

**United Nations**  
**CONFERENCE**  
**ON**  
**TRADE AND EMPLOYMENT**

**Nations Unies**  
**CONFERENCE**  
**DU**  
**COMMERCE ET DE L'EMPLOI**

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FIRST COMMITTEE: EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

SUB-COMMITTEE C: PROPOSED RESOLUTION ON INTERNATIONAL ACTION  
RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT

FIRST MEETING

Held in Conference Room J, Capitolio, 30 December 1947, 2.30 p.m.

The Sub-Committee unanimously elected Mr. J. H. G. PIERSON (United States of America) Chairman.

The representative of Australia expressed the view that there should be a resolution and that it should cover the three following points:

1. That the primary responsibility for sustaining demand and employment rests with the national government concerned;
2. That international agencies should be requested to indicate in what respects and to what extent they are prepared to act in advance to avert a decline in employment or demand;
3. That agreements should be concluded for the purpose of giving stability to the prices of primary products entering into international trade.

The representative of France agreed that there should be a resolution and thought that such a resolution should express the interest and concern of the ITO in the maintenance of employment and should indicate the basis for such an interest on the part of the ITO. The resolution might also emphasize that the problem of maintaining employment differed from one country to another depending on the degree of economic development and possibly on special factors in individual cases, such as surpluses of population and lack of international mobility of labour. The resolution might also give a concrete indication of the measures required.

The representative of Lebanon concurred in the view that it was important that the Conference should adopt a resolution and that the preparation of such a resolution might include an examination of the activities in this field of the Economic and Social Council, and its subsidiary bodies, and of various inter-governmental agencies. In the resolution any interim commission of the ITO which may be envisaged might be instructed to follow up the implementation of any recommendations. He felt also that the resolution might emphasize the  
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relationship existing between, on the one hand, the encouragement of economic development in less developed areas and, on the other hand, the maintenance of employment in the developed countries, particularly in the capital goods industries but also in other sectors of the economy which might be indirectly affected.

The Chairman observed that in the light of the preceding discussion any resolution might express the interest and concern of the ITO, might make specific suggestions concerning measures required, and might seek information concerning the activities and projects of national governments and international agencies. He remarked that, in the light of the information supplied orally during the meeting concerning the schedule of meetings under the Economic and Social Council, any resolution adopted by the present Conference could presumably be received by the Economic and Social Council at its February session and, if the Council saw fit, could be taken into account by the meeting of the Sub-Commission on Stability and Employment in March and, in turn, by the Economic and Employment Commission in April. The meeting of the Economic and Social Council scheduled for July would have an opportunity to consider further such a resolution in the light of any discussion which may have taken place on it at the meetings of the Council's subsidiary bodies.

The representative of Mexico emphasized the importance which his delegation attached to the adoption by the Conference, either as part of a general resolution on employment or as a separate resolution, of some recommendation concerning the treatment of migratory workers and the control of illegal migration. He submitted a draft on such a recommendation (E/CONF.2/C.1/C/W.1).

At the conclusion of the meeting it was decided that rather than appoint a drafting group at this stage it would be desirable if the full Sub-Committee could have a further meeting at which consideration might be given to any additional specific proposals which might have been circulated in the interval.

It was agreed that any delegations having specific proposals to make should submit them to the Secretariat if possible by noon, Wednesday, 31 December, in order that such proposals might be circulated and studied prior to the next meeting.

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