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GENERAL REVIEW OF THE PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES IN THE  
ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AND RELATED  
FIELDS OF THE UNITED NATIONS, THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES,  
THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY, THE UNITED NATIONS  
CHILDREN'S FUND AND ALL OTHER INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES  
RELATED TO THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Mohamed WARSAMA (Somalia)

1. The General Assembly, at its 1758th plenary meeting, on 20 September 1969, allocated to the Second Committee agenda item 47 entitled "General review of the programmes and activities in the economic, social, technical co-operation and related fields of the United Nations, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations Children's Fund and all other institutions and agencies related to the United Nations system".
2. The Committee considered the item at its 1294th, 1295th, 1297th, 1302nd and 1304th meetings, held between 1 and 9 December 1969.
3. The Committee had before it a note by the Secretary-General (A/7757), the final report of the Enlarged Committee for Programme and Co-ordination,<sup>1/</sup> an account of the operational and research activities of the United Nations system in the field of economic and social development<sup>2/</sup> and the report of the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly.<sup>3/</sup>

<sup>1/</sup> E/4748 and Corr. 1.

<sup>2/</sup> E/4744 (Vol. I) and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1; (Vol. II).

<sup>3/</sup> A/7603/Add. 1, part III. This will be issued in printed form, together with the remaining parts, as Supplement No. 3A to the Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fourth Session.

4. Also before the Committee were two draft resolutions, the texts of which are reproduced in sections I and II below.

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5. At the 1297th meeting, the representative of Brazil, on behalf of the delegations of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ghana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Malta, Mauritius, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, the Sudan, Syria, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago and the United Republic of Tanzania, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/L.1090), which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 2188 (XXI) of 13 December 1966 regarding the enlargement of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination of the Economic and Social Council with the purpose of undertaking a review of the operational and research activities of the United Nations family of organizations in the field of economic and social development,

"Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 1367 (XLV) of 2 August 1968,

"Noting Economic and Social Council resolution 1467 (XLVII) of 31 October 1969,

"Noting further with appreciation the work completed by the Enlarged Committee for Programme and Co-ordination with the Co-operation of the United Nations Secretariat, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other United Nations organs and related bodies,

"Having examined the final report of the Enlarged Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, <sup>4/</sup>

"Conscious of the urgent need to ensure the optimum utilization of the resources of the United Nations system of organizations in particular by concentrating attention on co-ordinated efforts in areas of high priority in the context of the international development strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade,

"1. Reaffirms the following objectives set out in General Assembly resolution 2188 (XXI) which should guide the organizations in the United Nations system in carrying out their research and operational activities in the field of economic and social development:

(a) The maximum concentration of resources, at present and increasing levels, on programmes of direct relevance to Member States;

(b) A flexible, prompt and effective response to the specific needs of individual countries and regions, as determined by them, within the limits of available resources;

(c) The minimum burden on the administrative resources of Member States and of the organizations in the United Nations system;

(d) The evolution of an integrated system of long-term planning on a programme basis;

(e) The institution of systematic procedures for evaluating the effectiveness of operational and research activities;

"2. Welcomes the report of the Enlarged Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, 5/ and in particular the document entitled Assistance for Economic and Social Development Available from the United Nations System: A Handbook of Criteria and Procedures, 6/ and expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for preparing the "clear and comprehensive picture" of the existing operational and research activities of the United Nations family or organizations in the field of economic and social development; 7/

"3. Requests the Economic and Social Council at its organizational session in January 1970 to reconstitute its Committee for Programme and Co-ordination in accordance with recommendation A of the Enlarged Committee for Programme and Co-ordination; 8/

"4. Further requests the Economic and Social Council as soon as possible thereafter to examine and to keep under continuing review the intergovernmental machinery for co-ordination and programme review and to introduce improvements or modifications which may appear necessary in the light of the experience gained and relevant developments within the United Nations system;

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5/ Ibid.

6/ United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.69.I.23.

7/ E/4744, vols. I and II; E/4744/Add.1 and Corr. 10.

8/ E/4748, chapter III.

