported that proposal.

71. The representative of France made a statement and requested a roll-call vote on the motion.

72. The Council decided, by a roll-call vote of 22 to 13, with 12 abstentions, to take no action on draft resolution E/1985/L.49. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Bangladesh, Botswana, Bulgaria, Congo, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Guinea, India, Luxembourg, Poland, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, Spain, Sweden, Uganda, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Yugoslavia, Zaire.

Against: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, Finland, Iceland, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, New Zealand, United States of America, Venezuela.

Abstaining: Algeria, China, Haiti, Indonesia, Malaysia, Netherlands, Nigeria, Romania, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Thailand, Turkey.

73. Statements were made after the vote by the representatives of the Netherlands, Colombia and Sierra Leone; the observer for Pakistan also made a statement (see E/1985/SR.52).

4/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/38/3), annex IV.

Reports considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with its general discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments

74. At its 52nd meeting, on 25 July, on the proposal of the President, the Council took note of the World Economic Survey, 1985: Current Trends and Policies in the World Economy (E/1985/54); 5/ the summary of the economic and social survey of Asia and the Pacific, 1984 (E/1985/66); the summary of the survey of economic and social development in the region of the Economic Commission for Western Asia, 1985 (E/1985/77); the summary of the survey of economic and social conditions in Africa, 1983-1984 (E/1985/81); the summary of the survey of economic and social conditions in Latin America, 1984 (E/1985/98); the summary of the economic survey of Europe in 1984-1985 (E/1985/101); and the report of the Committee for Development Planning on its twenty-first and resumed twenty-first sessions (E/1985/29). 6/ For the text of the decision, see Council decision 1985/182.

75. Statements concerning the report of the Committee for Development Planning on its twenty-first and resumed twenty-first sessions were made by the representatives of New Zealand, Bangladesh, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the observers for Pakistan and Australia (see E/1985/SR.52).

Statement of the President of the Economic and Social Council on the general discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments

76. At the 52nd meeting, on 25 July, the President of the Council read out a summary that he had prepared of the general discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments.

77. Statements were made by the representatives of India, Yugoslavia, Bangladesh, China, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Netherlands, Sierra Leone, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America (see E/1985/SR.52).

78. At the same meeting, in the light of the discussion, the Council decided to transmit the President's summary, as a statement of the President, to the General Assembly at its fortieth session. For the text of the decision, see Council decision 1985/183.

5/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.II.C.1.

6/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1985, Supplement No. 9.

Chapter III

QUESTIONS CONSIDERED WITHOUT REFERENCE TO A SESSIONAL COMMITTEE

A. Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

1. The Council considered the question of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination at its first regular session of 1985 (agenda item 2). It had before it the report of the Secretary-General prepared in accordance with paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 39/16 (E/1985/16).
2. The Council considered the item at its 10th to 14th, 16th and 23rd meetings, on 9, 10, 13, 14, 17 and 29 May 1985. An account of the discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (E/1985/SR.10-14, 16 and 23).
3. At its 10th meeting, on 9 May, the Council heard an introductory statement by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to Co-ordinate Activities concerning the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, as well as a statement by the Vice-Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid (see E/1985/SR.10).
4. During the general discussion of the item, the Council heard statements by the observer for Norway (on behalf also of Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Sweden) (see E/1985/SR.10); the representatives of Japan, Brazil, Romania, Poland, Mexico, Canada, Yugoslavia and Turkey (see E/1985/SR.11); the representatives of Nigeria, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Spain, and the observers for Italy (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations which are members of the European Economic Community) and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic (see E/1985/SR.12); the representatives of India, the German Democratic Republic, Venezuela, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Somalia and Indonesia and the observer for the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic (see E/1985/SR.13); and the representatives of Zimbabwe, Ecuador, China, Guinea, Algeria, Rwanda, Morocco, Argentina, Uganda and Bulgaria, and the observers for Mongolia and Cuba (see E/1985/SR.14).

ACTION TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

5. At the 16th meeting, on 17 May, the observer for Mozambique, 1/ on behalf of the African States, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination" (E/1985/L.26).

1/ In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

6. At the same meeting, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to Co-ordinate Activities concerning the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination made a statement (see E/1985/SR.16).
7. At its 23rd meeting, on 29 May, the Council adopted the draft resolution. For the final text, see Council resolution 1985/19.
8. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the United States of America made a statement (see E/1985/SR.23).
9. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General to Co-ordinate Activities concerning the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination also made a statement (see E/1985/SR.23).

B. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination
against Women

10. The Council considered the question of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women at its first regular session of 1985 (agenda item 4). It had before it the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its fourth session 2/ and a letter dated 25 April 1985 from the Permanent Representative of Democratic Kampuchea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/40/267-E/1985/69).
11. The Council considered the item at its 14th, 16th, 20th and 22nd meetings, on 14, 17, 23 and 28 May 1985. An account of the discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (E/1985/SR.14, 16, 20 and 22).
12. At its 14th meeting, on 14 May, the Council heard an introductory statement by the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (see E/1985/SR.14).
13. During the general discussion of the item, the Council heard statements by the representatives of New Zealand, Canada, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Bulgaria and the observer for the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic (see E/1985/SR.16).

ACTION TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination
against Women

14. At the 20th meeting, on 23 May, the representative of Sweden, on behalf of Australia, 1/ Bulgaria, Canada, China, Ecuador, the German Democratic Republic, Greece, 1/ Mexico, Portugal, 1/ Rwanda and Sweden, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women" (E/1985/L.28) and orally revised it by deleting the words "including redeployment as required" after the word "efforts" in operative paragraph 6.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 45 (A/40/45).

15. At the same meeting, the representative of the Secretariat made a statement on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution (see E/1985/SR.20).

16. At the 22nd meeting, on 28 May, Costa Rica and Iceland joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, as orally revised.

17. At the same meeting, the Council adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised. For the final text, see Council resolution 1985/18.

18. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the United States of America made a statement (see E/1985/SR.22).

C. Activities for the advancement of women; United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace

19. The Council considered the question of the activities for the advancement of women; United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace at its first regular session of 1985 (agenda item 5). It had before it the following documents:

(a) Letter dated 19 March 1985 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/40/188-E/1985/60);

(b) Report of the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the Preparatory Body for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace on its third and resumed third sessions (A/CONF.116/PC/25 and Add.1 and Corr.1, Add.2 and Corr.1 and Add.3);

(c) Report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on its fifth session (E/1985/44);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the review of selected major issues in the medium-term plans of the United Nations system: role of women in development (E/1985/45);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/30, entitled "Suppression of the traffic in persons and of the exploitation of the prostitution of others" (E/1985/46);

(f) Letter dated 16 May 1985 from the Chairman of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination to the President of the Economic and Social Council (E/1985/86).

