

1962 Meeting of the Economic and Social Council

The Economic and Social Council held its thirty-third and thirty-fourth meetings in 1962. The thirty-third meeting was held at United Nations headquarters in New York from April 3 to April 18 and the thirty-fourth session was held in Geneva from July 3 to August 3. Canada, which is not at present a member of the Council, sent observers to both meetings.

Probably the most important step undertaken at the thirty-third session of the Council was the approval of plans for a \$100-million World Food Programme, to be carried out jointly by the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization. The Programme is designed to provide aid for meeting emergency food needs and emergencies inherent in chronic malnutrition, assisting in the feeding of school and pre-school children, and using food as an aid to social and economic development. Canada has pledged \$5 million (U.S.) in cash and kind for the experimental three-year programme which commenced operations January 1, 1963. Canada is one of the 20 members of the governing body of the Programme.

The Council also asked that proposals for a priority programme of co-ordinated action in the water-resources field be drawn up by the United Nations Water Resources Development Centre, with the co-operation of other organs concerned, within the framework of the United Nations Development Decade.

Final actions taken by the Council at this meeting were the elections to the Functional Commissions, the Special Fund, the Technical Assistance Committee and the Executive Board of UNICEF.

At its thirty-fourth session the Council discussed proposals for intensifying international action to meet the goals of the United Nations Decade of Development. In 1961 the General Assembly proclaimed the decade of the Sixties as the United Nations Development Decade, with the basic objective of making it possible for the national incomes of less-developed countries to achieve by 1970 a 5 percent annual rate of increase. At the conclusion of the debate the Council adopted unanimously a 14-power resolution which called on United Nations members in the first years of the Decade to give particular attention to the following matters: industrial development; improved access to world markets for developing countries; stabilization of commodity prices; avoidance of trade restrictions; an increased value of development capital; the development of human resources through adequate programmes of education and training, public-health administration and housing; and exploration and exploitation of natural resources. In a related resolution, the Council established an 11-member Special Committee on Co-ordination, which will co-ordinate the United Nations activities being carried out as part of the Decade of Development.

Also in the context of the Development Decade, the Council unanimously decided to convene a United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.