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### RESTRUCTURING AND REVITALIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS

#### Ghana: draft resolution

#### The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 45/177 of 19 December 1990 and 45/264 of 13 May 1991, on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields,

1. Adopts the text contained in the annex to the present resolution;
2. Requests the Secretary-General to implement the proposed restructuring measures as contained in the annex to the present resolution and to report on the action he has taken.

#### ANNEX

#### Proposal of the Group of 77 on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields

##### I. Background

1. At its resumed forty-fifth session, the General Assembly, in the annex to its resolution 45/264 of 13 May 1991, agreed that a review of the functioning of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council and of the General Assembly should take place during the forty-sixth session of the Assembly. In the same resolution, the Assembly underlined the objective of the overall exercise as being the enhancement of "the effective and efficient functioning

of the intergovernmental machinery of the United Nations system in the economic, social and related fields in order to be more responsive to the needs of enhancing international economic cooperation and promoting the development of the developing countries".

2. The General Assembly further agreed that a review of the functioning of the subsidiary bodies should include:

(a) Their possible restructuring and revitalization;

(b) Their reporting procedures and responsibilities;

(c) The need to avoid duplication, wherever possible, and hence the need for greater coordination of activities between the different entities.

3. In defining its tasks for the forty-sixth session, the Assembly also decided that the review exercise on the subsidiary machinery would be guided by the criteria listed in paragraph 6 (3) in the annex to its resolution 45/264.

## II. Goals

4. Consideration has been given to the restructuring and revitalization of some issues in the social and related fields in the United Nations. In this context, the restructuring and revitalization for the strengthening of the economic sector of the United Nations should be given due attention and priority.

5. Based on the basic principles and guidelines for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields outlined in General Assembly resolution 45/264, the following common understanding should guide the entire exercise of the restructuring and revitalization of the subsidiary bodies, with the aim of adopting measures to strengthen and sustain the impact of the achievements of these bodies:

(a) The scope, issues and activities which the subsidiary bodies are engaged in are of vital importance to the development of developing countries;

(b) Issues or activities considered relevant to the needs of Member States, in particular the development needs of developing countries, must continue to be considered in an effective and efficient manner;

(c) The forum for the consideration of issues or activities must provide opportunities for deliberation, as well as for formulating policy and action-oriented measures. Should the need arise, because of the technical nature of issues, expert advice and guidance of the subsidiary bodies can be provided with recommendations, as inputs for consideration, and as appropriate, to the Economic and Social Council and to the General Assembly;

(d) A revitalized Economic and Social Council must consider reports from subsidiary bodies substantively and in an integrated manner;

(e) The size of each non-universalized subsidiary body must be determined on the basis of equitable geographical representation. Members will be eligible for re-election;

(f) Participation by government-nominated experts, in particular those from developing countries, in the various subsidiary bodies, must be supported and financed, among other things, by a regular budget coverage of travel and daily subsistence allowance;

(g) A revitalized Economic and Social Council must have a strong follow-up mechanism to monitor the performance of subsidiary bodies;

(h) A revitalized Economic and Social Council must ensure follow-up and implementation of its decisions, as well as recommendations emanating from it and/or the General Assembly;

(i) No one single or uniform solution can be suggested as applicable to all subsidiary bodies. Each body must be examined on its own and the recommendations deriving from an open and thorough process should be aimed at revitalizing it.

### III. Reporting procedures for subsidiary bodies

6. The reporting procedure of each subsidiary body will be analysed case by case.

### IV. Methodology for reviewing the subsidiary machinery

7. It would be necessary to focus on the subsidiary bodies that need to be strengthened. The following methodology is suggested for the review of the subsidiary bodies concerned:

(a) Name of the body, including organization that the body belongs to and its hierarchy within the United Nations system, in relation to its mandate;

(b) Membership and participation;

(c) Primary programme objective;

(d) Kind of input delivered by the body;

(e) Measures for the effective implementation of the decisions by the Member States and by organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system;

- (f) Reporting procedure;
- (g) Frequency and duration of meetings;
- (h) Secretariat support. The analysis needs to include:
  - (i) The department office providing support;
  - (ii) The documentation provided;
  - (iii) The Secretariat programme activities, as reflected in the programme budget;
- (i) Financing system.