20. The Council considered the item at its 19th, 20th and 25th to 27th meetings, on 22, 23, 30 and 31 May and 20 June 1985. An account of the discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (E/1985/SR.19, 20 and 25-27).

21. At its 19th meeting, on 22 May, the Council heard introductory statements by the Secretary-General of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, the Director of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, and the representative of the Office for Programme Planning

and Co-ordination of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs (see E/1985/SR.19).

22. During the general discussion of the time, the Council heard statements by the representatives of Canada, Venezuela, New Zealand, the German Democratic Republic, China, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Bangladesh and Poland and the observers for Italy (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations which are members of the European Economic Community), the Dominican Republic and Denmark (on behalf also of Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden) (see E/1985/SR.19) and the representatives of the Netherlands, the United States of America, Japan, Yugoslavia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Indonesia, Canada, India, the Congo and Costa Rica and the observers for Kenya, Egypt, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Austria, Greece, Cuba, Australia and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic (see E/1985/SR.20). The observer for the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, a non-governmental organization in consultative status, category I, with the Council, also made a statement (see E/1985/SR.20).

ACTION TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL

International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

23. At the 25th meeting, on 30 May, the representative of Argentina, on behalf of Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Chile, 1/ China, Colombia, the Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, 1/ Cyprus, 1/ the Dominican Republic, 1/ Ecuador, Egypt, 1/ Greece, 1/ Indonesia, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Spain, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Uruguay, 1/ Venezuela, Yugoslavia and Zaire, introduced a draft resolution entitled "International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women" (E/1985/L.32).

24. At its 26th meeting, on 31 May, the Council adopted the draft resolution. For the final text, see Council resolution 1985/45.

Women and development

25. At the 25th meeting, on 30 May, the representative of the Netherlands, on behalf of Bangladesh, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, India, Japan, Morocco and the Netherlands, subsequently joined by Australia 1/ and the United States of America, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Women and development" (E/1985/L.33).

26. In introducing the draft resolution, the representative of the Netherlands revised it as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 3, the phrase "to be submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women" was revised to read "to be submitted through the Commission on the Status of Women";

(b) The words "and to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1986" were added at the end of operative paragraph 3.

27. At the same meeting, the representative of the Netherlands responded to a question raised by the Secretary of the Council (see E/1985/SR.25).

28. At its 26th meeting, on 31 May, the Council adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised. For the final text, see Council resolution 1985/46.

Preparations for the World Conference to Review and Appraise
the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women:
Equality, Development and Peace

29. At the 26th meeting, on 31 May, the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Krister Kumlin (Sweden), proposed, on the basis of informal consultations, a draft decision whereby the Council would, inter alia, take note of the reports of the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the Preparatory Body for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace on its third (A/CONF.116/PC/25) and resumed third sessions (A/CONF.116/PC/25/Add.1 and Corr.1, Add.2 and Corr.1 and Add.3); endorse the recommendations contained therein; decide to invite the Chairman of the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the Preparatory Body for the Conference to hold informal consultations in New York, prior to the Conference, and to make available the results of those consultations to the Conference; and authorize its Bureau to continue making every effort to assist delegations in resolving outstanding issues relating to the provisional rules of procedure for the Conference and to submit the results to the Council at a resumption of its first regular session of 1985.

30. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Council made a statement on the draft decision, concerning in particular the recommendation contained in paragraph 1 of the report of the Preparatory Body on its third session (A/CONF.116/PC/25) (see E/1985/SR.26).

31. At the same meeting, the Council adopted the draft decision. For the final text, see Council decision 1985/158.

32. Before the draft decision was adopted, the representative of France made a statement; after it was adopted, the representative of Mexico made a statement (see E/1985/SR.26).

33. At its 27th meeting, on 20 June, the Council, in pursuance of its decision 1985/158, resumed its consideration of the item. The representative of the United States of America introduced a draft resolution entitled "Preparations for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace" (E/1985/L.38), which read as follows:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Having reviewed the provisional rules of procedure, notably provisional rules 32 and 34, for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women, to be held at Nairobi from 15 to 26 July 1985,

"Emphasizing the importance of the Conference for the advancement of the status of women,

"Reiterating the need for the Conference to reflect fully the unity and solidarity of the women of the world,

"1. Urges the Conference to pursue all feasible methods to ensure a constructive outcome that reflects the unity and solidarity of the women of the world;

"2. Recommends that, in order to ensure its success, the Conference should adopt amendments to provisional rules 32 and 34 of the provisional rules of procedure specifying that consensus shall be the basis for its adoption of the text on the Forward-looking Strategies of Implementation for the Advancement of Women and Concrete Measures to Overcome Obstacles to the Achievement of the Goals and Objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women for the Period 1986 to the Year 2000: Equality, Development, Peace, while permitting other procedures to be followed with respect to other items that may be considered at the Conference."

34. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United States of America and the observer for Egypt (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations which are members of the Group of 77) (see E/1985/SR.27).

35. At the same meeting, the representative of Mexico, in accordance with paragraph 2 of rule 67 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council, moved that no action be taken on draft resolution E/1985/L.38. The Council, by a roll-call vote of 36 to 2, with 12 abstentions, decided to take no action on draft resolution E/1985/L.38. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Djibouti, Ecuador, German Democratic Republic, Guinea, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Thailand, Uganda, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zimbabwe.

Against: Iceland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

36. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Canada, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands, Zimbabwe, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, New Zealand, Japan, Morocco and Spain (see E/1985/SR.27).

Provisional rules of procedure of the World Conference to Review
and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for
Women: Equality, Development and Peace

37. At the 27th meeting, the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Kumlin (Sweden), made a statement and, on the basis of informal consultations, proposed the following text concerning rules 6 (Elections) and 15 (Decisions concerning organization) of the rules of procedure of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace (A/CONF.116/2):

"Elections

"Rule 6

"The Conference shall elect the following officers: a President, one Vice-President for Co-ordination, twenty-nine other Vice-Presidents, a Rapporteur-General and a Presiding Officer for each of the Main Committees established in accordance with rule 45. 1/

1/ Under rule 9 of the provisional rules of procedure, these thirty-four officers shall constitute the General Committee of the Conference. The Council recommends that the distribution of posts in the General Committee should be as follows:

President:		African States
Vice-President for Co-ordination:)	
Rapporteur-General:)	One post for each
A Presiding Officer for each of the two Main Committees))	of the four other
)	regional groups
Eight Vice-Presidents:		African States
Seven Vice-Presidents:		Asian States
Three Vice-Presidents:		Eastern European States
Five Vice-Presidents:		Latin American States
Six Vice-Presidents:		Western European and other States

"It is the understanding of the Council that this recommendation concerning the composition of the General Committee of the Conference and the distribution of posts therein, set out above, is to be regarded as a compromise arrived at by the regional groups to facilitate the work of the Conference and that it shall not constitute a precedent for other conferences or international meetings.

