



**ADDENDUM TO THE REPORT
OF THE
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

RESUMED SIXTY-THIRD SESSION

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: THIRTY-SECOND SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 3A (A/32/3/Add.1)

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^a See also *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/32/3)*, chap. III, sect. K.

^b Matter left pending at the Council's sixty-second session (see Council resolution 2057 (LXII), para. 4 (j)).

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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The resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its resumed sixty-third session are printed in *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Resumed Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 1A* (E/6020/Add.1).

RESTRUCTURING OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SECTORS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

(Item 8 of the agenda for the sixty-third session)¹

1. At the 2088th and 2090th meetings, on 31 October and 14 December 1977, the Economic and Social Council considered the item entitled "Restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system", discussion of which had been resumed from the sixty-second session. The Council had before it the report of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System² and a draft of its own report on the rationalization of its work (E/L.1791). (For the final text, see sect. B below.)

A. Report of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System

2. At the 2090th meeting, the Rapporteur of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System introduced the report of that Committee.²

3. Statements were made by the representatives of Poland (on behalf of Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Jamaica (on behalf of the States members of the Group of 77), Denmark (on behalf of the States members of the European Economic Community), Tunisia, the Sudan, Uganda and Nigeria (see E/SR.2090).

B. Report of the Council on the rationalization of its work

4. In resolution 1768 (LIV) of 18 May 1973, the Council expressed, *inter alia*, the conviction "that both short-term and long-term measures for the reorganization and reorientation of its own activities and its subsidiary organs are required to strengthen the role of the United Nations in international economic and social co-operation" and undertook a process of rationalization of its work, the underlying objectives of which were reaffirmed by the General Assembly in its resolution 3341 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974.³

¹ For an account of the Council's consideration of this item at its organizational session for 1977 and its sixty-second session, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/32/3)*, chap. III, sect. K.

² *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 34 (A/32/34)*.

³ Prior to the adoption of resolution 1768 (LIV), the Council had, from time to time, adopted decisions relating to its own operation and organization of work. Indeed, not long after the inception of the Organization, the Council, at its thirteenth session, carried out a review of its *modus operandi*, which culminated in the adoption of resolution 557 (XVIII) of 5 August 1954, designed to streamline the Council's structure and agenda, readjust its programme of work and of

In that resolution, the Assembly also called for the adoption of a number of measures designed to enhance the ability of the Council to perform the functions that devolved upon it and requested the Council to report thereon to the Assembly at its thirty-first session. In section VII of General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975, by which the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System was established, the Assembly called upon the Council to continue the process of rationalization and reform that it had undertaken in accordance with Council resolution 1768 (LIV) and General Assembly resolution 3341 (XXIX). The Council informed the Assembly at its thirty-first session that it would submit the report requested in resolution 3341 (XXIX), together with its comments on the final report of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Restructuring. When the General Assembly decided at its thirty-first session to extend the mandate of the *Ad Hoc* Committee, it requested the Council to submit that report to the Assembly at its thirty-second session.

5. The process of rationalization has so far involved a review of (a) the relationship agreements with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA); (b) the terms of reference of the Council's subsidiary machinery, including the institutional arrangements for programme and co-ordination; (c) the rules of procedure of the Council and its subsidiary bodies; and (d) the methods of work of

meetings and reorganize its debates. (See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Ninth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/2686)*.) Further measures to reorganize the work of the Council were taken when the first United Nations Development Decade was launched and again in 1965, when the Secretary-General called for a thorough reappraisal of the Council's operation in the light of the doubts expressed at the time about the role that the Council had played in tackling some of the most important problems of development (see *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirty-seventh Session, 1320th meeting*).

An amendment to the Charter, decided upon in General Assembly resolution 1991 B (XVIII) of 17 December 1963, by which the membership of the Council was increased from 18 to 27, entered into force on 31 August 1965. On 30 July 1971 the Council adopted four resolutions, in which it recommended a further enlargement of its membership to 54; laid down institutional arrangements for science and technology and for the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade (resolution 1621 (LI)); recommended adoption by the Assembly of various organizational measures (resolution 1622 (LI))—the substance of which was embodied by the Assembly in resolution 3341 (XXIX)—and set out new arrangements relating to the pattern of meetings, the agenda, the consideration of reports of subsidiary bodies and the documentation submitted to the Council (resolutions 1623 (LI) and 1624 (LI)). Resolution 1768 (LIV) of 18 May 1973 represented the first attempt by the Council to undertake a process of rationalization based upon the adoption of inter-related measures affecting the most relevant aspects of its constitutional responsibilities and methods of work.

the Council and of its subsidiary machinery, with special emphasis on the Council's programme of work and agenda, the pattern and calendar of meetings, the documentation submitted to the Council and other related matters. The Council has also carried out a review of the structure of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

6. It may be recalled that the amendment to the Charter decided upon by the General Assembly in resolution 2847 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971, whereby the membership of the Council was increased to 54, entered into force in September 1973. The distribution of seats was laid down by the Assembly in the same resolution.

1. *The relationship agreements with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency*

7. Section V of Council resolution 1768 (LIV) called for a review of the relationship agreements with the specialized agencies and IAEA "in view of the profound changes in world-wide economic co-operation within the United Nations system which have taken place since the conclusion of the present agreements" and "with a view to strengthening the coherence of the system and its capacity to fulfil, in particular, the objectives of the International Development Strategy in an effective and co-ordinated manner".

8. To that end, the Secretary-General submitted to the Council at its fifty-seventh session a descriptive and analytical report on the past and current relationship between the United Nations and the specialized agencies, and on aspects of the relationship between the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency within the competence of the Council as set forth in the Charter (E/5524 and Add.1-4, Add.4/Corr.1 and Add.5). The Council also had before it the views of the executive heads of the specialized agencies and IAEA on the matter (E/5476 and Add.1-3, Add.3/Corr.1 and Add. 4-13). In addition, the Council had before it a report entitled "Towards greater order, coherence and co-ordination in the United Nations system", prepared by Mr. Martin Hill, former Assistant Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs (E/5491). In resolution 1906 (LVII) of 2 August 1974, the Council decided to refer the report of the Secretary-General and the views of the executive heads of the specialized agencies, IAEA and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), to an intersessional meeting of the Policy and Programme Co-ordination Committee with instructions "to review in a thorough manner the agreements between the United Nations and the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency, and to recommend to the Council such modifications and additional provisions as may be necessary in the existing agreements". The Committee was instructed in the same resolution to make such recommendations as might be necessary with a view to making the United Nations system a more effective instrument of world economic and social co-operation and of co-operation in the human rights field, taking into account in particular the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade.

9. The Policy and Programme Co-ordination Committee did not, however, complete the task assigned to it. Many delegations participating in the debate

recognized the necessity for a revision of the agreements and referred to the fact that several meetings scheduled in 1975, particularly those in preparation for the seventh special session of the General Assembly, would have an important bearing on the task assigned to it. A number of delegations felt that, for the same reasons, they could not, at that time, take a substantive position on the issues before the Committee. At the conclusion of its intersessional meetings in February 1975, the Committee submitted a report, which was considered by the Council at its fifty-eighth session, in which it recommended that it "complete the task assigned to it under Council resolution 1906 (LVII) in 1976 in the light of the work of the General Assembly at its seventh special session" and that "it request the Secretary-General to bring [its] report to the attention of the group of high-level experts examining the structure of the United Nations in preparation for the seventh special session of the General Assembly" (E/5633, paras. 4 and 14).

