



**REPORT**  
**OF THE *AD HOC* COMMITTEE**  
**ON THE RESTRUCTURING**  
**OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SECTORS**  
**OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

OFFICIAL RECORDS: THIRTIETH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 5 (A/10005)

**UNITED NATIONS**



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**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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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, in resolution 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975, established the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System. Section VII of the resolution reads as follows:

### VII. RESTRUCTURING OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SECTORS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

"1. With a view to initiating the process of restructuring the United Nations system so as to make it more fully capable of dealing with problems of international economic co-operation and development in a comprehensive and effective manner, in pursuance of General Assembly resolutions 3172 (XXVIII) of 17 December 1973 and 3343 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974, and to make it more responsive to the requirements of the provisions of the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order as well as those of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, an Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System, which shall be a committee of the whole of the General Assembly open to the participation of all States,\* is hereby established to prepare detailed action proposals. The Ad Hoc Committee should start its work immediately and inform the General Assembly at its thirtieth session on the progress made, and submit its report to the Assembly at its thirty-first session, through the Economic and Social Council at its resumed session. The Ad Hoc Committee should take into account in its work, inter alia, the relevant proposals and documentation submitted in preparation for the seventh special session of the General Assembly pursuant to Assembly resolution 3343 (XXIX) and other relevant decisions, including the report of the Group of Experts on the Structure of the United Nations System, entitled A New United Nations Structure for Global Economic Co-operation,\*\* the records of the relevant deliberations of the Economic and Social Council, the Trade and Development Board, the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme and the seventh special session of the General Assembly, as well as the results of the forthcoming deliberations on institutional arrangements of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its fourth session and of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its fourth session. All United Nations organs, including the regional commissions, as well as the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency, are invited to participate at the executive level in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee and to respond to requests that the Committee may make to them for information, data or views.

"2. The Economic and Social Council should meanwhile continue the process of rationalization and reform which it has undertaken in accordance with Council resolution 1768 (LIV) of 18 May 1973 and General Assembly resolution

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\*\* It is the understanding of the General Assembly that the 'all States' formula will be applied in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly.

\*\*\* E/AC.62/9 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.II.A.7)."

3341 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974, and should take into full consideration those recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee that fall within the scope of these resolutions at the latest at its resumed sixty-first session."

2. The Ad Hoc Committee held its first session at United Nations Headquarters from 13 to 19 and on 21 November 1975. The Committee held six meetings.

## II. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

### A. Membership and attendance

3. The session was opened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The text of the Secretary-General's statement is given in annex I.

4. In accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII), membership in the Ad Hoc Committee is open to all States. Representatives of the following 108 States attended the first session of the Committee: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cambodia, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Dahomey, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany (Federal Republic of), Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Republic, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire and Zambia.

5. The first session was also attended by representatives of the following specialized agencies: the International Labour Organisation; the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; the World Health Organization; the World Bank; and the International Monetary Fund. The International Atomic Energy Agency was also represented.

### B. Officers

6. At its 1st and 6th meetings, the Committee elected, by acclamation, Mr. Kenneth K. S. Dadzie (Ghana) Chairman and Mr. Antoni Czarkowski (Poland) and Mr. Farrokh (Iran) Vice-Chairmen. At its 6th meeting, the Committee decided to postpone the election of its other officers to its second session.

C. Agenda and documentation

7. At its 1st meeting, on 13 November 1975, the Ad Hoc Committee adopted its agenda as contained in document A/AC.179/1. The agenda was as follows:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Organization of work.
5. Restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system.
6. Adoption of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee to the thirtieth session of the General Assembly.

8. In addition to the relevant documents mentioned in section VII of General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII), the Committee had before it the following documents:

A/AC.179/1	Provisional agenda
A/AC.179/L.1	Organization of work: note by the Chairman
A/AC.179/L.2	Draft report of the Committee

D. Adoption of the report

9. At its 6th meeting, on 21 November 1975, the Ad Hoc Committee adopted the present report to the General Assembly on its first session.

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

10. At its 1st meeting, the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee made a statement, the text of which is given in annex II. In the course of the discussion, a number of delegations made statements and advanced views on the objectives and substance of the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system. Some delegations also referred, in that context, to the future organization of work of the Committee. An account of the proceedings of the Committee under this item is to be found in the relevant summary records (A/AC.179/SR.1-5).

