

ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION FOR 1979

1979/1. Control and limitation of documentation

The Economic and Social Council,

Deeply concerned about the volume of documentation and the consequent delays in its circulation and aware of the heavy burden therefore placed on the Secretariat and delegations, as well as the increasing financial costs involved,

Deeply concerned also at the fact that documents are too often not issued in due time in all the working languages of the Council,

Taking into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 33/56 of 14 December 1978,

1. *Decides:*

(a) To keep its requests for documents to the minimum compatible with the efficient conduct of its work and within the limits of the available resources of the Secretariat;

(b) To review, at the outset of each regular session, all its recurrent documents to determine whether they have become redundant, have lost their usefulness or could be issued at less frequent intervals;

(c) To endeavour to prepare reports that are as brief as possible;

(d) To review, at its first regular session of 1979, the question of the provision of summary records to

its subsidiary organs on the basis of a statement of financial implications by the Secretariat, with a view to reporting on the matter to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session, in accordance with Assembly resolution 33/56;

(e) To review, at its first regular session of 1979, the format of its reports to the General Assembly;

2. *Decides further* that these provisions should apply, as appropriate, to its subsidiary organs and that, accordingly, they should be brought to the attention of those organs forthwith;

3. *Reiterates* that documents should be issued in due time in all the working languages of the Council and invites the Secretariat to take steps to ensure that this rule shall be complied with effectively;

4. *Invites* the Bureau to keep these matters under review, particularly in connexion with their implementation by subsidiary organs;

5. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare for consideration by the Council, at its first regular session of 1979, proposals for new forms of presentation of documents to make them more action-oriented and concise and highlight the main issues requiring inter-governmental consideration and review, on the basis of the relevant legislative decisions.

*2nd plenary meeting
9 February 1979*