

second session, through the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, a report on the existing technical assistance of the United Nations system of organizations to the developing countries as well as on the steps envisaged to assist those countries in improving their statistical services with a view to meeting the requirements of the Second United Nations Development Decade.

*1747th plenary meeting,
3 May 1971.*

1568 (L). Preparation for the United Nations/IMCO Conference on International Container Traffic

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its decision taken at the forty-eighth session that a Conference on International Container Traffic should be convened jointly by the United Nations and the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization,⁷

Having received the Secretary-General's note on the preparation for the Conference,⁸

Aware that technological advancements in international container transport have important economic implications for conditions of development in developing countries,

Recognizing the desirability of more extensive discussion among Governments with respect to elaborating more precisely the scope and objectives of the Conference,

Noting that the Conference is supposed to deal, among other questions, with the legal problems concerning in particular the liability of combined transport operators and related questions,

Noting that a preliminary draft of a Convention on the International Combined Transport of Goods (TCM) has been considered by the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization and the Economic Commission for Europe,

Noting further that the Committee on Shipping of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in its resolution 17 (V) of 3 April 1971,⁹ recommended that the Economic and Social Council be invited to consider undertaking a study on the economic implications, in particular for developing countries, of the proposed Convention on the International Combined Transport of Goods so that such implications may be fully taken into account,

1. *Agrees* that the Conference on International Container Traffic should begin at Geneva on 13 November 1972 and that it should not extend beyond five weeks;

2. *Stresses* that the Conference should have its scope limited to the international aspects of containerization, including in particular those international aspects related to combined transport and its requirements, and that this scope should not comprehend over-all transport control;

3. *Stresses further* that the Conference should have as its guiding principle the development and facilitation of container traffic on a global basis while safeguarding the interests of the developing countries;

⁷ *Ibid.*, Resumed Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 1A (E/4832/Add.1 and Corr.1), p. 17.

⁸ E/4963.

⁹ See E/L.1380.

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ascertain the views of Governments of Member States as to their priorities for the Conference from among the topics and areas of action referred to in the decision taken by the Council at its forty-eighth session;

5. *Requests further* that a small intergovernmental preparatory group, half of its members to be designated by the President of the Economic and Social Council and the other half by the Chairman of the Council of the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, with due regard to geographical representation, be convened as early as practicable to review the responses of Governments and propose a specific provisional agenda to the Economic and Social Council;

6. *Requests also* that the Secretary-General, in close co-operation with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the regional economic commissions and the United Nations Economic and Social Office at Beirut, and in consultation with the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, prepare a study on the economic implications, in particular for developing countries, of the proposed Convention on the International Combined Transport of Goods, such study to be conducted with the assistance of experts, after ascertaining the views of Governments of Member States on those aspects and questions which in their view require clarification;

7. *Requests also* that the Secretary-General distribute the study to the Governments of Member States as soon as it is available;

8. *Invites* the Committee on Shipping of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the regional economic commissions, the United Nations Economic and Social Office at Beirut and the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization to review the matter in the light of the results of the study in order to consider whether the draft Convention on the International Combined Transport of Goods or alternative proposals are ready for international consideration.

*1757th plenary meeting,
10 May 1971.*

1569 (L). Preparation for the United Nations/IMCO Conference on International Container Traffic

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its decision taken at the forty-eighth session that a Conference on International Container Traffic should be convened jointly by the United Nations and the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization,¹⁰

Having considered the arrangements proposed by the Secretary-General in his note on the preparation for the Conference,¹¹

Decides that all States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency and, in an advisory capacity, the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency and also, as observers, interested intergovernmental organizations and interested non-governmental organizations having con-

¹⁰ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Resumed Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 1A (E/4832/Add.1 and Corr.1)*, p. 17.

¹¹ E/4963.