IV. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FUTURE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

11. On the basis of the discussions held in the Committee and of informal consultations held during the session, the Committee, at its 6th meeting, on 21 November 1975:

(a) Decided that the schedule of formal meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee for 1976 would be as follows:

Second session . . . . 11 February to 3 March, at United Nations Headquarters

Third session . . . . 1 to 11 June, at United Nations Headquarters

and that a decision on the convening of further sessions would be made at the second or third session of the Committee. The fourth session, if convened, would, in principle, be held at United Nations Headquarters from 13 to 17 September;

(b) Decided to invite the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to give priority consideration, at its fourth session, to the item on its agenda relating to institutional questions in order that the relevant documentation and recommendations might be communicated to the Ad Hoc Committee as soon as possible for consideration at the third session;

(c) Decided that the Ad Hoc Committee would be provided with summary records for all its formal meetings in 1976;

(d) Decided to establish an informal working group, under the chairmanship of the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee, which would meet intersessionally, after the second session. Participation would be open to all States, but a decision on the size and composition of the working group would be taken following consultations between the Chairman of the Committee and the chairmen of the regional groups;

(e) Requested the secretariat of the Ad Hoc Committee to prepare, for reference purposes, a bibliography of available United Nations documentation having a bearing on the work of the Committee;

(f) Stated that, in line with General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII), it attached great importance to the participation in its work of all United Nations organs, including the regional commissions, programmes and specialized agencies, and of the International Atomic Energy Agency and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and in particular, stressed the desirability of having consultations with those organizations in matters of direct concern to them. The Committee, therefore:

(i) Agreed to invite those organizations to participate in the work of the formal meetings of the Committee at a high substantive level and, in the first instance, to invite their executive heads to participate personally in the second session of the Committee;

(ii) Agreed that, depending on the subject-matter under consideration, the concerned organizations may, as and when desired, be invited to provide such assistance as may be required at the informal meetings and working groups of the Committee.

12. At its 6th meeting, before the adoption of the decision (see para. 11 above), the Secretary of the Ad Hoc Committee made a statement on the administrative and financial implications (A/AC.179/L.3).



## ANNEX I

### Statement by the Secretary-General at the opening of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System

The seventh special session of the General Assembly marked a turning point in the history of international economic co-operation and in the history of our Organization. The resolution adopted unanimously at the end of the session sets forth a comprehensive set of policies aimed at redirecting international economic activities, redressing structural imbalances and creating a more equitable system for the benefit of the entire world community. It also contains new guidelines, principles and action-oriented measures intended to give practical meaning to the significant change of attitudes underlying the negotiations held and the agreements reached at the session. This resolution will serve as the basis and framework for the future work of all the competent bodies and organizations of the United Nations system. As an integral part of such measures, a clear consensus also emerged at the seventh special session on the necessity of restructuring the United Nations system.

The seventh special session's decision relating to the establishment of this Committee spells out in clear terms the over-all objectives of your future deliberations. The importance and urgency of reforming the present United Nations system is inextricably linked to the greater interdependence between States and the growing recognition that the problems which prevail in the world today are closely interrelated. The application of an integrated multidisciplinary approach, conceptually and institutionally, to deal with these problems consequently requires the adaptation of the existing structural framework of the United Nations system. This process must be undertaken in the context of progress towards a new international economic order.

The complexity of the task before you should not be underestimated. Just as it has proved extremely difficult to evolve mutually acceptable strategies for development, it is equally obvious that it will not be easy to achieve the mechanisms for international collaboration that the present problems demand. The political will which enabled Governments to surmount wide differences of view at the seventh special session will also be an essential prerequisite for the establishment, adaptation and effective utilization of institutional arrangements. An international institution is nothing more - and nothing less - than what its member Governments want it to be. Almost every day we have proof of the validity of this assertion.

The seventh special session of the General Assembly is a case in point. It had been said that the rigidity of its procedures, the size of its membership and even its timing could not lead to genuine negotiation and agreement. The results of the session, however, constitute indisputable evidence that, if the necessary degree of political determination prevails, appropriate processes of deliberation and negotiation can be evolved to achieve consensus and concrete solutions. And the United Nations, at that session, once again proved that, if its Member States are resolved to avoid confrontation, it can serve as a catalyst of those forces which work in the direction of establishing conditions for a better world. That I believe, is the spirit in which this Committee was created.

The Assembly was also well aware that its deliberations were held against the background of many years of hard, patient and visionary work in the network of specialized organs and organizations of the system. The activities of the United Nations system reflect all the prevailing economic conditions, in the developed as well as in the developing parts of the world, all the diverse aspirations and all the various trends in economic and social policy. Now that the Assembly has developed an integrated programme of action giving new direction and impetus to the work of the organizations of the United Nations family, the need for institutional adjustment and adaptation of the system for the implementation of these actions has become all the more apparent and urgent. It has also acquired a clearer focus and a well-defined purpose.

In conclusion, I should like to emphasize that I and my colleagues, the heads of the other United Nations organs and organizations, are prepared to provide all the possible assistance you may require to facilitate the work upon which your Committee is now embarking. In addition to the documentation which is already before you in pursuance of the decisions of the seventh special session, including the report of the Group of Experts entitled A New United Nations Structure for Global Economic Co-operation, a/ the Secretariat of the United Nations and the executive heads of the other organs and organizations are ready to participate in your work and to assist in your deliberations. I wish you the best of success in your important task.

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a/ E/AC.62/9 (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.75.II.A.7).

