

1963 Meetings of the Economic and Social Council

In 1963, the Economic and Social Council held its thirty-fifth meeting at United Nations headquarters in New York from April 2 to 18 and its thirty-sixth session in Geneva from July 2 to August 2. A resumed thirty-sixth session was held in New York from December 12 to 19. Canada, which is not at present a member of the Council, sent observers to these meetings.

At its thirty-fifth session, in its concern for the improvement of the world economic and social conditions, the Council launched new initiatives concerning world trade, economic co-operation, capital punishment, population control, and human rights. Measures to increase the effectiveness of the United Nations economic and social activities were adopted. The Council also authorized a continuing study of a proposed declaration on international economic co-operation, suggested a review by member governments of their legislation on capital punishment, recommended measures for more efficient organization of economic, social and human rights activities, and called for a world-wide celebration in December 1963 of the fifteenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. Finally, reports from the World Bank and its affiliates, from the Population Commission, and from UNICEF were examined.

At its thirty-sixth session the Council set the date for the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (March 23 to June 15, 1964) and approved the provisional agenda of the Conference. The Council established a committee to study the application of science and technology in the developing countries, approved the United Nations Training and Research Centre, and invited member states to provide relief to the earthquake victims in Yugoslavia.

The Council decided to exclude Portugal from the Economic Commission for Africa and to suspend South Africa from the work of that body. It increased the Governing Council of the Special Fund and urged enlargement of its own membership to provide more equitable representation for Africa. A further study of the economic and social consequences of disarmament was urged and plans for a ten-year campaign against illiteracy were transmitted to the General Assembly.

In action based on reports from some of its Functional Commissions, the Council advocated measures to improve the status of women, submitted to the Assembly a Draft Declaration on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination and recommended the adoption of its Draft Recommendation on Marriage.

At its resumed thirty-sixth session, the Council confirmed the members of four Functional Commissions and elected new members to the Technical Assistance Committee, the Governing Council of the Special Fund, the Executive Committee of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refu-