10. At the fifty-eighth session, the Council adopted resolution 1920 (LVIII) of 5 May 1975, in which, noting the interim report of the Policy and Programme Co-ordination Committee (E/5633), and reaffirming the need for a thorough review of the United Nations system with a view to strengthening the coherence of the system and making it a more flexible and effective instrument of world economic and social co-operation and of co-operation in the human rights field, it decided that provision should be made in 1976 for the Council to complete as early as possible the task assigned under that resolution in the light of the work of the General Assembly at its seventh special session.⁴

11. At the sixtieth session, the Council, in decision 153 (LX) of 14 May 1976, decided to transmit to the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System the above-mentioned reports of the Secretary-General and the interim report of the Policy and Programme Co-ordination Committee and to review at the earliest appropriate date in 1977, in the light of the conclusions and recommendations of the *Ad Hoc* Committee and of the deliberations of the General Assembly at its thirty-first session, the agreements between the United Nations and the specialized agencies and IAEA.⁵

12. Inasmuch as the *Ad Hoc* Committee had not as yet submitted its final report, the Council, in decision 217 (LXII) of 26 April 1977, agreed to take a decision on the timing of the review at its organizational session for 1978.

2. *The structure of the Council's subsidiary machinery and institutional arrangements for programme and co-ordination*

13. In section IV of resolution 1768 (LIV), the Council called for a review of the terms of reference of the Council's subsidiary bodies, on the basis of an assessment and reorientation of their role, particularly in the implementation of the International Development Strategy, taking due account of the responsibilities of the other organs and agencies of the United Nations system. In resolution 3341 (XXIX), the General Assembly urged the Council, when undertaking

⁴ For an account of the relevant proceedings of the Council, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/10003)*, chap. III, sect. K.

⁵ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/31/3)*, chap. III, sect. H.

such a review, "to streamline its subsidiary machinery". In section III B of resolution 1768 (LIV), the Council laid down the main functions that should be performed by the Council's subsidiary organ on programming and co-ordination.

14. For the consideration of this question, the Secretariat submitted to the Council at its fifty-sixth session a document containing exclusively factual information on the terms of reference, membership, terms of office, reporting procedures and other relevant matters of the entire machinery for international co-operation which functions within the framework of chapters IX and X of the Charter of the United Nations (E/5453); the question was allocated to the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Rationalization of the Work of the Council. In reviewing the subsidiary machinery of the Council, the *Ad Hoc* Committee focused its attention on (a) the interrelationship of the Committee on Science and Technology for Development and the Committee on Natural Resources; (b) the machinery for over-all review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy; and (c) the institutional arrangements for science and technology. In connexion with the institutional arrangements for programme and co-ordination, the *Ad Hoc* Committee considered two proposals that had been submitted to the Council at an earlier session.

15. On the recommendation of the *Ad Hoc* Committee, the Council adopted decision 19 (LVI) of 17 May 1974, in which it deferred the review of the terms of reference of its subsidiary bodies until its fifty-eighth session, and decision 20 (LVI) of 17 May 1974, in which it decided not to hold the fifteenth session of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) before the fifty-seventh session of the Council but to consider directly in its Co-ordination [sessional] Committee, during its fifty-seventh session, the substantive item included in the provisional agenda of CPC. In the same decision the Council agreed to defer until its fifty-seventh session the review of the machinery for programme and co-ordination and decided that the Joint Meetings of CPC and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC), which were to be chaired jointly that year by the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Secretary-General, Chairman of ACC, would deal with the role of the organizations of the United Nations system in the evolution of a new economic and social world order.⁶

16. At the fifty-seventh session, the institutional arrangements for programme and co-ordination were reviewed by the Policy and Programme Co-ordination Committee,⁷ which considered in that context a number of proposals. Inasmuch as the Committee was unable to agree on the substance of such proposals, the Council, recognizing the desirability of reaching agreement by consensus on the future of its organization and working methods for dealing with questions of programme and co-ordination, invited CPC to confine the substantive agenda of its fifteenth session to the sole question of the programme budget for 1976-1977 and the medium-term plan for 1976-1979, and, pending

a decision on the future machinery for programme and co-ordination, decided that the remaining functions of CPC under Council resolution 1472 (XLVIII) should be assumed during 1975 by the Policy and Programme Co-ordination Committee (decision 41 (LVII) of 1 August 1974). In decision 42 (LVII) of 1 August 1974 the Council decided to set up an informal group, open to all Member States, to meet at United Nations Headquarters early in 1975 to examine the machinery for programme and co-ordination.⁸

17. Subsequently, the General Assembly, at its 2324th plenary meeting, on 18 December 1974, decided to establish an *ad hoc* Working Group on United Nations Programme and Budget Machinery to review the existing United Nations intergovernmental and expert machinery for the formulation, review, approval and evaluation of programmes and budgets, including the medium-term plan, and to recommend means of improving the existing system, taking into account the views expressed in the Fifth Committee during the twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth sessions of the General Assembly, and the deliberations on that subject in the informal group set up by the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-seventh session to examine the machinery for programming and co-ordination. The Assembly further decided to consider at its thirtieth session the report of the Working Group, together with the conclusions of the Economic and Social Council on the matter.⁹

18. At its organizational session for 1975, the Council requested the Chairman of the Policy and Programme Co-ordination Committee to convene an informal group to examine the machinery for programme and co-ordination and to co-ordinate as appropriate the work of the Council's informal group with that of the Assembly's *ad hoc* Working Group (see E/SR.1939).

19. At its fifty-eighth session, the Council, in resolution 1920 (LVIII) of 5 May 1975, decided "to postpone until 1976 the review of the subsidiary machinery of the Council, including the machinery for programme and co-ordination".

20. The General Assembly, in resolution 3392 (XXX) of 20 November 1975, referred to the Economic and Social Council the recommendations submitted to the Assembly by the Working Group on United Nations Programme and Budget Machinery with the recommendation that, at its next organizational session, the Council "should take the necessary measures to implement on an experimental basis in 1976 the recommendations for strengthening CPC and improving its work, and report to the General Assembly at its thirty-first session on the rest of the recommendations to be considered along with the report on the work of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System".

21. At its organizational session for 1976, in decision 139 (ORG-76) of 15 January 1976, the Council decided accordingly, without prejudice to its review of the other terms of reference of the Committee to be undertaken at the sixtieth session in connexion with the review of the terms of reference of all subsidiary

⁶ For an account of the proceedings of the *Ad Hoc* Committee, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/9603)*, chap. VII, sects. 1 and 2.

⁷ The Council decided, in the context of its consideration of the organization of work and agenda for the fifty-seventh session, that its sessional committee on co-ordination should in future be named "Policy and Programme Co-ordination Committee" (see E/L.1596).

⁸ For an account of the relevant proceedings of the Council, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/9603)*, chap. VI, sect. A.1.

⁹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Supplement No. 31 (A/9631)*, p. 137.

bodies of the Council, to amend the terms of reference of CPC in accordance with the recommendations contained in the report of the Working Group on United Nations Programme and Budget Machinery (A/10117 and Corr.1, para. 77).

22. At its sixtieth session the Council again took up the review of the terms of reference of its subsidiary bodies, for which purpose it had before it an up-to-date version of the factual document prepared by the Secretariat (E/5453/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Add.1). The Secretariat also submitted to the Council a document (E/5792) in which it proposed a consolidation of all the existing legislation relating to the terms of reference of CPC.

23. On the basis of that recommendation, the Council in resolution 2008 (LX) of 14 May 1976 adopted consolidated terms of reference for CPC and decided that those terms of reference, including the composition, based on equitable geographical distribution, of that Committee should be reviewed by the Council in the light of the recommendations of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System. The Council also decided, in decision 153 (LX) of 14 May 1976, to transmit to the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Restructuring the document containing the terms of reference of the Council's subsidiary bodies and to review at the earliest appropriate date in 1977, in the light of the conclusions and recommendations of the *Ad Hoc* Committee and of the deliberations of the General Assembly at its thirty-first session, the terms of reference of its subsidiary machinery.¹⁰ At its sixty-second session, the Council, in the light of the fact that the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Restructuring had not submitted its final report, agreed to take a decision on the timing of the review at its organizational session for 1978 (see decision 217 (LXII) of 26 April 1977).

