

It was decided to hold a preparatory meeting in the spring of 1963 to consider the agenda and documentation for the Conference "with particular reference to the problems of the developing countries". The preparatory group will report to the Council's thirty-sixth session in mid-1963 [see also section on Second Committee]. The Council also asked the Secretary-General to appoint a small group of experts to review the activities of various international organizations concerned with commodity trade and other trade problems of particular importance to the developing countries, and to seek ways of stabilizing the prices of primary commodities at remunerative levels.

Another item of considerable interest dealt with by the Council concerned the economic consequences of disarmament. The Council urged those member governments involved in or affected by military programmes to devote further attention to these questions with a view to developing needed information, plans and policies for making necessary economic and social adjustments in the event of disarmament. The Council also urged further United Nations studies. Finally, it called for wide distribution of the report on this subject prepared by a group of ten economists at the request of the Secretary-General.

The Council considered other problems relating to economic and social development, including a proposed statute for a capital development fund, methods for financing petroleum exploration, land reform and rural development. Finally, at its resumed thirty-fourth session, held at United Nations headquarters in New York in December, the Council considered elections and nominations to subsidiary bodies and discussed its programme of work in 1963.

The Functional Commissions of the Economic and Social Council

Six of the seven Functional Commissions of ECOSOC held meetings in 1962. Their activities are discussed in the following sections. The Population Commission, which meets every two years, did not hold a meeting in 1962. During 1962 Canada was a member of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Statistical Commission and the Social Commission.

Status of Women Commission

The Commission, which met at United Nations headquarters in New York from March 19 to April 6, considered resolutions on the status of women in private law and inheritance laws, on United Nations assistance for the advancement of women in the developing countries and on plans for annual regional seminars on the status of women. The Commission unanimously approved a joint five-nation resolution requesting ECOSOC to recommend that the governments of member states take all possible measures to ensure equality of inheritance rights of men and women. On the question