"5. Decides to review at its twenty-sixth session the arrangements made by the Economic and Social Council in pursuance of paragraphs 3 and 4 above;

"6. Endorses the arrangements for co-operation between the reconstituted Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Joint Inspection Unit outlined in paragraphs 27 and 28 of the final report of the Enlarged Committee for Programme and Co-ordination;

"7. Requests the Secretary-General to provide adequate and effective secretarial assistance to the reconstituted Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and keep it informed of relevant developments within the United Nations system of organizations;

"8. Notes in particular the recommendation concerning the use of computers in the United Nations system and requests the Secretary-General to submit, in 1971, the report suggested in paragraph 40 of the final report of the Enlarged Committee for Programme and Co-ordination;

"9. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the specialized agencies and other bodies in the United Nations system, to include, as part of the report requested by the Council, in its resolution 1454 (XLVII) for its forty-ninth session, an examination of the existing Secretariat machinery for providing scientific and technical advice in the United Nations system and to prepare recommendations for its reorganization in a way which will enable it to contribute most effectively to the selection of priorities and to the planning and programming of United Nations activities designed to meet the growing and changing needs of the United Nations system, the international community and of Member countries;

"10. Welcomes the practice recently initiated by the Secretary-General of holding top-echelon meetings of staff concerned with economic and social affairs within the United Nations, including the regional economic commissions and the semi-autonomous organs, and urges the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination any matters discussed in these meetings which may be of interest to it;

"11. Requests the Secretary-General, as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, to bring to the attention of all the organizations in the United Nations system recommendation E of the Enlarged Committee for Programme and Co-ordination for strengthening the present arrangements for co-ordination by adoption of more effective procedures for prior consultation on work programmes;

"12. Notes recommendation F of the Enlarged Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on co-ordination at the national level and requests the Secretary-General to draw to the attention of the members of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination the recommendation contained in paragraph 80 of the final report of the Enlarged Committee for Programme and Co-ordination;

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"13. Notes with interest the other matters considered by the Enlarged Committee for Programme and Co-ordination in chapter IV, sections A to E of its report and agrees that these proposals should be reviewed by the reconstituted Committee."

6. Ecuador, Panama and Venezuela joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

7. The Committee was informed that the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution were annexed to the final report of the Enlarged Committee for Programme and Co-ordination.<sup>9/</sup>

8. At the 1301st meeting, on 5 December 1969, the following delegations became sponsors of the draft resolution: Canada, Chad, Colombia, Denmark, Mauritania, the Netherlands and Norway.

9. The representative of France proposed the following amendments to the draft resolution:

(a) Paragraph 3 would be reworded to read:

"Requests the Economic and Social Council, at its organizational session in January 1970, to envisage the possibility of reconstituting its Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, taking into account recommendation A of the Enlarged Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (E/4748, chapter III);";

(b) In paragraph 4, the word "thereafter" and the word "intergovernmental" would be deleted.

10. The sponsors agreed to delete the word "intergovernmental" from paragraph 4. They also agreed, as suggested by the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, to insert a new paragraph in the preamble and a new operative paragraph as follows:

(a) The following paragraph was inserted after the second paragraph of the preamble:

"Reaffirming the central role assigned to the Economic and Social Council in the economic, social and human rights fields under Chapter X of the Charter,";

(b) The following paragraph was inserted after paragraph 10:

"Welcomes the practice of Joint Meetings between the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and urges that these meetings should be continued, bearing in mind that these

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<sup>9/</sup> E/4748, annex VII.

meetings have proved their value in facilitating understanding and co-operation among those dealing with interagency issues at the intergovernmental and executive levels, respectively;".

11. The Committee then voted on the draft resolution, as orally revised, and the amendments thereto, as follows:

(a) The first amendment of France (see paragraph 9 (a) above) was rejected by 13 votes to 45, with 27 abstentions. The vote, which, at the request of Tunisia, was taken by roll-call, was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, France, Hungary, Italy, Madagascar, Poland, Romania, Tunisia, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Yugoslavia.

Against: Argentina, Australia, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Central African Republic, Ceylon, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo (Democratic Republic of), Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Israel, Jordan, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Singapore, Somalia, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Venezuela.

Abstaining: Algeria, Austria, Belgium, China, Congo (Brazzaville), Dahomey, Ethiopia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Laos, Liberia, Mali, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Syria, Togo, Uganda, United Arab Republic, Upper Volta.

(b) The second French amendment (see paragraph 9 (b) above) concerning the deletion of the word "thereafter" was rejected by 12 votes to 42, with 25 abstentions;

(c) The draft resolution, as a whole, as orally revised, was adopted by 74 votes to none, with 8 abstentions (see paragraph 16 below, draft resolution I).

## II

12. At the 1302nd meeting held on 8 December, the representative of Malta, on behalf of the delegations of Jamaica, Malta and the Philippines, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/L.1088/Rev.1), which read as follows:

/...