"Decisions concerning organization

"Rule 15

"1. The Conference shall, to the extent possible, at its first meeting:

"(a) Elect its officers and constitute its subsidiary organs;

"(b) Adopt its rules of procedure;

"(c) Adopt its agenda, the draft of which shall, until such adoption, be the provisional agenda of the Conference;

"(d) Decide on the organization of its work.

"2. Recommendations resulting from pre-conference consultations shall, in principle, be acted on without further discussion."

38. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Ecuador, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Costa Rica and Mexico, and the observers for the Bahamas (on behalf of the Latin American States) and Pakistan (see E/1985/SR.27).

39. At the same meeting, the Council approved the recommendation made by the Vice-President of the Council concerning rule 15 (see para. 37 above).

40. At the same meeting, after a statement by the Vice-President, the observer for Liberia, on behalf of the African States, made a statement and suggested that the text proposed by the Vice-President of the Council concerning rule 6 (see para. 37 above) should be reformulated so that the 29 vice-presidential posts would be distributed as follows:

Seven Vice-Presidents	African States
Seven Vice-Presidents	Asian States
Three Vice-Presidents	Eastern European States
Six Vice-Presidents	Latin American States
Six Vice-Presidents	Western European and other States

41. The Council then approved the recommendation made by the Vice-President concerning rule 6, as reformulated.

42. At the same meeting, on the proposal of the President, the Council decided to transmit to the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for women: Equality, Development and Peace, its recommendations concerning rules 6 and 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Conference (A/CONF.116/2). For the text of the decision see Council decision 1985/164.

D. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

43. The Council considered the question of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights at its first regular session of 1985 (agenda item 6). It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the general comments of the Human Rights Committee relating to articles 1 and 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, adopted at its twenty-first session, and those relating to article 6 of the Covenant, adopted at its twenty-third session (E/1985/56).

44. The Council considered the item at its 14th, 16th and 21st meetings, on 14, 17 and 24 May 1985. An account of the discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (E/1985/SR.14, 16 and 21).

45. At its 14th meeting, on 14 May, the Council heard an introductory statement by the Deputy Director of the Centre for Human Rights (see E/1985/SR.14).

46. During the general discussion of the item, the Council heard statements by the representatives of Iceland (on behalf also of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Poland (see E/1985/SR.16).

ACTION TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

47. At its 21st meeting, on 24 May, the Council, on the proposal of the President, took note of the note by the Secretary-General (E/1985/56) and decided to authorize the Secretary-General to transmit the annual report of the Human Rights Committee directly to the General Assembly at its fortieth session. For the text of the decision, see Council decision 1985/117.

E. Assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia

48. The Council considered the question of assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia at its first regular session of 1985 (agenda item 7).

49. The Council considered the item at its 16th, 17th, 20th and 21st meetings, on 17, 23 and 24 May 1985. An account of the discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (E/1985/SR.16, 17, 20 and 21).

50. At its 16th meeting, on 17 May, the Council heard an oral report by the Director of the Office for Emergency Operations in Africa (see E/1985/SR.16).

51. During the general discussion of the item, the Council heard statements by the Commissioner for Relief and Rehabilitation of Ethiopia (see E/1985/SR.16), the representatives of Italy (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations which are members of the European Economic Community), Denmark (on behalf also of Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden), Poland, the United States of America, Bulgaria, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Japan, Canada, the German Democratic Republic, New Zealand and China, and the observers for Czechoslovakia and the Sudan (see E/1985/SR.17). The observer for Soroptimist International, ♀

non-governmental organization in consultative status, category I, with the Council, also made a statement (see E/1985/SR.17).

ACTION TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL

Assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia

52. At the 20th meeting, on 23 May, the representative of Djibouti, on behalf of Afghanistan, 1/ Algeria, Argentina, Australia, 1/ Bangladesh, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, 1/ Canada, China, the Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, 1/ Cyprus, 1/ Djibouti, Egypt, 1/ Ethiopia, 1/ the German Democratic Republic, Guinea, India, Japan, Lebanon, Lesotho, 1/ Liberia, 1/ Mali, 1/ Mexico, Nicaragua, 1/ Nigeria, Pakistan, 1/ Rwanda, Senegal, the Sudan, 1/ Swaziland, 1/ Sweden, Uganda, Uruguay, 1/ Yugoslavia, Zaire and Zimbabwe, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia" (E/1985/L.27). Kenya 1/ and Norway 1/ subsequently joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

53. At its 21st meeting, on 24 May, the Council adopted the draft resolution. For the final text, see Council resolution 1985/1.

54. After the draft resolution was adopted, the observer for Ethiopia made a statement (see E/1985/SR.21).

F. Non-governmental organizations

55. The Council considered the question of non-governmental organizations at its first regular session of 1985 (agenda item 8). It had before it the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (E/1985/19 and Corr.1).

56. The Council considered the item at its 9th to 11th meetings, from 8 to 10 May 1985. An account of the discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (E/1985/SR.9-11).

57. During the general discussion of the item, the Council heard statements by the representatives of Costa Rica, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, the Netherlands, France and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (see E/1985/SR.9 and 10). The observer for the World Federation of United Nations Associations, a non-governmental organization in consultative status, category I, with the Council, also made a statement (see E/1985/SR.10).

ACTION TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL

Recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

58. Chapter I of the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (E/1985/19 and Corr.1) contained three draft decisions recommended for adoption by the Council.

Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification
received from non-governmental organizations

59. At its 11th meeting, on 10 May, the Council, on the proposal of the President, agreed to amend draft decision I, entitled "Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations", by adding a new subparagraph (a), reading:

"(a) Takes note of the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations".

60. The Council then adopted the draft decision, as orally amended. For the final text, see Council decision 1985/113.

Withdrawal of consultative status

61. At the same meeting, the Council adopted draft decision II, entitled "Withdrawal of consultative status". For the final text, see Council decision 1985/114.

Provisional agenda and documentation for the session of the Committee
on Non-Governmental Organizations to be held in 1987

62. At the same meeting, the Council approved draft decision III, entitled "Provisional agenda and documentation for the session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to be held in 1987". For the final text, see Council decision 1985/115.

G. University for Peace

63. The Council considered the question of the University for Peace at its first regular session of 1985 (agenda item 9). It had before it a letter dated 26 December 1984 from the Alternate Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (E/1985/14).

64. The Council considered the item at its 14th and 21st meetings, on 14 and 24 May 1985. An account of the discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (E/1985/SR.14 and 21).