24. The General Assembly, in resolution 31/93 of 14 December 1976, decided that CPC should function as the main subsidiary organ of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly for planning, programming and co-ordination, and approved the consolidated terms of reference as set out in Council resolution 2008 (LX); the General Assembly also decided that, in order to encourage Member States to be represented at a high level of expertise and to ensure the continuity of their representation in the body whose central role and over-all responsibilities were recognized in the resolution, the Organization should bear from 1978 onwards, for an experimental period and subject to review by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session, the travel and subsistence expenses of one representative of each Member State on CPC.

25. With regard to the activities and operation of ACC, it may be recalled that the Council, at its fifty-first session, undertook a comprehensive review of the sphere of activities and competence of that Committee and on 30 July 1971 adopted resolution 1643 (LI) which contained a number of guidelines on the agenda, methods of work, participation and reporting procedures of ACC. In resolution 1768 (LIV) of 18 May 1973, the Council requested ACC, within the limits of its competence, in order to enable effective review of programmes of interorganizational interest and to synthe-

size and harmonize programmes on a system-wide basis, "to extend the prior consultation procedure to the medium-term plans of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, utilizing, as appropriate, the technique of programme budgeting".

26. Joint meetings of CPC and ACC, under the Chairmanship of the Chairman of CPC and the Secretary-General, have been held every year since 1965, in accordance with Council resolution 1090 G (XXXIX) of 31 July 1965. At its fifty-fourth session, the Council, in resolution 1771 (LIV) of 18 May 1973, recommended that "the formal group dialogue which characterizes the existing annual meetings between the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination should develop into a more active working discussion of questions currently on the agenda of the Council, particularly those with system-wide implications and those where problems of co-ordination between the agencies and organs of the United Nations system have arisen or appear likely to arise in the future" and invited "the agencies and organizations of the United Nations system to participate more actively at the appropriate level both in the discussions of the Council and also of its subsidiary bodies, bearing in mind particularly the need for the contributions of the agencies to the policy-determining discussions of the Council and its subsidiary bodies to be both action oriented and made at a sufficiently early stage in the policy elaboration process".

27. At the fifty-ninth session, the Council agreed, by decision 120 (LIX) of 30 July 1975, to urge the organizations and programmes concerned in the United Nations system to seek every feasible means of harmonizing programme budgets and medium-term plans, giving special attention to the comparability of programme narratives.

28. In the report on the Joint Meetings of CPC and ACC (E/5892), submitted to the Council in 1976, the attention of the Council was drawn to:

"(a) The need to strengthen the Joint Meetings through, *inter alia*, better preparation and a careful formulation of the agenda; to this end, the Chairman of CPC would be associated with ACC's discussions on the preparations for these Meetings;

"(b) The need to improve ACC's reporting to the Council along the lines indicated in Economic and Social Council resolution 1643 (LI);

"(c) The need for ACC to strengthen arrangements for prior consultations on work programmes and to accelerate progress towards joint planning in selected areas of system-wide concern;

"...

"(e) The need for organizations to strengthen their substantive support of CPC in its review of selected programmes and their system-wide implications by, *inter alia*, providing it with special analyses and facilitating the attendance of substantive agency officials in the discussions. In addition, CPC members expected that ACC would give special consideration at its sessions preceding the meetings of CPC to the areas selected by CPC for in-depth consideration and looked forward to the Chairman of CPC being invited to those discussions."

29. The Council considered the report at its organizational session in 1977, and in decision 208 (ORG-77)

¹⁰ For an account of the relevant proceedings, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/31/3)*, chap. III, sect. H.

of 12 January 1977 took note of the conclusions contained therein. The Chairman of CPC accordingly took part in the meetings of ACC for the first time at the sixty-ninth session of ACC, held in Paris from 5 to 7 April 1977.

30. The Council, in resolution 2098 (LXIII) of 3 August 1977, invited ACC "to submit annually to CPC the relevant elements and selected information for the selection of programme sectors to be reviewed in depth on a United Nations system-wide basis" and invited "the specialized agencies to co-operate actively, through the machinery of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, in the preparation and timely submission of reports on United Nations system-wide programme sectors for consideration by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination". These reports would replace the analytical summaries hitherto submitted by the agencies. The Council in the same resolution, with a view to "developing for Member States instruments for promoting United Nations system-wide harmonization of programme budgets and medium-term planning, as well as for providing a concise and informative survey of programmes and policy objectives pursued by the United Nations system", requested "the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to specify the obstacles involved in further harmonizing programme budgets and medium-term plans and to make proposals for overcoming them to the Council at its sixty-fifth session, through the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, with a view to deriving the maximum benefits from such harmonization". The Council also requested the Secretary-General "in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, to provide the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its eighteenth session with a compendium of introductions to the most recent programme budgets of agencies and organizations within the United Nations system".

31. In connexion with the role and functions of the regional commissions, the Council, in resolution 2043 (LXI) of 5 August 1976, affirmed that the regional commissions should, as defined in paragraphs 469 and 470 of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the regional structures of the United Nations system (E/5727), exercise team leadership and responsibility for intersectoral co-ordination and co-operation at the regional level, with the active support of the United Nations Development Programme and of regional offices. In the same resolution the Council requested the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Restructuring, without prejudice to the special needs and conditions of each region and to the outcome of the work of the *Ad Hoc* Committee, to consider, *inter alia*, the following options:

"(a) The designation of the regional commissions as team leaders with responsibilities for the co-operation and co-ordination of intersectoral programmes at the regional level;

"(b) The designation, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) and Council resolution 1896 (LVII), of the regional commissions as executing agencies of the United Nations Development Programme for future United Nations intersectoral subregional, regional and interregional projects and the inclusion of the commissions in the list of executing agencies for the implementation of such projects;

"(c) The delegation in full to the regional commissions of the executing agency functions for existing intersectoral subregional and regional operational activities of the United Nations, in accordance with Council resolutions 1896 (LVII) and 1952 (LIX);

"(d) The organization by the executive secretaries of the regional commissions, on a regular basis, of meetings, with a view to improving the co-ordination of the economic and social activities of the United Nations system in their respective regions;

"(e) Arrangements for ensuring that regional views are duly reflected in the debates in the Second Committee of the General Assembly."

3. Rules of procedure of the Council and its subsidiary bodies

32. The rules of procedure of the Council and its functional commissions have been reviewed and revised on an *ad hoc* basis on several occasions.¹¹ In pursuance of Council resolution 1807 (LV) of 8 August 1973, a comprehensive review of the rules was undertaken at the fifty-sixth session, when the Council set up a sessional *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Rationalization of the Work of the Council. The *Ad Hoc* Committee had before it a comprehensive draft of the revised rules of procedure of the Council prepared by the Secretariat (E/5450, annex I). Inasmuch as the rules of procedure of the Council's functional commissions were based on those of the Council, the Council agreed that the revision of the rules of procedure of its functional commissions should be deferred until a revised text of its rules of procedure had been approved. The *Ad Hoc* Committee reported to the Council that the time allocated to it was insufficient for an in-depth consideration of the proposed revision of the rules of procedure and that the question should be deferred to a later session of the Council.¹² On the proposal of the Committee, the Council decided to defer the review of the rules of procedure of the Council and its subsidiary bodies to its fifty-eighth session and to establish an *ad hoc* working group of at least two members from each regional group, open also to any other interested member State, to examine and report to the Council at its fifty-eighth session on the matter. The Council referred to the working group the draft text of the revised rules of procedure prepared by the Secretariat (decision 21 (LVI) of 17 May 1974). The Council, at its fifty-eighth session, adopted resolution 1949 (LVIII) of 8 May 1975 in which, on the basis of its consideration of the report of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group (E/5634) and of the report of the Chairman of the informal consultations held by the Council at its fifty-eighth session (E/5677), adopted revised rules of procedure of the Council. The Council also decided to review at the sixtieth session the rules of procedure of its functional commissions.¹³

¹¹ An account of such reviews of the rules of procedure of the Council and its functional commissions since their inception is contained in the annex to the present *Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Council* and in a prefatory note to the *Rules of Procedure of the Functional Commissions of the Economic and Social Council* (United Nations publications, Sales Nos. E.75.I.15 and E.77.I.10).