"The General Assembly,

"Having considered the report of the Enlarged Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, 10/

"Noting that it was unable in the time available to give thorough consideration to a proposal for more systematic co-ordination of continuing activities of the United Nations system relating to the seas and oceans,

"Aware of the complexity of the co-ordination of existing international activities with regard to marine science and its applications and that the field of marine science is only one aspect of the existing activities of the United Nations system relating to the seas and oceans,

"Noting that use by States of the marine environment is rapidly intensifying and diversifying,

"Concerned that present international machinery may not permit a prompt, effective and flexible response to existing and emerging needs of States Members of the United Nations,

"Recognizing that, in order to avoid the overlapping and duplication of programmes and gaps in competence, a full, competent and impartial review of the existing activities of the United Nations system of organizations relating to the seas and oceans may be urgently required,

"1. Requests the reconstituted Committee for Programme and Co-ordination to examine the need for a comprehensive, competent and impartial review of existing activities of the United Nations system relating to the seas and oceans in the light of present and emerging needs of Member States and to make recommendations thereon to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session through the Economic and Social Council;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to assist the reconstituted Committee for Programme and Co-ordination in the fulfilment of this task;

"3. Invites the specialized agencies and the intergovernmental bodies concerned to extend their full co-operation and assistance to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination."

13. During the discussion, various suggestions were made concerning the draft resolution. In addition, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics proposed that paragraph 1 be amended to read:

"1. Requests the Economic and Social Council, acting through its Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, to examine.....".

14. The sponsors revised the draft resolution (A/C.2/L.1088/Rev.2) to take account of the amendment by the Soviet Union and of the suggestions made by other delegations. The revision contained the following changes:

(a) A new paragraph was inserted between the fourth and fifth paragraphs of the preamble, which read:

"Noting with appreciation the work done in this field by the organizations in the United Nations system,";

(b) In the last paragraph of the preamble, the words "competent and impartial" were deleted from the phrase "a full, competent and impartial review";

(c) Paragraph 1 was revised to read:

"1. Requests the Economic and Social Council, at its organizational session in January 1970, to consider instructing the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, after reconstitution, to examine the need for a comprehensive review of existing activities of the United Nations system relating to the seas and oceans in the light of present and emerging needs of Member States, with a view to making the Committee's recommendations available at the forty-ninth session of the Council;"

(d) In paragraph 2, the word "reconstituted" was deleted.

15. The Committee, at its 1304th meeting, voted on the three-Power revised draft resolution and adopted it by 79 votes to none, with 9 abstentions (see paragraph 16 below, draft resolution II).

#### RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

16. The Second Committee therefore recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:



DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Final report of the Enlarged Committee  
for Programme and Co-ordination

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2188 (XXI) of 13 December 1966 regarding the enlargement of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination of the Economic and Social Council with the purpose of undertaking a review of the operational and research activities of the United Nations family of organizations in the field of economic and social development,

Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 1367 (XLV) of 2 August 1968,

Reaffirming the central role assigned to the Economic and Social Council in the economic, social and human rights fields under Chapter X of the Charter of the United Nations,

Noting Economic and Social Council resolution 1467 (XLVII) of 31 October 1969,

Noting with appreciation the work completed by the Enlarged Committee for Programme and Co-ordination with the co-operation of the United Nations Secretariat, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other United Nations organs and related bodies,

Having examined the final report of the Enlarged Committee for Programme and Co-ordination,<sup>11/</sup>

Conscious of the urgent need to ensure the optimum utilization of the resources of the United Nations system of organizations in particular by concentrating attention on co-ordinated efforts in areas of high priority in the context of the international development strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade,

1. Reaffirms the following objectives set out in General Assembly resolution 2188 (XXI), which should guide the organizations in the United Nations system in carrying out their research and operational activities in the field of economic and social development:

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<sup>11/</sup> E/4748.

(a) The maximum concentration of resources, at present and increasing levels, on programmes of direct relevance to Member States;

(b) A flexible, prompt and effective response to the specific needs of individual countries and regions, as determined by them, within the limits of available resources;

(c) The minimum burden on the administrative resources of Member States and of the organizations in the United Nations system;

(d) The evolution of an integrated system of long-term planning on a programme basis;

(e) The institution of systematic procedures for evaluating the effectiveness of operational and research activities;

2. Welcomes the report of the Enlarged Committee for Programme and Co-ordination,<sup>12/</sup> and in particular the document entitled Assistance for Economic and Social Development Available from the United Nations System: A Handbook of Criteria and Procedures,<sup>13/</sup> and expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for preparing the "clear and comprehensive picture" of the existing operational and research activities of the United Nations family of organizations in the field of economic and social development;<sup>14/</sup>

3. Requests the Economic and Social Council, at its organizational session in January 1970, to reconstitute its Committee for Programme and Co-ordination in accordance with the recommendation of the Enlarged Committee for Programme and Co-ordination;<sup>15/</sup>

4. Further requests the Economic and Social Council as soon as possible thereafter to examine and to keep under continuing review the machinery for co-ordination and programme review and to introduce improvements or modifications which may appear necessary in the light of the experience gained and relevant developments within the United Nations system;

5. Decides to review at its twenty-sixth session the arrangements made by the Economic and Social Council in pursuance of paragraphs 3 and 4 above;

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<sup>12/</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13/</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.69.I.23.