ACTION TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL

University for Peace

65. At the 14th meeting, on 14 May, the representative of Costa Rica, on behalf of Algeria, Argentina, the Bahamas, 1/ Bolivia, 1/ China, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, 1/ Ecuador, El Salvador, 1/ Finland, Greece, 1/ Honduras, 1/ Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, 1/ Panama, 1/ the Philippines, 1/ Senegal, Sri Lanka, Togo, 1/ Uruguay 1/ and Venezuela, introduced a draft resolution entitled "University for Peace" (E/1985/L.25). Subsequently, Australia, 1/ Chile, 1/ Guatemala, 1/ Nicaragua 1/ and Thailand joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

66. At its 21st meeting, on 24 May, the Council adopted the draft resolution. For the final text, see Council resolution 1985/2.

67. After the draft resolution was adopted, statements were made by the representatives of Costa Rica and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (see E/1985/SR.21).

H. Review of the immediate and longer-term aspects of the critical economic situation in Africa and the follow-up of the response by the international community and the United Nations system

68. The Council reviewed the immediate and longer-term aspects of the critical economic situation in Africa and the follow-up of the response by the international community and the United Nations system, as a priority question, at its second regular session of 1985 (agenda item 4). It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the critical economic situation in Africa (A/40/372-E/1985/104 and Add.1 and 2);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the Second Special Memorandum on International Action for Relaunching the Initiative for Long-term Development and Economic Growth in Africa adopted by the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa (E/1985/122);

(c) Letter dated 7 June 1985 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (E/1985/124);

(d) Letter dated 21 June 1985 from the President of the Economic and Social Council to the members of the Council (E/1985/129);

(e) Letter dated 22 July 1985 from the Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council, transmitting the declaration on the economic situation in Africa adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its twenty-first ordinary session (E/1985/156);

(f) Statement submitted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, a non-governmental organization in consultative status, category I, with the Council (E/1985/NGO/2).

69. The Council considered the item at its 46th to 52nd meetings, from 22 to 26 July 1985. An account of the discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (E/1985/SR.46-52).

70. At its 46th meeting, on 22 July, the Council heard an introductory statement delivered on behalf of the Secretary-General by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation. The Council also heard statements by the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, speaking also in his capacity as the special representative of the Secretary-General on the African economic crisis. (See E/1985/SR.46.)

71. The Council held a general discussion on the item at its 46th to 52nd meetings, from 22 to 25 July. At the 46th meeting, it heard statements by the representatives of Bulgaria and Nigeria and the observer for Egypt.

72. At the 47th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Spain, Luxembourg (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations which are members of the European Economic Community), Yugoslavia, Canada, Indonesia, Argentina, Thailand and New Zealand, the observers for Denmark and Benin and the representative of the International Labour Office.

73. At the 48th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Sweden, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Netherlands, Somalia and Brazil and the observers for Egypt (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations which are members of the Group of 77), Kenya, Australia and Italy, the Vice-President of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa and Minister of State for Planning and Development of Cameroon, and the Director of the Office for Emergency Operations in Africa.

74. At the 49th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of China, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, France, Poland Sri Lanka, Japan, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Suriname, Malaysia, Mexico and Turkey, the observers for the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Switzerland, Austria, the Republic of Korea, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, and the observer for the World Confederation of Labour, a non-governmental organization in consultative status, category I, with the Council.

75. At the 50th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Algeria, Venezuela, India and the United States of America, and the observers for the Sudan, Tunisia, Pakistan, Swaziland, Peru, Belgium, Liberia, Chad and Ghana.

76. At the 51st meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the German Democratic Republic, Finland, Saudi Arabia, the Federal Republic of Germany, Botswana, Djibouti and Bangladesh, and the observers for Czechoslovakia, Norway, Ethiopia and Israel.

77. At the 52nd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Haiti and Senegal and the observer for the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, a non-governmental organization in consultative status, category I, with the Council.

78. At the 52nd meeting, on 25 July, the President of the Council made a statement (see E/1985/SR.52).

ACTION TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL

Critical economic situation in Africa

79. At the 52nd meeting, on 25 July, the representative of Algeria, on behalf of the African States and the Syrian Arab Republic, 1/ introduced a draft resolution entitled "Critical economic situation in Africa" (E/1985/L.53), which read as follows:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Gravely concerned at the continuing critical economic situation in Africa, which has been exacerbated by the unfavourable international economic environment,

"Recalling the Declaration on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 39/29 of 3 December 1984,

"Expressing its appreciation of the efforts of the international community - Governments, United Nations agencies, the general public and non-governmental organizations - in response to the emergency situation,

"Welcoming the declaration and resolutions on the economic situation in Africa, as well as on the Special Emergency Assistance Fund for Drought and Famine in Africa, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its twenty-first ordinary session, which was devoted essentially to economic issues,

"Gravely concerned also at the continuing negative effects of the destabilization policy of South Africa on the economies of southern African States,

"Welcoming further the resolve of African heads of State and Government and peoples to address in a coherent manner the economic and social problems facing the continent,

"Considering that the responsibility for the development of Africa lies primarily with African Governments and peoples,

"Stressing, however, the need for the international community as a whole to give priority attention to the critical economic situation in Africa and, to that end, to continue and increase its concrete support in addressing the immediate as well as the medium-term and long-term needs for the rehabilitation and sustained development of the African economies,

"Concerned that as a consequence of stagnating official development assistance, high levels of debt servicing, and depressed commodity export earnings, African countries are currently experiencing a negative flow of financial resources,

"1. Welcomes the priority programme for the economic recovery of Africa (1986-1990), adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its twenty-first ordinary session, held at Addis Ababa from 18 to 20 July 1985;

"2. Welcomes also the high priority that African Governments individually and collectively have accorded to the improvement of the critical food situation in the continent and to the rehabilitation and development of the food and agricultural sector;

"3. Strongly urges the international community to increase substantially the net flow of resources - particularly of a concessional character - to Africa and to address in a comprehensive manner the critical problems arising from the reverse transfer of resources due to the heavy debt burden and to the depressed commodity export earnings of African countries;

"4. Appeals to the international community and donor countries to extend all necessary support to African regional and subregional institutions engaged in the process of implementation of economic recovery programmes and economic self-reliance for their member countries;

"5. Recognizes the urgent need to support the rehabilitation and development of the industrial, manufacturing, transport and communications sectors, as well as improved scientific and technological capabilities and human resource development, which are crucial for a sustained and integrated process of development of African countries;

"6. Stresses that the international community, while continuing to address the African emergency, should give greater focus to supporting the medium-term and longer-term development actions without which no lasting solutions to the emergency situation can be found;

"7. Appeals to donor countries, international organizations and non-governmental organizations to contribute generously to the Special Emergency Assistance Fund for Drought and Famine in Africa to enable affected countries to effectively resist these calamities;

"8. Stresses the urgent need for concerted international measures aimed at mitigating the adverse economic effects on the economies of southern African States of destabilizing acts of aggression by South Africa;

"9. Invites the international community to consider favourably the appeal launched by African heads of State and Government for the urgent convening of an international conference on Africa's external debt which would provide a forum for international creditors, international financial institutions and African borrowers to discuss, in a comprehensive manner, Africa's external debt with a view to arriving at appropriate emergency, short-term, medium-term and long-term solutions;

"10. Recommends to the General Assembly the convening of a special session of the General Assembly to consider the critical economic situation in Africa as soon as possible;

"11. Requests the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the present resolution, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its forty-first session."