¹² For an account of the relevant proceedings of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Rationalization of the Work of the Council, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/9603)*, chap. VII, sect. 3.

¹³ For an account of the relevant proceedings of the Council, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/10003)*, chap. III, sect. K.1.

33. Among the new provisions that the Council decided to incorporate into its revised rules of procedure are those which prescribe:

(a) That four, instead of three, Vice-Presidents of the Council shall be elected (rule 18), in order to ensure a better representation of the regional groups in the Bureau of the Council;

(b) That, except for the regional commissions, the commissions and committees of the Council shall not create either standing or *ad hoc* intersessional subsidiary bodies without prior approval of the Council (rule 24);

(c) That neither verbatim nor summary records shall be provided for newly established subsidiary organs of the Council unless they have been specifically authorized by the Council (rule 38);

(d) That the Council, its committees and sessional bodies shall invite any State, Member of the United Nations that is not a member of the Council, and any other State, to participate in their deliberations on any matter of particular concern to that State and that a State thus invited shall not have the right to vote but may submit proposals which may be put to the vote on request of any member of the body concerned (rule 72);

(e) That the Council may invite any national liberation movement recognized by, or in accordance with, resolutions of the General Assembly to participate, without the right to vote, in its deliberations on any matter of particular concern to that movement (rule 73);

(f) That representatives of intergovernmental organizations accorded permanent observer status by the General Assembly and of other intergovernmental organizations designated on an *ad hoc* or a continuing basis by the Council on the recommendation of the Bureau may participate, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Council on questions within the scope of the activities of the organizations (rule 79); and

(g) That the Secretary-General shall circulate to the Council for its consideration every odd-numbered year a draft four-year medium-term plan and biennial programme budget covering the activities in the economic, social and human rights fields; that programme budget proposals recommended by a committee or commission of the Council for its approval must be stated in terms of the objectives to be achieved; that before a proposal involving the expenditure of United Nations funds is approved by the Council, an estimate of the programme budget implications of implementing that proposal shall be prepared and provided to the Council by the Secretary-General; and that in cases of exceptional urgency, the Council may request the Secretary-General to implement a new programme decision, as a matter of priority, during the current biennium (see rule 31).

34. It may also be recalled in this context that the Council, in resolution 1768 (LIV), had expressed the view that "the desired strengthening of the central role of the Council in the United Nations system of economic, social and humanitarian activities could be assisted if Member States were represented at the highest possible political, diplomatic or expert level, including, when appropriate, the ministerial level". In the same resolution, the Council had also requested its President "in consultation with the other officers and

the Secretary-General, to initiate, as and when required, consultations with Member States and the executive heads of the organizations of the United Nations system, both during and before its regular and special sessions, for the purpose of preparing those sessions and their agendas and, in general, of facilitating the task of the Council in the light of the consultations referred to above".

35. The Council, at its sixtieth session, decided to review, at the organizational session for 1977, the rules of procedure of its functional commissions so that they might conform to its revised rules of procedure and, to that end, requested the Secretariat to prepare a draft revised text of the rules of procedure of the commissions (decision 153 (LX) of 14 May 1976).

36. A draft text (see E/5899) was accordingly submitted by the Secretariat to the Council at its organizational session for 1977, at which time the Council, in decision 209 (ORG-77) of 13 January 1977, decided to carry out the review at its sixty-second session. At that session, the Council, in decision 216 (LXII) of 26 April 1977, adopted the revised text of the rules of procedure of its functional commissions prepared by the Secretariat, as orally revised during the discussion.¹⁴

4. *The Council's methods of work*

37. The direction of the rationalization process with regard to the Council's methods of work was articulated in resolutions 1807 (LV) of 8 August 1973 and 1907 (LVII) of 2 August 1974, the underlying premise of which was that the Council's ability to perform its functions depended, to a large extent, upon the efficiency of its operation and practices. The Council laid special emphasis on the need for improved arrangements with regard to: (a) its programme of work and agenda; (b) the pattern and calendar of meetings; and (c) documentation. The General Assembly, in resolution 3341 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974, expressed the conviction that the Council, in order to discharge all its responsibilities, particularly those of co-ordination, in a satisfactory manner, should reorganize its work, and requested the Council "to examine new alternatives . . . including new approaches to the formulation of its agenda, the consideration of the reports of the subsidiary organs, as well as such modifications as may be necessary in the existing pattern of interagency co-operation". The Assembly also stressed the need "for a better distribution throughout the year of questions included in the Council's programme of work".¹⁵

(a) *Programme of work and agenda*

38. In resolution 1768 (LIV), the Council decided that it should henceforth "so orient its deliberations as to focus attention on major issues and emerging developments on which action is necessary to bring about more equitable and harmonious economic and social relationships, in particular through the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade in a dynamic way" and that, to this end, it should "in alternate years concentrate its attention on: (a) the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy, in particular during the summer session; and

¹⁴ The final text of the revised rules of procedure of the functional commissions (E/5975) was issued later as a United Nations publication, Sales No. E.77.1.10.

¹⁵ The decisions of the Council with regard to all these matters are reproduced in E/INF/134/Rev.1 and Amend.1.

(b) other areas which require policy guidance and action". Resolution 1758 (LIV) also prescribed that in the "alternate" years—that is, when no review of the Strategy was required—the Council should "concentrate on the examination of problems and areas of present or potential significance for development and international co-operation including, in particular, new problems or concepts of a global or interdisciplinary nature which require adequate conceptualization, political action or proper co-ordination of operational implementation". It added that such problems and areas should include "those identified during the course of the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy or suggested by (i) Member States, (ii) the General Assembly, (iii) other United Nations organs and sectoral or regional bodies, or (iv) the Secretary-General". In these years, the Council should also carry out a comprehensive policy review of operational activities throughout the United Nations system.

39. It was further provided that the Council "shall annually discharge its continuing responsibilities under the Charter, especially in the consideration of programming and co-ordination matters and human rights, in the assessment of the world economic and social situation, as well as in the performance of those tasks resulting from decisions of competent organs of the United Nations".

40. In resolution 1807 (LV), the Council expressed the conviction that "the streamlining of the Council's programme of work and agenda is essential, in order to achieve a more rational consideration of substantive issues, to improve the quality and reduce the volume of documentation beyond the measures already recommended by the Council, and to enhance the Council's constitutional role and functions" and decided "to concentrate its attention at future sessions on a limited number of carefully selected major policy issues, to be studied in depth with a view to elaborating concrete action-oriented recommendations". The Council requested its subsidiary bodies, "within the framework of their respective competences, in examining the questions on their agenda and reporting thereon to the Council, to take into account the orientation of the Council's work approved in its resolution 1768 (LIV) and to highlight only those specific questions on which action is required by the Council, thus enabling it to expedite its discussions and concentrate on taking appropriate decisions". In the same resolution, the Council requested the Secretary-General, "when preparing the programme of work for the year, to arrange the agenda items in an integrated manner, so that similar and connected issues can be discussed in one debate and under a single heading".

41. The Council, in resolution 1907 (LVII) decided, "in the light of rules 4 and 5 of the rules of procedure of the Council, that the Council's pattern of meetings, in addition to making provision for the regular spring and summer sessions, should take into full account the need for a better distribution throughout the year of the questions included in the Council's programme of work for each year" and that "with a view to such a better distribution of meetings and the more effective operation of the Council, the Secretary-General be requested to present to the Council at its organizational session for 1975 a report containing recommendations to that end, together with an assessment of their possible financial implications".

42. In the report submitted to the Council's organizational session for 1975 (E/5604 and Corr.1) in

response to resolution 1907 (LVII), the Secretariat maintained, in connexion with the formulation of the Council's agenda, that a mere mechanical integration of items would create the illusion that the Council's agenda consisted of fewer items but that the actual workload of the Council would not be substantially reduced unless a more substantive integration was achieved. The report further suggested that the adoption of a new concept of agenda had to be accompanied by other measures relating to the day-to-day operation of the Council. Among these, it was essential to review the manner in which the Council would deal with the reports of its subsidiary bodies. It was further suggested that if the Council was to function as "the central organ for comprehensive policy formulation", as provided for in General Assembly resolution 3341 (XXIX), it should in future concentrate its attention on the consideration of how to fit the conclusions of its subsidiary bodies into over-all strategies for development and economic co-operation. This applied *mutatis mutandis* to the reports of the specialized agencies and other bodies.