#### V. Subsidiary bodies identified for strengthening

8. The following are structures for regional and interregional cooperation: the regional economic commissions should be enabled fully to play their role under the authority of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. The regional economic commissions, particularly those located in developing countries, should be strengthened in terms of their activities, resources and their participation in supporting operational activities carried out by the United Nations system. The regional commissions should participate fully in the exercise of their functions with a view to strengthening and making recommendations to the General Assembly for the purpose of the present exercise, taking into account the particular needs and conditions of their respective regions. The regional economic commissions are to provide inputs on how their effectiveness may be enhanced. Agreed measures to strengthen the regional economic commissions must be reflected in the programming and budget.

9. The other subsidiary bodies are:

#### (a) High-level Committee on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries:

- (i) Name: Commission on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries - United Nations General Assembly (New York);
- (ii) Membership and participation: forty-eight government-nominated experts elected by the General Assembly for a term three to four years;
- (iii) Primary programme objectives: the primary programme objectives may be defined in the context of the existing programmes and resources of the United Nations system. The Buenos Aires Plan of Action constitutes the basic mandate for the work of the proposed Commission. Technical cooperation among developing countries should be included as a modality in the programme objectives in the different programmes of activities of the United Nations system;

- (iv) Kind of input: report with recommendations;
- (v) Further steps: fulfilment of the programme objectives by all Member States;
- (vi) Reporting procedure: to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council; to the United Nations Development Programme;
- (vii) Frequency and duration of meetings: annually for two weeks, in the first quarter of the year, taking into account the other demands on the Secretariat;
- (viii) Secretariat support:
  - a. Division office providing support: the Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries must be technically strengthened and upgraded into a division in the framework of the United Nations Development Programme;
  - b. Documentation: the Division of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries will continue to provide it. The Secretary-General will also provide inputs;
  - c. Secretariat activities: needs to be reflected in budget of the United Nations Development Programme;
- (ix) Need to be reflected in the programming and budget.
- (b) Committee on Natural Resources:
  - (i) Name: Committee on Natural Resources - United Nations General Assembly (New York);
  - (ii) Membership and participation: forty-eight government-nominated experts, elected by the Economic and Social Council for a term of three to four years;
  - (iii) Primary programme objectives: remain the same;
  - (iv) Kind of input: report with recommendations;
  - (v) Further steps: fulfilment of the programme objectives by all Member States;
  - (vi) Reporting procedure: to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council;
  - (vii) Frequency and duration of meetings: once every two years for a duration of two weeks in the first quarter of the year;

- (viii) Secretariat support: serviced by the Natural Resources and Energy Division of the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development;
- (ix) Need to be reflected in the programming and budget.
- (c) Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy:
  - (i) Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy - United Nations General Assembly (New York);
  - (ii) Membership and participation: forty-eight government-nominated experts, elected by the Economic and Social Council for a term of three to four years;
  - (iii) Primary programme objective: mandate remains the same, including consideration of the relation between environment and development, in particular the energy sector;
  - (iv) Kind of input: report with recommendations;
  - (v) Further steps: fulfilment of the programme objectives by all Member States;
  - (vi) Reporting procedure: to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council;
  - (vii) Frequency and duration of meetings: once every two years, for two weeks;
  - (viii) Secretariat support arrangements servicing the existing Committee for New and Renewable Sources of Energy, established in accordance with section III of General Assembly resolution 37/250 of 21 December 1982, shall be strengthened and maintained to provide adequate technical support to the Expert Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy;
  - (ix) Need to be reflected in the programming and budget.

VI. Schedule for continuing the restructuring process  
in the future

10. An agreed schedule should be established for continuing the restructuring and revitalization of the rest of the subsidiary machinery in the economic, social and related fields, as appropriate.

VII. Review

11. A final decision on the review of the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy will be taken at the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly in the light of the outcome of the seventh session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

12. A review of the implementation of the present exercise is to be undertaken during the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly in accordance with its resolution 45/264.

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