80. At the 52nd meeting, on 26 July, the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Krister Kumlin (Sweden), introduced a draft resolution (E/1985/L.58), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/1985/L.53. He read out the following revisions to draft resolution E/1985/L.58, which had been agreed upon during further informal consultations:

(a) In the seventh preambular paragraph, the words "Taking note of" and the square brackets around the word "Welcoming" were deleted;

(b) In operative paragraph 1, the square brackets around the words "adoption of the" were deleted;

(c) In operative paragraph 3, the square brackets around the words "in a comprehensive manner", and the words "[and interrelated]" between the word "critical" and the word "problem", were deleted;

(d) In operative paragraph 5, the word "moreover" was inserted after the word "Recognizes";

(e) In operative paragraph 8, the square brackets around the words "consider generous contributions" were deleted;

(f) Operative paragraph 10, which had read:

"10. Fully recognizes the importance of Africa's debt problems [and the existence of mechanisms for the solution of these problems] and in this context takes note of the appeal launched by African heads of State and Government which called for the urgent convening of an international conference on Africa's external debt which would provide a forum for international creditors, international financial institutions and African borrowers to discuss Africa's external debt with a view to arriving at appropriate emergency, short, medium and long-term solutions;"

was revised to read:

"10. Fully recognizes the importance of Africa's debt problems and in this context takes note of the appeal launched by African heads of State and Government which called for the urgent convening of an international conference on Africa's external debt";

(g) In operative paragraph 11, the square brackets around the words "with interest" were deleted.

81. The representative of the United States of America made a statement in which he requested that a vote be taken on operative paragraph 10 of draft resolution E/1985/L.58, as orally revised.

82. In the light of the statement made by the representative of the United States of America, the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Kumlin (Sweden), withdrew draft resolution E/1985/L.58, as orally revised.

83. The representative of Algeria, on behalf of the African States, reintroduced the draft resolution contained in document E/1985/L.58, as orally revised, and stated that, should a vote be requested on that draft resolution, or any part of it, the African States would propose that operative paragraph 10 thereof should be replaced by operative paragraph 9 of draft resolution E/1985/L.53.

84. Following statements by the representatives of Luxembourg (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations which are members of the European Economic Community), Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany and Senegal (see E/1985/SR.52), the representative of the United States of America made a statement in which he renewed his request for a vote on operative paragraph 10 of draft resolution E/1985/L.58, as orally revised.

85. The observer for Pakistan made a statement in which he proposed that no action be taken on the request of the representative of the United States of America. The representative of India supported that proposal.

86. The Council decided, by 31 votes to 5, with 5 abstentions, to take no action on the request of the representative of the United States of America.

87. The Council then adopted draft resolution E/1985/L.58, as orally revised. For the final text, see Council resolution 1985/80.

88. Before the draft resolution was adopted, a statement was made by the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; after it was adopted, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, Luxembourg (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations which are members of the European Economic Community), the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (on behalf of the Eastern European States), Canada, Algeria (on behalf of the African States) and China (see E/1985/SR.52).

89. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution E/1985/L.58, as orally revised, draft resolution E/1985/L.53 was withdrawn by the sponsors.

90. On the proposal of the President, the Council took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the critical economic situation in Africa (A/40/373-E/1985/104 and Add.1 and 2) and the Second Special Memorandum on International Action for Relaunching the Initiative for Long-term Development and Economic Growth in Africa adopted by the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa (E/1985/122). For the text of the decision, see Council decision 1985/203.

I. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

91. In accordance with Council resolution 1623 (LI) of 30 July 1971, the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is to be transmitted to the General Assembly without debate, unless the Council decides otherwise at the specific request of one or more of its members or of the High Commissioner at the time of the adoption of its agenda.

92. Since no such request was made to the Council during the adoption of its agenda at the 28th meeting, on 3 July, the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (agenda item 5) was not considered by the Council during its second regular session of 1985.

J. Permanent sovereignty over national resources in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories

93. The Council considered the question of permanent sovereignty over national resources in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories at its second regular session of 1985 (agenda item 6). It had before it the report of the Secretary-General prepared in pursuance of General Assembly decision 39/442 (A/40/381-E/1985/105). A letter dated 5 July 1985 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/40/464-S/17326) was brought to the Council's attention.

94. The Council considered the item at its 43rd to 45th and 52nd meetings, on 16, 17, 19 and 25 July 1985. An account of the discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (E/1985/SR.43-45 and 52).

95. During the general discussion on the item, held at the 43rd and 44th meetings, statements were made by the representatives of the German Democratic Republic, Bulgaria, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Saudi Arabia, the observers for Egypt, Czechoslovakia and Israel, the observer for the Palestine Liberation Organization (see E/1985/SR.43), and the representatives of the United States of America and Algeria (see E/1985/SR.44).

Israeli economic practices in the occupied Palestinian and other territories

96. At the 45th meeting, on 19 July, the representative of Saudi Arabia, on behalf of Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic 1/ and Yugoslavia, introduced a draft decision entitled "Israeli economic practices in the occupied Palestinian and other territories" (E/1985/L.50). Subsequently, India, Jordan, 1/ the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya 1/ and Pakistan 1/ joined in sponsoring the draft decision.

97. At its 52nd meeting, on 25 July, the Council adopted the draft decision by a roll-call vote of 49 to 1. For the final text, see Council decision 1985/i77. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Colombia, Congo, Ecuador, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Guinea, Haiti, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: None.

98. Before the draft decision was adopted, statements were made by the representatives of Saudi Arabia (on behalf of the sponsors) and the United States of America, the observers for Israel and Jordan, and the observer for the Palestine Liberation Organization; after it was adopted, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America and Saudi Arabia (on behalf of the sponsors) (see E/1985/SR.52).

K. United Nations University

99. The Council considered the question of the United Nations University at its second regular session of 1985 (agenda item 7). It had before it the report of the Council of the United Nations University on the work of the University in 1984 (E/1985/55).

100. The Council considered the item at its 44th and 45th meetings, on 17 and 19 July 1985. An account of the discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (E/1985/SR.44 and 45).