43. In pursuance of resolution 1807 (LV), the Council, at the organizational session for 1974, had adopted on an experimental basis, an "integrated" agenda—consisting, in the main, of a formal regrouping of related items under one heading and several "sub-items" (E/5437). In 1975, the Council, on the basis of the experience of the previous year, adopted at its organizational session a new approach to the formulation of its agenda involving a substantive, and not merely a mechanical, integration of related questions. This approach has continued to be followed in the formulation of the programme of work of the Council in subsequent years.

(b) *The Council's pattern and calendar of meetings*

44. The Council, in resolution 1768 (LIV), decided that the calendar of conferences should be so arranged that:

"(a) The Council's body responsible for co-ordination, the Committee for Development Planning, the Commission on Human Rights and its Sub-Commission and the regional economic commissions meet every year unless any of these organs decide or have decided otherwise with the concurrence of the Council;

"(b) All other subsidiary and expert or advisory bodies meet biennially, unless the Council decides otherwise,¹⁶ and their meetings be so timed as to

¹⁶ A number of formal exceptions to this rule have been approved: (a) the Commission on Transnational Corporations is authorized, by resolution 1913 (LVII) of 5 December 1974, to meet annually; (b) the Committee on Science and Technology for Development, acting as Preparatory Committee for the Conference, as well as the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development and its regional and working groups, are scheduled to meet annually during the preparatory period for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development (see resolution 2033 (LXI) of 4 August 1976 and decision 281 (LXIII) of 4 August 1977); (c) the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations is authorized to meet annually to consider applications from those organizations provided that such meetings are held with facilities of the Council (see decision 281 (LXIII) of 4 August 1977). A number of exceptions have also been made on an *ad hoc* basis. For instance, the Council has authorized the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to hold special sessions during the years in which a regular session is not convened; the Committee on Natural Resources met annually, and twice in 1977, in connexion with the preparations for, and the follow-up of, the United Nations Water Conference. In 1976 the Commission on the Status of Women met twice, in a regular and resumed session.

ensure the submission of their reports in good time for the relevant sessions of the Council and, where appropriate, to the Committee on Review and Appraisal, and spaced so as not to overlap or follow too closely upon each other and so as to ensure that their programme objectives are fully reflected in the work programme and budget to be submitted biennially to the Council."

In resolution 1768 (LIV) it was also recalled that "the Council may be convened at any time in special session under the provisions of Article 72, paragraph 2, of the Charter and in accordance with rules 4 and 5 of its rules of procedure".

45. At its sixth special session, the General Assembly, in section IX, paragraph 3 (b), of resolution 3202 (S-VI), provided that, for the purpose of discharging the tasks entrusted to the Council in connexion with the implementation of the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, the Council could be convened, as necessary, in special session or, if need be, "may function continuously".

46. In the report (E/5604 and Corr.1) submitted to the Council at its organizational session for 1975 in pursuance of resolution 1907 (LVII) (see para. 41 above), the Secretariat outlined, *inter alia*, the practical implications of adopting a system of continuous sessions and drew the Council's attention to the fact that such a system could be adopted only on the basis of a thorough and very drastic streamlining of the machinery of the Council. For one of the features of the Council's operation is that its meetings, for all practical purposes, must be held during the first half of the year but the calendar is so crowded during that period with meetings of subsidiary bodies that any further meetings of the Council would overlap with no less than two or three other meetings, a situation that would create very serious problems for delegations and the Secretariat. Thus, if such subsidiary bodies were abolished and their responsibilities assumed by the Council itself, the Council could, at the proper time, hold a two-day or three-day session to consider at the highest level, and with appropriate technical representation of Governments, the questions at present assigned to some of the subsidiary bodies. In the same report, the Secretariat also proposed a number of measures in connexion with the Council's pattern of meetings, including the discontinuance of the resumed sessions during the second half of the year and an increase from four to six in the number of daily meetings at the Council's regular sessions so as to enable three sessional bodies to function simultaneously.

47. On the basis of these recommendations, the Council decided, *inter alia*: (a) to increase from four to six the number of daily meetings at the fifty-eighth and fifty-ninth sessions of the Council, in order that the Council might hold simultaneously two formal meetings and one informal meeting for consultation or other purposes; (b) to invite the Trade and Development Board to consider the advisability of holding its regular sessions at a time which would allow it to report to the General Assembly through the Council at the second regular session of the year of the Council;¹⁷ and

¹⁷ This matter was taken up by the Trade and Development Board at its 438th meeting on 12 August 1975; the Board decided to defer consideration of the Council's recommendation to its first regular session after the fourth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. The

(c) to invite the executive heads of the World Bank and the International Finance Corporation and of the International Monetary Fund to participate in, and give the benefit of their views at, an appropriate session of the Council during the first half of the year, on the understanding that the summary of the annual reports of those organizations would be circulated to all Member States, under cover of a note by the Secretary-General, as soon as they are released.

48. In connexion with the place and dates of meetings of its subsidiary bodies the Council, in decision 52 (LVII) of 1 August 1974, authorized the Secretary-General, in consultation with the President of the Economic and Social Council, to change the place and/or the dates of meetings of subsidiary bodies of the Council, if exceptional circumstances so warranted, provided that the change could be absorbed within existing budgetary appropriations. In the same decision the Council agreed "to adopt, on an experimental basis, a biennial cycle of meetings, and for that purpose, with effect from its fifty-ninth session, to approve... [a] programme of meetings for a period of two years". At its sixty-third session, the Council decided, in the light of the experience gained in the operation of the calendar on that basis, to "adopt, on a regular basis, a biennial cycle of meetings which would correspond to the programme budget cycle, for better administrative control" (decision 281 (LXIII) of 4 August 1977).

49. The Council also decided, by decision 279 (LXIII) of 4 August 1977, "to request its subsidiary bodies, before they submit proposals for changes in the established pattern of their sessions to the Council for its consideration, to seek the advice of the Committee on Conferences, through the Bureau of the Council, which shall make recommendations concerning the timing and co-ordination of the proposals".

(c) Documentation

50. The Council has, over a period of many years, expressed concern about the quality of the documentation submitted to it and has attempted to take specific measures regarding the quantity and timeliness of documentation submitted by the Secretariat and by subsidiary organs and associated organizations. In resolution 1770 (LIV) of 18 May 1973, the Council decided "without prejudice to rule 17 of its rules of procedure, that, except in the case of reports of subsidiary and other bodies on meetings which have concluded twelve weeks or less before the opening of the session of the Council, items on the Council's agenda shall be automatically postponed to the following session when the documentation called for has not been made available to members of the Council six weeks before the opening of the session". In the same resolution, the Council also decided that, "before any resolution or decision involving the preparation of documentation for submission by specific dates is adopted by the Council or any of its subsidiary bodies, the Secretary-General shall indicate to that body whether he will be able to comply with the deadline; in cases where the General Assembly has requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Council, the Secretary-

Trade and Development Board decided at its 456th meeting on 23 October 1976 "to inform the Economic and Social Council... that the Board does not, at present, consider it possible to reschedule the timing of its next regular session" (see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first session, Supplement No. 15 (A/31/15)*, vol. II, annex I, decision 148 (XVI)).

General shall inform the Council at its organizational meetings when he will be able to submit the required documentation; should the Secretary-General subsequently find that he is unable to submit documentation by the date specified, he shall immediately so inform the members of the body concerned, giving the reasons; he shall, nevertheless, make every effort to complete and submit the documentation in question and shall inform the members of the body concerned of the date on which it will be submitted".

