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Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-second session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Ms. Imelda Smolcic (Uruguay)

Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015

(Item 3 (b))

Programme 7

Economic and social affairs

1. At its 6th meeting, on 6 June 2012, the Committee considered programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015 (A/67/6 (Prog. 7)).
2. The Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Appreciation and support were expressed for the programme and the important role of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in facilitating efforts to sustain economic growth, eradicate poverty and promote sustainable development, including gender mainstreaming, in the social, economic and environmental areas.
4. Clarification was sought regarding the fostering of collaboration and partnerships with the United Nations system and with civil society and the private sector. The view was expressed that the objective of this function should be fully addressed. In serving the Member States, the United Nations should be cautious of engaging with the private sector, drawing on the lessons learned from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.



5. Clarification was also sought regarding the increased contributions of non-governmental organizations and the planned approach to their participation in the deliberations of the Economic and Social Council. The view was expressed that while non-governmental organizations may be accountable to those who fund them, the United Nations should not be undermined by this practice.

6. The view was expressed that the various commissions serviced by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs should be utilized more prominently to make the intergovernmental machinery work. The commissions should not only take note of the issue but also make recommendations that are linked to the strategic framework. The view was also expressed that measures should be in place to ensure the completion of necessary actions by the intergovernmental bodies in reviewing the framework on an annual basis.

7. Clarification was sought with respect to the intensive support provided to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012. The view was expressed that programme changes to support the follow-up process could be included in the proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015. Clarification was also sought regarding the connection between the Millennium Development Goals and the sustainable development goals, as no reference was made to that issue.

8. Clarification was sought regarding gender issues, specifically on the level of coordination between the United Nations and Member States in the integration of gender perspectives into the subprogrammes. The view was expressed that while increased emphasis on the empowerment of women was welcomed, other groups, such as migrants and indigenous people, were not addressed to the same extent in the strategic framework.

9. Clarification was sought regarding the programme of work in the area of capacity development, given that the information contained in paragraph 7.4 of the proposed strategic framework was not in line with paragraph 24 of the programme performance report for the biennium 2010-2011 (A/67/77). The view was expressed that further explanation should be provided to reflect the difference between “development” and “capacity development”. Clarification was also sought regarding the objective of paragraph 7.4 (d).

10. Clarification was also sought regarding the absence of any reference to middle-income countries and the specific reference made to the “Group of Twenty”. The view was expressed that the strategic framework should capture the ways in which resources will be utilized more effectively.

11. The view was expressed that under subprogramme 1, Economic and Social Council support and coordination, some of the indicators of achievement were too vague to measure accomplishments. Numerical baselines and realistic targets should be established in the indicators of achievement to indicate the specific targets to be met. Clarification was also sought regarding the use of the national voluntary presentation analytical framework and the quadrennial comprehensive policy review process, as well as the use of a simplified process for the implementation of that review.

12. Clarification was sought on the inclusion of the Security Council in expected accomplishment (c) of subprogramme 1 and on the strategy of promoting policy dialogue through special meetings on the international development agenda beyond

2015. Clarification was also sought as to whether the reference to the “international development agenda beyond 2015” related to the Millennium Development Goals. Further clarification was sought regarding the intention under the strategy of subprogramme 1 in relation to the holding of two special meetings.

13. Clarification was sought under subprogramme 2, Social policy and development, regarding how to measure expected accomplishment (a) and what has been done to achieve expected accomplishment (c). Clarification was also sought regarding the promotion of the participation of people in all aspects of civil, political, economic, social and cultural life and how that strategy related to the work of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

14. Clarification was sought under subprogramme 4, Statistics, regarding the inclusion of the geospatial information system in the subprogramme and how to respond given the integration of the geospatial information system with the Statistical Commission.

15. Clarification was sought under subprogramme 5, Population, with respect to the conference to be held in 2014 in follow-up to the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development. In particular, the view was expressed that the strategy for responding to the conference process in 2014 should be reflected in the proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015.

16. The view was expressed that subprogramme 7, Public administration and development management, could benefit from the integration of elements of South-South cooperation and issues related to the outcome of the Fourth High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, held in Busan, Republic of Korea, in 2011, into the strategic framework. The view was also expressed that there was a need for enhanced coordination and cooperation of United Nations agencies at the national level in relation to socioeconomic development activities.

Conclusions and recommendations

17. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015, subject to the following modifications:**

Subprogramme 1

Economic and Social Council support and coordination

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (c), delete the phrase “including its enhanced interaction with the Peacebuilding Commission and the Security Council, including on issues related to women in peacebuilding”.

Indicators of achievement

Delete indicator of achievement (a) (iii) and renumber indicator (a) (iv) accordingly.

In indicator of achievement (c) (ii), delete the words “and the Security Council”.

Subprogramme 3
Sustainable development

Objective of the Organization

At the end of the objective, add the words “and Agenda 21”.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (a), at the end of the text, add the words “and Agenda 21”.

Subprogramme 6
Development policy and analysis

Strategy

In paragraph 7.12 (c), delete the words “including the Group of Twenty”.