101. At its 44th meeting, the Council heard an introductory statement by the Rector of the United Nations University. Statements were made by the representatives of Japan, Indonesia, Finland (on behalf also of Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Sweden), Yugoslavia and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. (See E/1985/SR.44.)

ACTION TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL

Report of the Council of the United Nations University

102. At its 45th meeting, on the proposal of the President, the Council took note of the report of the Council of the United Nations University on the work of the University in 1984 (E/1985/55). For the text of the decision, see Council decision 1985/165.

Chapter IV

QUESTIONS CONSIDERED BY THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE

A. Population questions

1. The Council considered population questions at its first regular session of 1985 (agenda item 10). At its 7th plenary meeting, on 7 May 1985, the Council allocated the item to the First (Economic) Committee, which considered it at its 2nd to 6th meetings, from 13 to 17 May 1985. The Council had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General containing the summary and conclusions of the biennial report on the world population situation (A/40/190-E/1985/20);

(b) Report of the Population Commission on its twenty-third session; 1/

(c) Report of the International Conference on Population, 1984. 2/

ACTION TAKEN BY THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE

2. At its 2nd to 5th meetings, from 13 to 16 May, the Committee held a general discussion on the item. At its 2nd meeting, it heard an introductory statement by the Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs.

3. Also at the 2nd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Sweden (on behalf also of Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Norway), Turkey, Bulgaria and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

4. At the same meeting, statements were made by the Director of the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation and the Director of the Development Administration Division of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development.

5. At the 3rd meeting, on 14 May, statements were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Japan, Nigeria, Columbia and the Federal Republic of Germany and the observer for the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.

6. At the 4th meeting, on 15 May, statements were made by the representatives of China, France, Poland, Yugoslavia, Indonesia, the Congo, the German Democratic Republic and the Netherlands, and the observers for Czechoslovakia and the Republic of Korea.

7. At the 5th meeting, on 16 May, statements were made by the representatives of Bangladesh, Uganda and Morocco.

1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1985, Supplement No. 5 (E/1985/25).

2/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.XIII.8 and corrigenda.

8. At the 6th meeting, on 17 May, the Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities made a statement.

Recommendations contained in the report of the Population Commission

9. Chapter I of the report of the Population Commission on its twenty-third session 1/ contained four draft resolutions and one draft decision recommended for adoption by the Council.

10. The Committee held informal consultations on all the draft recommendations contained in the report of the Population Commission under the chairmanship of the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Pekka Juhani Huhtaniemi (Finland).

Population structure

11. At its 6th meeting, on 17 May, the Committee adopted draft resolution I, entitled "Population structure" and submitted it to the Council (E/1985/89, para. 22, draft resolution I). For action by the Council, see paragraph 24 below.

Implications of the recommendations of the International Conference on Population

12. At the 5th meeting, on 16 May, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics proposed an amendment to the third preambular paragraph of draft resolution II, entitled "Implications of the recommendations of the International Conference on Population, 1984", whereby the phrase "a number of new issues posed by the Mexico Conference and" would be inserted after the word "Recognizing".

13. At the 6th meeting, on 17 May, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Huhtaniemi (Finland), informed the Committee that, during the informal consultations held on draft resolution II, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics had agreed not to press for action on his amendment to the third preambular paragraph.

14. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution II and submitted it to the Council (E/1985/89, para. 22, draft resolution II). For action by the Council, see paragraph 25 below.

15. Before the draft resolution was adopted, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics made a statement. 3/

3/ In his statement, he reaffirmed his country's position on the programme of work in the field of population as expressed at the twenty-third session of the Population Commission. He stated that the governing bodies of the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, in implementing the recommendations of the Mexico Conference, should take into account the whole spectrum of issues discussed at that Conference.

Work programme in the field of population

16. At its 6th meeting, on 17 May, the Committee adopted draft resolution III, entitled "Work programme in the field of population", and submitted it to the Council (E/1985/89, para. 22, draft resolution III). For action by the Council, see paragraph 26 below.

Status and role of women and population

17. At its 6th meeting, on 17 May, the Committee adopted draft resolution IV, entitled "Status and role of women and population", and submitted it to the Council (E/1985/89, para. 22, draft resolution IV). For action by the Council, see paragraph 27 below.

Provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-fourth session of the Population Commission

18. At its 6th meeting, on 17 May, the Committee adopted the draft decision entitled "Provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-fourth session of the Population Commission" and submitted it to the Council (E/1985/89, para. 23, draft decision I). For action by the Council, see paragraph 28 below.

19. After the adoption of the draft recommendations, the representative of Japan made a statement.

Other draft proposals

Population questions

20. At the 6th meeting, on 17 May, the representative of Bangladesh introduced a draft decision entitled "Population questions" (E/1985/C.1/L.3) and orally revised it by replacing the words "implementation of the recommendations of the International Conference on Population, 1984" by the words "implementation of the report of the International Conference on Population, containing the recommendations of the Conference".

21. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft decision, as orally revised, and submitted it to the Council (E/1985/89, para. 23, draft decision II). For action by the Council, see paragraph 29 below.

22. Before the draft decision was adopted, the representative of the Netherlands made a statement.

ACTION TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL

23. At its 22nd meeting, on 28 May, the Council considered the draft resolutions and draft decisions recommended by the First (Economic) Committee in its report (E/1985/89, paras. 22 and 23).

24. Draft resolution I, entitled "Population structure", was adopted. For the final text, see Council resolution 1985/3.

25. Draft resolution II, entitled "Implications of the recommendations of the International Conference on Population", was adopted. For the final text, see Council resolution 1985/4.
26. Draft resolution III, entitled "Work programme in the field of population", was adopted. For the final text, see Council resolution 1985/5.
27. Draft resolution IV, entitled "Status and role of women and population", was adopted. For the final text, see Council resolution 1985/6.
28. Draft decision I, entitled "Provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-fourth session of the Population Commission", was adopted. For the final text, see Council decision 1985/118.
29. Draft decision II, entitled "Population questions", was adopted. For the final text, see Council decision 1985/119.

Report of the Secretary-General on the world
population situation

30. At its 22nd meeting, on the proposal of the President, the Council decided to take note of the report of the Secretary-General containing the summary and conclusions of the biennial report on the world population situation (A/40/190-E/1985/20). For the text of the decision, see Council decision 1985/120.

Report of the Population Commission

31. At its 22nd meeting, on the proposal of the President, the Council decided to take note of the report of the Population Commission on its twenty-third session. 1/ For the text of the decision, see Council decision 1985/121.

B. Statistical questions

32. The Council considered statistical questions at its first regular session of 1985 (agenda item 11). At its 7th plenary meeting, on 7 May 1985, the Council allocated the item to the First (Economic) Committee, which considered it at its 4th, 5th and 8th meetings, on 15, 16 and 21 May 1985. The Council had before it the report of the Statistical Commission on its twenty-third session. 4/

ACTION TAKEN BY THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE

33. At its 4th and 5th meetings, on 15 and 16 May, the Committee held a general discussion on the item. At its 4th meeting, it heard an introductory statement by the Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs.

