tivities of the core programme and the recruitment and retention of qualified staff,

Aware of the importance of promoting disaster preparedness and prevention in disaster-prone developing countries through technical co-operation,

Reaffirming the co-ordinating role of the Office as the focal point for disaster relief matters in the United Nations system,

Noting with satisfaction that the Co-ordinator has concluded co-operation agreements with a number of international organizations,

Recalling the concern already expressed in the General Assembly and the Council that Governments and others involved in relief operations should implement measures to remove obstacles and expedite international relief assistance to the victims of disasters,

Noting with satisfaction the annual report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator[126] and the statements made by the Co-ordinator at the second regular session of 1978 of the Council,[127]

1. *Commends* the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator for his continued efforts on behalf of the victims of disasters;

2. *Recognizes* the need for the effective promotion of technical co-operation for disaster preparedness and prevention in developing countries through the United Nations system, and in accordance with the national priorities of the countries concerned, making use of United Nations Development Programme country programming and, when appropriate, with the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator as an executing agency;

3. *Invites* Governments to ensure for the immediate future the continuation of technical co-operation activities in the field of disaster preparedness and prevention by contributing either to the sub-account for technical assistance created under General Assembly resolution 3440 (XXX) or, through the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator or bilaterally, to projects developed by disaster-prone developing countries individually or in conjunction with that Office;

4. *Requests* the Co-ordinator to continue his efforts to conclude co-operation agreements with other appropriate organizations;

5. *Calls again upon* Governments, intergovernmental agencies and non-governmental organizations concerned with relief operations to consider the adoption of appropriate legislative, administrative or operational measures to remove obstacles and expedite international relief assistance to the victims of disasters;

6. *Transmits* the annual report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session.

35th plenary meeting
1 August 1978

1978/42.   Consumer protection

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2111 (LXIII) of 4 August 1977 on consumer protection,

Aware of the need for the protection of individual consumers throughout the world, but noting the wide disparities in the scope and degree of consumer protection in different countries and the lack of essential legal and administrative measures in many countries for providing such protection,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Consumer protection: a survey of institutional arrangements and legal measures";[128]

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, within existing resources, in the light of information already provided and of additional information, and bearing in mind the discussion during the second regular session of 1978 of the Council, a comprehensive report incorporating options for action on consumer protection and taking into account in particular the specific problems and priorities of developing countries and the possible means for technical co-operation and assistance in this field, and to submit that report to the Council at its second regular session of 1979.

35th plenary meeting
1 August 1978

1978/43.   Application of computer science and technology to development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, and 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation, which laid the foundations for the establishment of a new international economic order, and recalling in this context Assembly resolution 31/184 of 19 December 1976, by which the Assembly decided to convene the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development during 1979,

Considering that the application of computer science and technology has been considered by the General Assembly[129] and the Council[130] continuously since 1968,

Noting that the Council in its resolution 1903 (LVII) of 1 August 1974 requested the Secretary-General to propose activities and studies concerning the application of computer science and technology for the benefit of the developing countries, and to accompany the proposals with a list and order of priority of such activities and studies and ways and means of carrying them out, and that that request resulted in the submission of the report of the Secretary-General on the application of computer science and technology to development,[131] which contains proposals for agreed implementation by all the organizations concerned in the United Nations system with the assistance of the Intergovernmental Bureau for Informatics,

1. *Reaffirms* the considerable importance of making better use of information, computers and communications for achieving the economic and social objectives of Member States, particularly of developing countries, and the need to encourage the formulation of policies

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[126] A/33/82.
[127] See E/1978/C.3/SR.4 and 6 and E/1978/C.3/SR.1–20/Corrigendum.

[128] E/1978/81.
[129] See Assembly resolutions 2450 (XXIII), 2458 (XXIII) and 2804 (XXVI).
[130] See Council resolutions 1566 (L), 1571 (L), 1824 (LV), 1903 (LVII) and 2036 (LXI).
[131] E/C.8/37.