## ANNEX II

### Opening statement by the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System

May I first of all thank you sincerely for the honour you have done to my delegation in electing me to the Chairmanship of this Committee. May I also express particular gratitude to Ambassador Rabetafika of Madagascar, Chairman of the Group of 77, who nominated me for the office in characteristically over-generous terms, and to the representatives of Australia and Poland, who were good enough to support my nomination. I regard the election as a recognition of the contribution which Ghana, in concert with other African States, has made to the development of international economic co-operation and to its endeavour to make the United Nations system a more effective instrument for that purpose. I shall do my utmost to merit the confidence that you have placed in me and, in regard to this, I am encouraged by the conviction that I can rely at all times on your understanding and co-operation.

I should like, if I may, to associate myself with the remarks that were made by our distinguished Secretary-General this morning about the significance of the seventh special session of the General Assembly and the relevance of its outcome for the work of this Committee. Much has been said in recent weeks about the atmosphere of mutual understanding and accommodation which pervaded the session, about the spirit of conciliation and co-operation shown by the participants and about the innovative methods and mechanisms that characterized the proceedings. But it also needs to be stressed, as the Secretary-General has done, that the results of the session - comprising a set, albeit incomplete, of agreed principles and policy measures, together with guidelines and arrangements for constructive dialogue on outstanding issues in the period ahead - constitute an important first step towards the progressive removal of the wide economic and social disparities between different sections of mankind and towards ensuring fuller participation for the developing countries in the related decision-making processes.

At the same time, the seventh special session recognized that a process of restructuring was essential if the United Nations system was to be fully capable of dealing with problems of international economic co-operation in a comprehensive and effective manner, and if it was to be more responsive to the requirements of the Declaration a/ and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order b/ as well as of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. c/ The underlying concern to promote greater unity of purpose and effectiveness of common action within the system is not new. True, Member States have long accepted the fact that the functional decentralization of the system has been a source of considerable strength and vitality; they have also been aware that most of the achievements of the system - which are quite substantial - in the economic and social fields would not have been possible

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a/ General Assembly resolution 3201 (S-VI).

b/ General Assembly resolution 3202 (S-VI).

c/ General Assembly resolution 3281 (XXIX).

without the support of the constituent organizations under the leadership of the United Nations itself. Member States have nevertheless felt frustrated by the growing complexity of the system; more seriously, they have been increasingly disturbed by the fragmentation and the frequently apparent lack of coherence that beset the system. As the concept of a comprehensive and integrated approach to development has gained general acceptance, so, ironically, has the responsibility for related problem areas become more diffused among an increasingly large number of institutions.

Such are the preoccupations that promoted, for instance, the major programme appraisals undertaken on behalf of the Economic and Social Council in 1959/60, the re-evaluation and reform exercises centring on the Ad Hoc Committee of 14 in 1966 and the Expanded Committee on Programme and Co-ordination during 1967-1969, the study of the capacity of the United Nations development system d/ in 1969, and most recently the review by the Council of the relationship agreements between the United Nations and the specialized agencies. The process which the Committee is to initiate is, however, broader in scope and informed by a qualitatively different conceptual framework. It not only covers the whole range of specialized agencies, organs and programmes of the United Nations in the economic and social field, but it is to proceed in the context of progress towards - and as an integral element in - the establishment of a new international economic order as defined in the relevant General Assembly documents. As has been pointed out by the Secretary-General, the process will also require to be carried forward in full awareness of certain fundamental principles of international economic co-operation - universality, the interdependence of States, the interrelation of global problems and the consequent necessity for an integrated approach of a multidisciplinary character.

The task ahead of this Committee is therefore an enormously complex one. Furthermore, the Committee is called upon to synthesize and build upon all relevant ideas and proposals emanating or awaited from many different bodies and organs, including the group of experts on the structure of the United Nations system, the Economic and Social Council, the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, and UNCTAD at its fourth session. In addition difficulties will undoubtedly arise as to the criteria to be applied in evaluating proposals for structural reform. For example, the view may well be reiterated in this Committee that structural change cannot replace consensus on policies, priorities and objectives and that, where outstanding issues are concerned, the evaluation or modification of existing structures must await substantive agreement. On the other hand, there is a case, in keeping with the spirit of Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII), for moving ahead on both fronts at the same time, inasmuch as the structures of the system are a factor both in mobilizing the collective will of Member States and in determining the mode in which this will is expressed. It is also possible that divergences of view will arise, not only as to the compatibility of certain aspects of structural reform with related Charter provisions, but also as to the proper balance between purposeful direction from the centre and the proliferation of institutions in response to felt needs - the balance between, so to say, the oneness of all international effort and the healthy vigour of its constituent elements. The

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d/ A Study of the Capacity of the United Nations Development System (DP/5)  
(United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.70.I.10).

search for solutions to these and other difficulties will call for the exercise of the same impulse to mutual accommodation and consensus that distinguished the seventh special session of the General Assembly. In this effort, I am confident that the Committee would benefit from the assistance of the executive heads of the various United Nations organs and agencies - assistance which the Secretary-General has been good enough to pledge this morning.

In the final reckoning, however, there is probably no ideal institutional architecture for the United Nations system. Institutions are not ends in themselves; they are no more but no less than means for the improvement of the quality of human life. The decisive test of all our efforts will be the extent to which the effectiveness of the United Nations system is enhanced to promote the goals of "social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom".

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