51. The Council considered the question of documentation at its fifty-fifth session under a separate item (Measures to improve the documentation of the Council) on the basis of a report by the Secretary-General on the subject (E 5355 and Add.1 Rev.1) and of a note by the Secretary-General (E L.1563) on the form and content of the annual report of the Council to the General Assembly. The Secretariat explained the main difficulties encountered in that context and outlined the arrangements already made or under consideration to improve the planning and control of documentation. As a result of its consideration of the above documents, the Council, at its 1876th meeting on 7 August 1973, decided to request the Secretary-General to pursue the arrangements envisaged therein, taking into account the comments made during the discussion at the Council's fifty-fifth session. In the same resolution, the Council also decided "to request the Secretary-General to continue to submit at the beginning of each regular session of the Council a document containing a list of the documents submitted to the Council at that session, indicating the dates on which they were submitted and the number of pages that they contain". The Council further decided to change the format of its annual report to the General Assembly.¹⁸

52. Other decisions adopted by the Council with respect to documentation include the following:

(a) The Council agreed that its basic programme of work for the year should indicate in respect of each agenda item the documents to be submitted under that item and the legislative authority for their preparation. In order to enable the Council "to consider the documents from the point of view of their contribution to the work of the Council, and of their urgency and relevance in the light of the current situation" (resolution 1894 (LVII) of 1 August 1974).

(b) It decided "to consider no report exceeding 32 pages, with the exception of the *World Economic Survey* and the *Report on the World Social Situation*, unless the Council authorizes [a waiver of the relevant guidelines]" (*ibid.*). In decision 65 (ORG-75) of 15 January 1975, it further decided that "its decision not to consider any report exceeding thirty-two pages would also apply to the reports submitted to its subsidiary bodies". The Council also agreed in the same decision to "exercise the utmost restraint in making requests of the Secretary-General for new reports and studies, and to request all its subsidiary bodies to exercise similar restraint".

(c) In the same decision, the Council authorized a number of its subsidiary bodies¹⁹ to be provided

with summary records for particular discussions when needed, and requested those subsidiary bodies, when adopting their agenda, to limit the provision of such records to those items in relation to which summary records were deemed necessary.

(d) In pursuance of General Assembly resolution 3415 (XXX) of 8 December 1975, entitled "Meeting records of United Nations bodies", the Council endorsed the relevant criteria contained in the report of the Secretary-General on publications and documentation and requested the Secretariat to apply them to the sessions of the subsidiary bodies (decision 137 (ORG-76) of 15 January 1976).

(e) The Council, in resolution 2098 (LXIII) of 3 August 1977, decided to discontinue the submission of analytical summaries of the reports of the specialized agencies requested in its resolution 1458 (XLVII) of 8 August 1969 and related resolutions.

5. Department of Economic and Social Affairs

53. The General Assembly, at its twenty-sixth session, undertook a review of the structure of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, on the basis of an Administrative Management Service survey (A C.5 1380 and Corr.1) submitted at that session. At its twenty-seventh session the General Assembly had before it a report by the Secretary-General on the subject (A C.5 1430). The Council then adopted resolution 1768 (LIV), in which it provided that "in view of the need for the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to have the structural, managerial and technical means to support the Secretary-General in carrying out the functions required of him in the economic and social field by the Council", the Secretary-General should "submit his views and recommendations for the further restructuring of the Department as early as possible for the Council's consideration and appropriate recommendations for final decision by the General Assembly".

54. The Council considered the report of the Secretary-General on the organization of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (A/C.5/1506) at its fifty-fifth session, within the context of the item on the work programme and budget for 1974-1975 and medium-term plan for 1974-1977 relating to economic, social and human rights activities. The discussion centred mainly on the Department's administrative arrangements to deal with questions of finance and public administration.²⁰

55. At its twenty-eighth session, the General Assembly examined that same report under agenda item 79, entitled "Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1974-1975 and medium-term plan for the period 1974-1977" and decided, at its 2206th meeting on 18 December 1973, to request the Secretary-General to review the administrative arrangements and distribution of func-

tion and Protection of Minorities; Commission on the Status of Women; Commission on Narcotic Drugs; Economic Commission for Europe; Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; Economic Commission for Latin America; Economic Commission for Africa; Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations; Committee on Housing, Building and Planning; Committee on Natural Resources; Committee for Programme and Co-ordination; Committee on Science and Technology for Development; Committee on Review and Appraisal.

²⁰ For an account of the Council's proceedings, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/9003)*, chap. XXV.

¹⁸ For an account of the Council's proceedings, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/9003)*, chap. XXIX, sect. B.

¹⁹ Commission for Social Development; Commission on Human Rights, Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimina-

tions mentioned in the report in order to ensure that the Department's capacity to discharge its responsibilities in the field of public finance and financial institutions would be further strengthened, and to report to the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-sixth session. In accordance with the same decision, the Secretary-General's report, together with the views and recommendations of the Council relating thereto, should then be submitted for the consideration of the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session.

56. At its fifty-sixth session, the Council considered the report prepared by the Secretary-General (E/5459) in response to the aforementioned decision of the General Assembly and, in decision 22 (LVI) of 17 May 1974, decided to defer consideration of the question to the fifty-eighth session.²¹

57. At its fifty-eighth session, the Council had before it, in addition to the aforementioned report of the Secretary-General, a report of the Secretary-General

²¹ For an account of the Council's proceedings, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/9603)*, chap. VII.

on the Third Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration, held from 10 to 18 March 1975, in which it was recommended, among other things, that the public administration and the public finance programmes should be substantively integrated (see E/5640). The Council decided, by decisions 98 (LVIII) and 99 (LVIII) of 8 May 1975, to take note of these two reports.

ACTION BY THE COUNCIL

58. At the 2090th meeting, the Council decided:

(a) To take note of the report of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System and to transmit it to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session together with the comments made thereon (see E/SR.2090);

(b) To submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session the report on the rationalization of its work, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3341 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974 and Assembly decision 31/421 A (see sect. B above). For the final text, see Council decision 292 (LXIII).

Chapter II

UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY

(Item 9 of the agenda for the sixty-third session)

59. The Economic and Social Council considered this item at its 2088th meeting, on 31 October 1977. It had before it the annual report of the Council of the United Nations University.²² The Rector of the United Nations University made an introductory statement.

ACTION BY THE COUNCIL

60. At the same meeting, the Council decided to take note of the report of the Council of the United Nations University²² and to transmit it to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session (see Council decision 287 (LXIII)).

²² *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 31 (A/32/31 and Corr.1)*.

Chapter III

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

(Item 14 of the agenda for the sixty-third session)

61. The Economic and Social Council resumed its consideration of this item at its 2088th meeting, on 31 October 1977. In accordance with decision 272 (LXIII), the Council had before it a report of the Secretary-General entitled "Institutional arrangements in the field of the transfer of technology: establishment of a network for the exchange of technological information" (E/6055), prepared in accordance with the request made by the General Assembly in paragraph 5 of its resolution 31/183, and a note by the Secretary-General on institutional arrangements in the field of the transfer of technology (E/6054), submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3507 (XXX).

ACTION BY THE COUNCIL

62. At the same meeting, the Council decided to take note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Institutional arrangements in the field of the transfer of technology: establishment of a network for the exchange of tech-

nological information" (E/6055) and the note by the Secretary-General on institutional arrangements in the field of the transfer of technology (E/6054) and to transmit them to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session (see Council decision 288 (LXIII)).

63. A statement was made by the representative of the USSR (see E/SR.2088).

Chapter IV

POLICY REVIEW OF OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

(Item 20 of the agenda for the sixty-third session)

64. At its sixty-third session, the Economic and Social Council, in decision 268 (LXII), had recommended for the approval of the General Assembly the draft resolution proposed by the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes and annexed to its second annual report,²³ on the understanding that the target for the World Food Programme pledges for the period 1979-1980 would be considered at the Council's resumed session, in the light of the recommendation of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes at its fourth session, which was to be held from 24 October to 4 November 1977.

65. The Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes recommended a pledging target of \$950 million for voluntary contributions to the World Food Programme for the period 1979-1980.