4/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1985, Supplement No. 6 (E/1985/26).

34. Also at the 4th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Finland (on behalf also of Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Sweden) and the United States of America.

35. At the same meeting, the Director of the Statistical Office of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs also made a statement.

36. At the 5th meeting, on 16 May, statements were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Netherlands and Bulgaria and the observer for the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.

Recommendations contained in the report of the Statistical Commission

37. Chapter I of the report of the Statistical Commission on its twenty-third session 4/ contained two draft resolutions and one draft decision recommended for adoption by the Council.

International economic classifications

38. At its 8th meeting, on 21 May, the Committee adopted draft resolution I, entitled "International economic classifications", and submitted it to the Council (E/1985/90, para. 10, draft resolution I). For action by the Council, see paragraph 42 below.

1990 World Population and Housing Census Programme

39. At its 8th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution II, entitled "1990 World Population and Housing Census Programme", and submitted it to the Council (E/1985/90, para. 10, draft resolution II). For action by the Council, see paragraph 43 below.

Report of the Statistical Commission on its twenty-third session and provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-fourth session of the Commission

40. At its 8th meeting, the Committee adopted the draft decision entitled "Report of the Statistical Commission on its twenty-third session and provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-fourth session of the Commission" and submitted it to the Council (E/1985/90, para. 11, draft decision). For action by the Council, see paragraph 44 below.

ACTION TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL

41. At its 22nd meeting, on 28 May, the Council considered the draft resolutions and draft decision recommended by the First (Economic) Committee in its report (E/1985/90, paras. 10 and 11).

42. Draft resolution I, entitled "International economic classifications", was adopted. For the final text, see Council resolution 1985/7.

43. Draft resolution II, entitled "1990 World Population and Housing Census Programme", was adopted. For the final text, see Council resolution 1985/8.

44. The draft decision entitled "Report of the Statistical Commission on its twenty-third session and provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-fourth session of the Commission" was adopted. For the final text, see Council decision 1985/122.

45. The representative of Canada made a statement after the draft resolutions and decision were adopted (see E/1985/SR.22).

C. Transport of dangerous goods

46. The Council considered the question of the transport of dangerous goods at its first regular session of 1985 (agenda item 12). At its 7th plenary meeting, on 7 May 1985, the Council allocated the item to the First (Economic) Committee, which considered it at its 5th, 6th and 9th meetings, on 16, 17 and 22 May 1985. The Council had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (E/1985/21 and Corr.1) and a note by the Secretary-General prepared pursuant to Council resolution 1983/7 on the enlargement of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (E/1985/37).

ACTION TAKEN BY THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE

47. At its 5th and 6th meetings, on 16 and 17 May, the Committee held a general discussion on the item.

48. At the 6th meeting, on 17 May, statements were made by the representatives of the Netherlands, the Federal Republic of Germany, Argentina, Canada, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and India.

Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

49. The annex to the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (E/1985/21 and Corr.1) contained a draft resolution recommended for adoption by the Council.

50. At the 9th meeting, on 22 May, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Huhtaniemi (Finland), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods" (E/1985/C.1/L.5), which was submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on the draft resolution annexed to the report of the Secretary-General.

51. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no financial or administrative implications.

52. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution and submitted it to the Council (E/1985/91, para. 10, draft resolution). For action by the Council, see paragraph 56 below.

53. After the draft resolution was adopted, the representatives of the United States, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands, Argentina and Canada made statements.

Note by the Secretary-General on the enlargement of the Committee
of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

54. At its 9th meeting, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend the Economic and Social Council to take note of the note by the Secretary-General on the enlargement of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (E/1985/37), and submitted its recommendation to the Council (E/1985/91, para. 11, draft decision). For action by the Council, see paragraph 58 below.

ACTION TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL

55. At its 22nd meeting, on 28 May, the Council considered the draft resolution and draft decision recommended by the First (Economic) Committee in its report (E/1985/91, paras. 10 and 11).

56. The draft resolution entitled "Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods" was adopted. For the final text, see Council resolution 1985/9.

57. The representatives of the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Argentina made statements after the draft resolution was adopted (see E/1985/SR.22).

58. The draft decision entitled "Note by the Secretary-General on the enlargement of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods" was adopted. For the final text, see Council decision 1985/123.

D. Cartography

59. The Council considered the question of cartography at its first regular session of 1985 (agenda item 13). At its 7th plenary meeting, on 7 May 1985, the Council allocated the item to the First (Economic) Committee, which considered it at its 7th to 9th meetings, from 20 to 22 May 1985. The Council had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the Third United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas (E/1985/38) and the statement of the programme budget implications of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 19 and 20 of the report (E/1985/38/Add.1).

ACTION TAKEN BY THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE

60. At its 7th and 8th meetings, on 20 and 21 May, the Committee held a general discussion on the item. At its 7th meeting, it heard an introductory statement by the representative of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development.

61. Also at the 7th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, Poland, Canada, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Argentina and Finland.

62. At the 8th meeting, on 21 May, statements were made by the representatives of the Netherlands and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Third United Nations Regional Cartographic
Conference for the Americas

63. At its 9th meeting, on 22 May, the Committee considered the recommendations of the Third United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas, contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General (E/1985/38).

64. At the same meeting, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Huhtaniemi (Finland), made a statement in which he informed the Committee of the results of informal consultations held on paragraph 20 of the report.

65. At the same meeting, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics proposed an amendment to paragraph 20 (b), whereby the phrase "Taking fully into account the views on the recommendations expressed at the present session of the Economic and Social Council, and to submit a progress report on the measures taken in this respect to the Council at its first regular session of 1986" would be inserted at the end of the paragraph.

66. Following a statement by the Chairman, the representative of Argentina proposed that the phrase "and to submit a progress report on the measures taken in this respect to the Council at its first regular session of 1986" should be deleted from the amendment proposed by the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

67. Following a statement by the representative of the Netherlands, the Committee adopted the recommendation contained in paragraph 20, as orally amended, and submitted it to the Council (E/1985/92, para. 11, draft decision I). For action by the Council, see paragraph 70 below.

Report of the Secretary-General on the Third United Nations
Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas

68. At its 9th meeting, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend the Economic and Social Council to take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the Third United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas (E/1985/38), and submitted its recommendation to the Council (E/1985/92, para. 11, draft decision II). For action by the Council, see paragraph 71 below.

ACTION TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL

69. At its 22nd meeting, on 28 May, the Council considered the draft decisions recommended by the First (Economic) Committee in its report (E/1985/92, para. 11).