<sup>14/</sup> E/4744, vols. I and II, E/4744/Add.1 and Corr.1.

<sup>15/</sup> E/4748, chapter III, recommendation A.

6. Endorses the arrangements for co-operation between the reconstituted Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Joint Inspection Unit outlined in the final report of the Enlarged Committee for Programme and Co-ordination;<sup>16/</sup>

7. Requests the Secretary-General to provide adequate and effective secretarial assistance to the reconstituted Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and keep it informed of relevant developments within the United Nations system of organizations;

8. Notes in particular the recommendation concerning the use of computers in the United Nations system and requests the Secretary-General to submit, in 1971, the report suggested in the final report of the Enlarged Committee for Programme and Co-ordination;<sup>17/</sup>

9. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the specialized agencies and other bodies in the United Nations system, to include, as part of the report requested by the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1454 (XLVII) of 8 August 1969, to be submitted at its forty-ninth session, an examination of the existing Secretariat machinery for providing scientific and technical advice in the United Nations system and to prepare recommendations for its reorganization in a way which will enable it to contribute most effectively to the selection of priorities and to the planning and programming of United Nations activities designed to meet the growing and changing needs of the United Nations system, the international community and of Member countries;

10. Welcomes the practice recently initiated by the Secretary-General of holding top-echelon meetings of staff concerned with economic and social affairs within the United Nations, including the regional economic commissions and the semi-autonomous organs, and urges the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination any matters discussed in these meetings which may be of interest to it;

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<sup>16/</sup> Ibid., paras. 27 and 28.

<sup>17/</sup> Ibid., recommendation B, para. 40.

11. Welcomes the practice of Joint Meetings between the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and urges that these meetings should be continued, bearing in mind that they have proved their value in facilitating understanding and co-operation among those dealing with interagency issues at the intergovernmental and executive levels, respectively;

12. Requests the Secretary-General, as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, to bring to the attention of all organizations in the United Nations system the recommendation of the Enlarged Committee for Programme and Co-ordination for strengthening the present arrangements for co-ordination by adoption of more effective procedures for prior consultations on work programmes;<sup>18/</sup>

13. Notes the recommendation of the Enlarged Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on co-ordination at the national level<sup>19/</sup> and requests the Secretary-General to draw to the attention of the members of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination the recommendation contained in paragraph 80 of the final report of the Enlarged Committee for Programme and Co-ordination;

14. Notes with interest the other matters considered by the Enlarged Committee for Programme and Co-ordination of its report<sup>20/</sup> and agrees that these proposals should be reviewed by the reconstituted Committee.

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<sup>18/</sup> Ibid., recommendation E.

<sup>19/</sup> Ibid., recommendation F.

<sup>20/</sup> Ibid., chapter IV.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Co-ordination of marine activities

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Enlarged Committee for Programme and Co-ordination,<sup>21/</sup>

Noting that the Enlarged Committee was unable in the time available to give thorough consideration to a proposal for more systematic co-ordination of continuing activities of the United Nations system relating to the seas and oceans,

Aware of the complexity of the co-ordination of existing international activities with regard to marine science and its applications and that the field of marine science is only one aspect of the existing activities of the United Nations system relating to the seas and oceans,

Noting that use by States of the marine environment is rapidly becoming intensified and diversified,

Noting with appreciation the work done in this field by the organizations in the United Nations system,

Concerned that present international machinery may not permit a prompt, effective and flexible response to existing and emerging needs of States Members of the United Nations,

Recognizing that, in order to avoid the overlapping and duplication of programmes and gaps in competence, a full review of the existing activities of the United Nations system of organizations relating to the seas and oceans may be urgently required.

1. Requests the Economic and Social Council, at its organizational session in January 1970, to consider instructing the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, after reconstitution, to examine the need for a comprehensive review of existing activities of the United Nations system relating to the seas and oceans in the light of present and emerging needs of Member States, with a view to making the Committee's recommendations available to the Council at its forty-ninth session;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to assist the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination in the fulfilment of this task;

3. Invites the specialized agencies and the intergovernmental bodies concerned to extend their full co-operation and assistance to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination.

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