66. At its resumed sixty-third session, the Council had before it at its 2088th meeting, on 31 October 1977, for consideration under agenda item 20, a note by the Secretary-General (E/L.1789) containing the draft resolution recommended for adoption by the General Assembly in decision 268 (LXIII), in which the recommended target figure had been inserted. The draft resolution read as follows:

"Target for World Food Programme pledges for the period 1979-1980

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Having considered the second annual report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes,¹

"Noting the comments of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes concerning the target for voluntary contributions to the Programme for the period 1979-1980,

"Recalling General Assembly resolutions 2462 (XXIII) of 20 December 1968 and 2682 (XXV) of 11 December 1970, in which the Assembly recognized the experience gained by the World Food Programme in the field of multilateral food aid,

"1. Submits for consideration and approval of the General Assembly the following draft resolution:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling the provision contained in paragraph 1 of its resolution 2095 (XX) of 20 December 1965 under which the World Food Programme is to be reviewed before each pledging conference,

"Recalling also the provisions of paragraph 4 of its resolution 3407 (XXX) of 28 November 1975, whereby, subject to that review, the pledging conference of 28 November 1975, whereby, subject to that review, the pledging conference at which Governments should be invited to pledge contributions for 1979 and 1980, with a view to reaching such a target as may then be recommended by the General Assembly and by the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, should be convened, at the latest, early in 1978,

"Noting that the review of the World Food Programme was undertaken by the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes at its third session and by the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-third session,

"Having considered Economic and Social Council resolution 2128 (LXIII) of 31 October 1977 and the recommendations made by the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes in its report,¹

"Recognizing the value of multilateral food aid as implemented by the World Food Programme since its inception and the necessity for continuing its action both as a form of capital investment and for meeting emergency food needs,

"1. Establishes for the two years 1979 and 1980 a target for voluntary contributions to the World Food Programme of \$950 million, of which not less than one third should be in cash and/or services in the aggregate, and expresses the hope that the resources so contributed will be augmented by substantial additional contributions from other sources in recognition of the prospective volume of sound project requests and the capacity of the Programme to operate at a higher level;

"2. Urges States Members of the United Nations or members or associate members of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to make every effort to ensure the full attainment of the target;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to convene a pledging conference for this purpose at United Nations Headquarters early in 1978;

"4. Decides that, subject to the review of the World Food Programme provided for in paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 2095 (XX), the pledging conference at which Governments should

²³ WFP/CFA:3/16; transmitted to the Economic and Social Council as document E/6008.

¹ WFP/CFA:3/16; transmitted to the Economic and Social Council as document E/6008.

be invited to pledge contributions for 1981 and 1982, with a view to reaching such a target as may then be recommended by the General Assembly and the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, should be convened, at the latest, early in 1980.'

"2. Urges States Members of the United Nations or members or associate members of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to undertake the necessary preparation for the announcement of pledges at the 1978 Pledging Conference on

the United Nations/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations World Food Programme."

ACTION BY THE COUNCIL

67. At the same meeting, the Council adopted the draft resolution without a vote. For the final text, see Council resolution 2128 (LXIII).

68. Statements were made by the representatives of the USSR, the United States of America, Denmark and Argentina (E/SR.2088).

Chapter V

TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

(Item 30 of the agenda for the sixty-third session)

69. The Economic and Social Council considered this item at its 2086th meeting, on 5 October 1977. It had before it the report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries on its first and second sessions²⁴ and a note by the Secretariat on the relevant decision of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (E/L.1790). The Administrator of UNDP, Secretary-General of the Conference, made an introductory statement.

ACTION BY THE COUNCIL

70. At the same meeting the Council decided: (a) to take note of the report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries on its first and second sessions²⁴ and to transmit it to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session; and (b) to endorse the dates proposed for the third session of the Preparatory Committee and for the Conference²⁵ (see Council decision 283 (LXIII)).

²⁴ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/32/42 and Corr.1).*

²⁵ In its decision 5 (II), the Preparatory Committee recommended that the Conference be postponed to August-September 1978; in decision 8 (II), it decided to hold its third session from 15 to 19 May 1978.

Chapter VI

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

(Item 31 of the agenda for the sixty-third session)

71. The Economic and Social Council considered this item at its 2088th meeting, on 31 October 1977. The Council had before it the annual report of the Trade and Development Board, covering its eighth special session and the second part of its sixteenth session, the first part of its seventeenth session and the first part of its ninth special session.²⁶ At the same meeting, the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) made an introductory statement.

ACTION BY THE COUNCIL

72. At the same meeting, the Council decided to take note of the report of the Trade and Development Board²⁶ and to transmit it to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session (see Council decision 289 (LXIII)).

73. A statement was made by the representative of the USSR (see E/SR.2088).

²⁶ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 15 (A/32/15 and Corr.1).*

Chapter VII

PREPARATIONS FOR A NEW INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

(Item 32 of the agenda for the sixty-third session)

74. The Economic and Social Council considered this item at its 2086th meeting, on 5 October 1977. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Collection of data and information relevant to the formulation of a new international development strategy" (E/6056 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1), prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 31/182 and Economic and Social Council resolution 2072 (LXII). At the same meeting the Assistant Director of the Centre for Development Planning, Projections and Policies made an introductory statement.

ACTION BY THE COUNCIL

75. At the same meeting, the Council decided to take note of the report of the Secretary-General (E/6056 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1) and to transmit it to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session (see Council decision 284 (LXIII)).

Chapter VIII

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON DESERTIFICATION

(Item 33 of the agenda for the sixty-third session)

76. The Economic and Social Council considered this item at its 2087th meeting, on 17 October 1977. The Council had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Conference on Desertification (A/32/257 and Corr.1), prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 31/108. The Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, Secretary-General of the Conference, made an introductory statement.

ACTION BY THE COUNCIL

77. At the same meeting, the Council decided to take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Conference on Desertification (A/32/257 and Corr.1) and to transmit it to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session (see Council decision 285 (LXIII)).

78. A statement was made by the representative of the USSR (see E/SR.2087).

Chapter IX

NOMINATION OF MEMBERS OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL

(Item 34 of the agenda for the sixty-third session)

79. The Economic and Social Council considered this item at its 2090th meeting, on 14 December 1977.

80. The General Assembly, in paragraph 8 of its resolution 3348 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974, had decided that the World Food Council should consist of 36 members to be nominated by the Economic and Social Council and elected by the General Assembly for a term of three years, taking into consideration balanced geographical representation, with one third of the members retiring every year and the retiring members being eligible for re-election. The Council was required to nominate three members from African States, three from Asian States, two from Latin American States, one from the socialist States of Eastern Europe and three from Western European and other States.

ACTION BY THE COUNCIL

81. The Council decided to nominate the following 12 States for election by the General Assembly to membership of the World Food Council:

- (a) *African States*: Gabon, Malawi and Morocco;
- (b) *Asian States*: Iran, Japan, and Sri Lanka;
- (c) *Latin American States*: Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela;
- (d) *Socialist States of Eastern Europe*: German Democratic Republic;
- (e) *Western European and other States*: Denmark, Italy and Netherlands.

For the final text, see Council decision 291 (LXIII).

Chapter X

INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS: REPORT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

(Item 35 of the agenda for the sixty-third session)

82. The Economic and Social Council considered this item at its 2087th meeting, on 17 October 1977. The Council had before it the report of the Human Rights Committee,²⁷ in accordance with article 45 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which provides that the Human Rights Committee shall submit an annual report on its activities to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council. The Director of the Division of Human Rights made an introductory statement.

ACTION BY THE COUNCIL

83. At the same meeting, the Council decided:

- (a) To take note of the report of the Human Rights Committee;²⁷
- (b) To transmit it to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session;
- (c) To request the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly a statement of programme budget implications of the work of the Committee.

For the final text, see Council decision 286 (LXIII).

²⁷ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 44 (A/32/44 and Corr.1).