70. Draft decision I, entitled "Third United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas", was adopted. For the final text, see Council decision 1985/124.

71. Draft decision II, entitled "Report of the Secretary-General on the Third United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas", was adopted. For the final text, see Council decision 1985/125.

E. Public administration and finance

72. The Council considered the question of public administration and finance at its first regular session of 1985 (agenda item 14). At its 7th plenary meeting, on 7 May 1985, the Council allocated the item to the First (Economic) Committee, which considered it at its 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th and 8th meetings, on 13, 14, 16, 17 and 21 May 1985. The Council had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the Seventh Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance (E/1985/39) and the report of the Seventh Meeting (E/1985/39/Add.1).

ACTION TAKEN BY THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE

73. At its 2nd and 3rd meetings, on 13 and 14 May, the Committee held a general discussion on the item. At its 2nd meeting, it heard an introductory statement by the Director of the Development Administration Division of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development.

74. Also at the 2nd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of China, Yugoslavia and Canada and the observer for Italy (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations which are members of the European Economic Community).

75. At the 3rd meeting, on 14 May, statements were made by the representatives of France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Guyana, Indonesia, Ecuador, Senegal, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Japan, India, the German Democratic Republic, Nigeria and Colombia and the observer for Denmark (on behalf also of Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden).

Public administration and finance for development

76. At the 5th meeting, on 16 May, the representative of Yugoslavia, on behalf of Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, China, the Congo, India, Indonesia, Nigeria, Romania, Senegal, Yugoslavia and Zaire, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Public administration and finance for development" (E/1985/C.1/L.1).

77. At the 6th meeting, on 17 May, following a statement by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Huhtaniemi (Finland), in which he informed the Committee of the results of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/1985/C.1/L.1, the Committee adopted the draft resolution and submitted it to the Council (E/1985/93, para. 13, draft resolution). For action by the Council, see paragraph 85 below.

Mobilization of personal savings

78. At the 5th meeting, on 16 May, the representative of France, on behalf of Cameroon, 5/ France, Jamaica, 5/ Malaysia, Pakistan, 5/ and Sweden, introduced a draft decision entitled "Mobilization of personal savings" (E/1985/C.1/L.2), which read as follows:

"The Economic and Social Council requests the Secretary-General to prepare a brief report on the Third International Symposium on the Mobilization of Personal Savings in Developing Countries, held at Yaoundé in December 1984, focusing on the recommendations of the Symposium, and to transmit the report to the Council at its second regular session of 1985."

79. At the same meeting, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Huhtaniemi (Finland), made a statement.

80. Statements were also made by the representatives of Brazil, India, Nigeria, Mexico, France, Argentina and Finland.

81. At its 8th meeting, the Committee had before it a draft decision (E/1985/C.1/L.4), submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Huhtaniemi (Finland), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft decision E/1985/C.1/L.2.

82. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision E/1985/C.1/L.4 and submitted it to the Council (E/1985/93, para. 14, draft decision). For action by the Council, see paragraph 86 below.

83. In the light of the adoption of draft decision E/1985/C.1/L.4, draft decision E/1985/C.1/L.2 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

ACTION TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL

84. At its 22nd meeting, on 28 May, the Council considered the draft resolution and draft decision recommended by the First (Economic) Committee in its report (E/1985/93, paras. 13 and 14).

85. The draft resolution entitled "Public administration and finance for development" was adopted. For the final text, see Council resolution 1985/10.

86. The draft decision entitled "Mobilization of personal savings" was adopted. For the final text, see Council decision 1985/126.

5/ In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

F. Transnational corporations

CONSIDERATION AT THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF 1985

87. The Council considered the question of transnational corporations at its first regular session of 1985 (agenda item 15). At its 7th plenary meeting, on 7 May 1985, the Council allocated the item to the First (Economic) Committee, which considered it at its 6th to 8th meetings, on 17, 20 and 21 May 1985. The Council had before it a note by the Secretary-General (E/1985/L.21) transmitting the part of the report of the Commission on Transnational Corporations on its eleventh session 6/ concerning the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Preparations for the Public Hearings on the Activities of Transnational Corporations in South Africa and Namibia.

ACTION TAKEN BY THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE

88. At its 6th to 8th meetings, the Committee held a general discussion on the item. At its 6th meeting, on 17 May, it heard an introductory statement by the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations.

89. Also at the 6th meeting, the representative of Yugoslavia made a statement.

90. At the 7th meeting, on 20 May, statements were made by the representatives of the German Democratic Republic, Nigeria, Algeria, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Poland, Bulgaria, Bangladesh and the United States of America, and the observers for Norway (on behalf also of Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Sweden) and Egypt (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations which are members of the Group of 77).

91. At the 8th meeting, on 21 May, statements were made by the representatives of Senegal, Uganda and Rwanda.

Organization of public hearings on the activities of transnational corporations in South Africa and Namibia

92. The extract from the report of the Commission on Transnational Corporations on its eleventh session (E/1985/L.21, annex) contained a draft decision entitled "Organization of public hearings on the activities of transnational corporations in South Africa and Namibia", recommended for adoption by the Council.

93. At its 8th meeting, on 21 May, the Committee adopted the draft decision by a roll-call vote of 38 to 1, with 8 abstentions, and submitted it to the Council (E/1985/94, para. 9, draft decision). For action by the Council, see paragraph 96 below. The voting was as follows: 7/

6/ The full report was issued as Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1985, Supplement No. 8 (E/1985/28).

7/ The delegation of Zimbabwe subsequently indicated that, had it been present during the voting, it would have voted in favour of the draft decision.

In favour: Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Colombia, Congo, Djibouti, Ecuador, Finland, German Democratic Republic, Guinea, Guyana, Iceland, Indonesia, Lebanon, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Nigeria, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Suriname, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Canada, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

94. After the draft decision was adopted, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, Sweden (on behalf also of Finland and Iceland), France (on behalf also of the Federal Republic of Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Japan, Nigeria and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The observer for Egypt also made a statement.

ACTION TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL

95. At its 22nd meeting, on 28 May, the Council considered the draft decision recommended by the First (Economic) Committee in its report (E/1985/94, para. 9).

96. The draft decision, entitled "Organization of public hearings on the activities of transnational corporations in South Africa and Namibia", was adopted by a recorded vote of 42 to 1, with 7 abstentions. For the final text, see Council decision 1985/127. The voting was as follows: 8/

In favour: Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Djibouti, Ecuador, Finland, German Democratic Republic, Guinea, Guyana, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Canada, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Japan, Luxembourg, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

97. The representatives of Canada, the United States of America, France (on behalf also of the Federal Republic of Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), the Union of Soviet Socialist

8/ The delegation of the Netherlands subsequently indicated that it had intended to abstain in the vote on the draft decision.