

## Economic and Social Council, 22nd Session

---

**T**HE 22nd Session of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations was held in Geneva from July 9 to August 10, 1956. Canada, which resumed membership in ECOSOC before the 21st Session, was represented by a delegation headed by Mr. P. A. Cardin, Parliamentary Assistant to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Delegation members were Dr. R. A. MacKay, Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations in New York, Mr. H. Allard, Permanent Representative to the European Office of the United Nations, Mr. A. J. MacEachen, M.P., Dr. G. F. Davidson, Deputy Minister of Welfare, and Mr. A. F. W. Plumtre, Assistant Deputy Minister of Finance.

During the Session, in addition to attending the plenary meetings, the various delegations were represented at concurrent meetings of committees of the whole in which the preliminary and more detailed work is done—the Technical Assistance Committee, the Economic Committee, the Social Committee, and the Co-ordination Committee. As an exception at this session and in order to save time, the Technical Assistance Committee started its work on July 4.

The plenary session was presided over by Dr. Hans Engen, Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations and President of ECOSOC for 1956, while the two Vice-Presidents of the Council, Mr. Trujillo, of Ecuador, and Mr. Said Hasan, of Pakistan, acted as Chairmen of the Economic and Social Committees, respectively. Dr. Bannier, of the Netherlands, was Chairman of the Technical Assistance Committee, and Dr. Davidson, of the Canadian Delegation, was unanimously elected to the chairmanship of the Co-ordination Committee which was set up to insure closer co-ordination between the various economic, social, and human rights programmes of the ECOSOC subsidiary bodies and of the Specialized Agencies.

Although the 22nd Session, in the words of its President, Dr. Engen, was "more characterized by pausing and reflection than by decisive action", its discussions were useful in several respects. Furthermore, as the President suggested, a pause is sometimes "a necessary stage through which we have to go in order to make further progress".

The Canadian Delegation went to the 22nd Session with a full realization of the importance of ECOSOC as a means of improving living conditions throughout the world and consequently as a safeguard for peace. Although the World Economic Survey carried out by the U.N. Secretariat General in 1955 showed a substantial advance in world production and trade, in employment and levels of productivity, and in incomes, consumption, and investment, the progress has not been uniform in the various areas of the world. Indeed the gap between the standards of living in the industrialized and less-developed countries has increased and offers a challenge which still has to be met.