Chapter XI

ORGANIZATIONAL AND OTHER MATTERS

A. Recommendation on the participation of non-governmental organizations in the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

84. At its 2089th meeting, on 2 December 1977, the Economic and Social Council took up the matter of the participation of non-governmental organizations in the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, which had been left pending at the Council's sixty-second session (see Council resolution 2057 (LXII), para. 4 (j)).

85. The Council had before it a draft decision on the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (E/L.1792), sponsored by the Syrian Arab Republic, Togo and Venezuela, which was introduced by the representative of Togo on behalf of the sponsors. The draft decision read as follows:

"The Economic and Social Council decides:

- "(a) That the annex mentioned in paragraph 5 (j) of the draft resolution recommended for adoption

by the General Assembly in paragraph 10 of its resolution 2057 (LXII) of 12 May 1977 on the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination should read as follows:

"ANNEX

"Non-governmental organizations invited to participate in the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

"The following non-governmental organizations in consultative status shall be invited by the Secretary-General to attend the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination: all non-governmental organizations in category I consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and non-governmental organizations in category II consultative status and on the Roster which have by 30 September 1977 submitted information on activities undertaken or contemplated in connexion with the Decade, in accordance with paragraph 18 (f) (iv) of the Programme for the Decade. Their participation shall be effected through their presence at the Conference as observers and through the submission of written statements to the secretariat of the Conference."

"(b) That rule 57 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Conference (A/5922, annex II) shall be amended to read as follows:

"*Representatives of non-governmental organizations*

"Rule 57

"Non-governmental organizations invited to the Conference may designate representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Conference and its main committees. Their participation shall be effected through their presence at the Conference as observers and through the submission of written statements to the secretariat of the Conference."

ACTION BY THE COUNCIL

86. At the same meeting, the Council adopted without a vote the draft decision contained in document E/L.1792. For the final text, see Council decision 290 (LXIII).

87. Statements were made by the representative of Denmark, on behalf of those members of the European Economic Community which were members of the Council, and by the representatives of Canada and Togo. The representative of the United States of America also made a statement.

B. Change of venue of the sixth session of the Committee on Natural Resources

88. At its 2089th meeting, on 2 December 1977, the Council, having heard a statement by the observer for Turkey confirming the offer made by his Government to act as host to the sixth session of the Committee on Natural Resources at Istanbul in the spring of 1979 and a statement by the Secretary of the Council on compliance with General Assembly resolution 31/140 regarding the holding of sessions away from the established headquarters, the Council decided to accept the invitation of the Turkish Government (see Council decision 293 (LXIII)).

C. Appointment of members of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development

89. At its 2088th meeting, on 31 October 1977, the Council had before it a note by the Secretary-General on the appointment of members of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development (ACAST) (E/6060).

90. After statements had been made by the representatives of Kenya, Argentina, Mexico, Pakistan, Greece, Jamaica, Canada, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Sudan and Iraq and by the observer for Israel, the Council decided to postpone further consideration of the matter to a later date (see E/SR.2088).

91. At the 2090th meeting, on 14 December 1977, the representative of Kenya, on behalf of Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal²⁸ and Zaire, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development" (E/L.1793), which read as follows:

"*The Economic and Social Council,*

"*Recalling its resolution 1454 (XLVII) of 8 August 1969 on future institutional arrangements for*

²⁸ In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

science and technology, in paragraph 6 of which the Council recognized that the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development had made an outstanding contribution to the general recognition of the role of science and technology in the development process,

"*Recalling also its resolution 2033 (LXI) of 4 August 1976, in which the Council recommended the desirability of increasing the participation of developing countries from all regions in the Advisory Committee,*

"*Recalling further General Assembly resolution 32/— B of — December 1977 on the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, in which the Assembly reaffirmed the Council's recommendations, contained in its resolution 2033 (LXI), to increase the participation of developing countries in the Advisory Committee,*

"1. *Decides to enlarge the membership of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development from twenty-four to twenty-eight members, with due regard to equitable geographical representation and the desirability of increasing the participation in it of developing countries from all regions, as recommended in Council resolution 2033 (LXI);*

"2. *Requests the Secretary-General to submit his nominations for the twenty-eight members of the Advisory Committee to the Economic and Social Council at its organizational session for 1978;*

"3. *Decides to extend the term of the present members of the Advisory Committee until the end of the Council's organizational session for 1978."*

92. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Council made a statement on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

ACTION BY THE COUNCIL

93. At the same meeting, the Council adopted draft resolution E/L.1793 without a vote. For the final text, see Council resolution 2130 (LXIII).

D. Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies: draft annex relating to the International Fund for Agricultural Development

94. At the 2088th meeting, on 31 October 1977, the Council had before it a note by the Secretary-General (E/6059) on the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies, paragraph 7 of which contained a draft resolution entitled "Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies: draft annex relating to the International Fund for Agricultural Development". The draft resolution read as follows:

"*The Economic and Social Council,*

"*Taking note of General Assembly resolution 179 (II) of 21 November 1947 by which the Assembly approved the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies and submitted it to the specialized agencies for acceptance and to every Member of the United Nations and every other State member of one or more of the specialized agencies for accession,*

"Noting that the General Assembly considered it desirable that any specialized agency thereafter brought into relationship with the United Nations should derive its privileges and immunities exclusively from that Convention,

"Noting that the Agreement Establishing the International Fund for Agricultural Development,¹ adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Establishment of an International Fund for Agricultural Development, provides in section 2 (b) (i) of article 10 that in the territory of any member of the Fund the privileges and immunities provided for in that Agreement shall be as defined in the Convention as modified by an annex thereto approved by the Governing Council of the Fund,

"Recalling that a draft relationship agreement between the United Nations and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, whereby the Fund would become a specialized agency, was recommended to the General Assembly by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2104 (LXIII) of 3 August 1977,

"Noting that section 35 of the Convention provides that the Secretary-General shall transmit to any specialized agency not mentioned by name in the Convention a draft annex recommended by the Economic and Social Council,

"Taking into account the draft annex to the Convention approved by the Preparatory Commission for the International Fund for Agricultural Development and transmitted to the Economic and Social Council,

"1. *Recommends* to the International Fund for Agricultural Development the following draft annex:

"ANNEX XVI

"International Fund for Agricultural Development

"In their application to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (hereinafter called "the Fund") the standard clauses shall operate subject to the following provisions:

"1. The privileges, immunities, exemptions and facilities referred to in section 21 of the standard clauses shall also be accorded to any Vice-President of the Fund.

¹A/CONF.73/15.

"2. (a) Experts (other than officials coming within the scope of article VI) serving on committees of, or performing missions for, the Fund shall be accorded the following privileges and immunities so far as is necessary for the effective exercise of their functions, including the time spent on journeys in connexion with service on such committees or missions:

"(i) Immunity from personal arrest or seizure of their personal baggage;

"(ii) In respect of words spoken or written or acts done by them in the performance of their official functions, immunity from legal process of every kind, such immunity to continue notwithstanding that the persons concerned are no longer serving on committees of, or employed on missions for, the Fund;

"(iii) The same facilities in respect of currency and exchange restrictions and in respect of their personal baggage as are accorded to officials of foreign Governments on temporary official missions;

"(iv) Inviolability of all papers and documents relating to the work on which they are engaged for the Fund and, for the purpose of their communications with the Fund, the right to use codes and to receive papers or correspondence by courier or in sealed bags.

"(b) In connexion with subparagraph (iv) of paragraph 2 (a) above, the principle contained in the last sentence of section 12 of the standard clauses shall be applicable.

"(c) Privileges and immunities are granted to such experts in the interests of the Fund and not for the personal benefit of the individuals themselves. The Fund shall have the right and the duty to waive the immunity of any expert in any case where, in its opinion, the immunity would impede the course of justice and can be waived without prejudice to the interests of the Fund."

"2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the above draft annex to the International Fund for Agricultural Development."

ACTION BY THE COUNCIL

95. At the same meeting, the Council adopted the draft resolution without a vote. For the final text, see Council resolution 2129 (LXIII).

96. Statements were made by the representatives of Uganda, Ecuador and Mexico (see E/SR.2088).

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