

be repaid as soon as credits are available in the Tax Equalization Fund.

*559th plenary meeting,
16 December 1955.*

982 (X). Permanent headquarters of the International Telecommunication Union and the World Meteorological Organization

The General Assembly,

Recalling the conclusion reached at its ninth session³⁴ concerning proposals made, subject to certain conditions, to the International Telecommunication Union and the World Meteorological Organization for the construction at United Nations cost of permanent headquarters for these two agencies on United Nations grounds at Geneva,

Having considered the reports³⁵ of the Secretary-General and the report³⁶ of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

Having noted the offer made by the Republic and Canton of Geneva to the two aforementioned agencies concerning the construction of permanent headquarters buildings outside United Nations grounds in Geneva,

Having noted the statement made by the Acting Observer of Switzerland at the 510th meeting of the Fifth Committee³⁷ to the effect that the Government of Switzerland is ready to consider the question of financial participation in the extension of the Palais des Nations if a proposal from the United Nations is submitted to it,

Recalling its steadfast policy in favour of the promotion of common services between the United Nations and the specialized agencies, and considering that such services can most effectively be organized by housing the participating organizations in one and the same building,

1. *Decides* that the Secretary-General be authorized to inform the International Telecommunication Union and the World Meteorological Organization that the United Nations is prepared to construct a new wing to the Palais des Nations in Geneva to provide permanent headquarters for these agencies, subject to the following conditions:

(a) That the Secretary-General is able to find ways and means of financing the construction costs in such a manner that any charge falling on the United Nations budget in the years 1957-1961 does not exceed \$200,000

³⁴ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Ninth Session, Fifth Committee, 482nd meeting.*

³⁵ *Ibid., Tenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 38, documents A/C.5/627/Rev.1 and A/C.5/L.353.*

³⁶ *Ibid., document A/3025.*

³⁷ *Ibid., Tenth Session, Fifth Committee, 510th meeting, para. 37.*

per annum, no charge to be made thereafter;

(b) That the agencies shall repay, without interest, over a period not exceeding fifty years, the costs to be borne by the United Nations in connexion with the construction of the building, the title to the building remaining vested in the United Nations;

(c) That the cost of alterations to an existing conference room for the exclusive use of the International Telecommunication Union and the World Meteorological Organization shall be borne by those organizations, the title to the premises remaining vested in the United Nations;

(d) That the United Nations shall be solely responsible for the management and maintenance of the building together with its annexes and grounds; repairs to the building to be executed by the United Nations; the cost of minor repairs necessary to ensure normal use shall be borne by the two agencies; the cost of major repairs shall be borne by the United Nations in accordance with local custom;

(e) That the building shall be leased for an indefinite period to the two organizations at a rental of one dollar per annum;

(f) That the rates of reimbursement in respect of any services provided by the United Nations to the two organizations should be negotiated in accordance with the principles agreed by the Fifth Committee at its 510th meeting;³⁸

2. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to enter into negotiations with the International Telecommunication Union and the World Meteorological Organization for the construction of a suitable extension of the Palais des Nations;

3. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to enter into negotiations with the Government of Switzerland in consultation with the Secretaries-General of the International Telecommunication Union and the World Meteorological Organization, with a view to ascertaining the possibilities of Swiss financial assistance towards the extension of the Palais des Nations;

4. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General, in the event that he should make an offer under the authority granted to him by paragraph 1 above and that this offer should be accepted, to incur the necessary commitments and to advance from the Working Capital Fund, in 1956, a sum not exceeding \$100,000 to finance preliminary work in connexion with the construction;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on these negotiations and their outcome to the General Assembly at its eleventh session.

*559th plenary meeting,
16 December 1955.*

³⁸ *Ibid., para. 20.*