INFORMAL PRE-CONFERENCE CONSULTATIONS
To be held on Wednesday, 18 June 1975,
at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. in Conference Room I

LIST OF QUESTIONS

1. Opening of the meeting by the Secretary-General of the Conference
2. Election of the Chairman
3. Reports on general arrangements for the Conference
4. Recommendations on procedural questions
   (a) Election of the President of the Conference (item 1)
   (b) Adoption of the rules of procedure (item 2)
   (c) Adoption of the agenda (item 3)
   (d) Establishment of committees and organization of work (item 4)
   (e) Election of officers other than the President (item 5)
   (f) Appointment of the Credentials Committee (item 6 (a))
   (g) General debate (list of speakers)
   (h) Report of the Conference (outline) (item 12)
5. Other questions
Explanatory notes on the questions to be considered at the pre-Conference consultations.

President of the Conference:

The meeting may wish to recommend that, in accordance with the usual practice followed at United Nations conferences, the head of the delegation of the host country be elected by acclamation as President of the Conference.

Rules of procedure

The provisional rules of procedure of the Conference are contained in document E/CONF.66/2. Rule 6 of the provisional rules leaves open the number of Vice-Presidents to be elected by the Conference. The meeting may wish to propose the number of Vice-Presidents and to recommend the provisional rules for adoption by the Conference.

Agenda and organization of work


The meeting may wish to recommend the adoption of the agenda, allocation of agenda items, organization of the work and a time-table for the work of the Conference and its main committees.

To expedite its work and thus enable the Conference to conclude on time, the meeting may wish to make the following recommendations:

(a) That, in principle, meetings be scheduled from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. and that meetings should start punctually and not later than five minutes after the scheduled time; that both delegations and the Secretariat be prepared to hold night meetings, if necessary;

(b) That, in principle, no general statements be made at the committee level;

(c) That the chairman of each committee endeavour at the outset to indicate as precisely as possible the order in which the committee will take up the proposals before it, and the schedule for the conclusion of consideration of each proposal;
(d) That each committee establish a deadline for the submission of draft proposals by delegations;

(e) That delegations be prepared to take decisions in the committees before the general debate in the plenary is concluded;

(f) That the work of the committees be completed according to schedule in order that the reports might be reproduced and circulated in all working languages, if possible not later than the day preceding their consideration in plenary.

**Election of officers other than the President**

Rule 6 of the provisional rules of procedure states that "The Conference shall elect the following officers: a President, ... Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur-General, as well as a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur for each of the main committees ...".

The meeting may wish to make recommendations regarding these officers.

**Credentials Committee**

Rule 4 of the provisional rules of procedure states that "A Credentials Committee of nine members shall be appointed at the beginning of the Conference. Its membership shall, as far as possible, be the same as that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its twenty-ninth session".

The Credentials Committee of the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session was composed of representatives of the following countries: Belgium, China, Costa Rica, the Philippines (Chairman), Senegal, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America and Venezuela. The meeting may wish to recommend that the Credentials Committee of the Conference have the same composition.

**General debate**

The general debate will commence on Thursday, 19 June 1975. The meeting may wish to recommend that, in view of the relatively short time available to it, the Conference should urge heads of delegations
participating in the general debate to be brief and concise and an indicative time of 10-15 minutes be set for statements by representatives of Governments and a somewhat shorter time for other participants and observers.

Furthermore, the meeting may wish to recommend that the list of speakers in the general debate be closed at 12 noon on 23 June 1975, that representatives be ready to speak when called upon at the meeting for which they are inscribed, and that the right of reply be exercised at the conclusion of a meeting, when this is possible, or at the end of the day whenever two meetings have been scheduled for that day.

In the light of the experience at the World Population Conference in Bucharest and the World Food Conference in Rome, the meeting may wish to recommend that only the heads of specialized agencies, other bodies in the United Nations system, and intergovernmental organizations make statements in plenary meetings, and that other representatives of such bodies should make their statements in the committees.

In order to facilitate interpretation and preparation of the report of the Conference, delegations are requested to provide 15 advance copies of their statements to the Secretariat at the meeting at which the statement is to be made.

Report of the Conference

The meeting may wish to recommend that, in accordance with the practice of previous United Nations conferences, the report of the Conference consist of:

Part one, containing the resolutions and recommendations of the Conference;

Part two, containing an account of the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council action leading to the convening of the Conference;

Part three, containing a brief summary of the proceedings of the Conference, including an account of the work of the main committees.