

in the final report of the Enlarged Committee for Programme and Co-ordination;⁵³

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 of the Enlarged Committee for Programme and Co-ordination concerning the use of computers in the United Nations system of organizations⁵⁴ and requests the Secretary-General to submit, in 1971, the report suggested in paragraph 40 of the final report of the Enlarged Committee;

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 to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its forty-ninth session, as requested in its resolution 1454 (XLVII) of 8 August 1969, 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, of the international community and of Member States;

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. *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 the adoption of more effective procedures for prior consultations on work programmes;⁵⁵

13. *Notes* the recommendation of the Enlarged Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on co-ordination at the national level⁵⁶ 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;

14. *Notes with interest* the other matters considered by the Enlarged Committee for Programme and Co-ordination in its final report⁵⁷ and agrees that these proposals should be reviewed by the reconstituted Committee for Programme and Co-ordination.

*1834th plenary meeting,
15 December 1969.*

2580 (XXIV). Co-ordination of marine activities

The General Assembly,

Having considered the final report of the Enlarged Committee for Programme and Co-ordination,⁵⁸

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 organizations in 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 organizations in 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 Member States,

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 organizations in the United Nations system relating to the seas and oceans may be urgently required,

1. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council, at its organizational meetings 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.

*1834th plenary meeting,
15 December 1969.*

2581 (XXIV). United Nations Conference on the Human Environment

The General Assembly,

In pursuance of its decision in resolution 2398 (XXIII) of 3 December 1968 to convene in 1972 a

⁵³ *Ibid.*, document E/4748/Rev.1, paras. 27 and 28.

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, document E/4748/Rev.1, chapter III, recommendation B.

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, recommendation E.

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, recommendation F.

⁵⁷ *Ibid.*, document E/4748/Rev.1, chapter IV.

⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, document E/4748/Rev.1.

United Nations Conference on the Human Environment and to begin immediately preparations for the Conference,

Having considered with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General⁵⁹ called for in the above-mentioned resolution,

Having considered the relevant section of the report of the Economic and Social Council,⁶⁰

Taking into account the recommendations of the Economic and Social Council in the matter,

Having taken cognizance of the note by the Secretary-General of 21 October 1969,⁶¹

Reaffirming the importance and urgency of the problems of the human environment and underlining the necessity for complete preparatory arrangements for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in 1972 to become operative as soon as possible,

Recognizing the important work on the problems of the human environment that is at present being undertaken and planned by the organizations in the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and national Governments,

1. *Endorses* in general the proposals contained in the report of the Secretary-General regarding the purposes and objectives of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment;⁶²

2. *Affirms* that it should be the main purpose of the Conference to serve as a practical means to encourage, and to provide guidelines for, action by Governments and international organizations designed to protect and improve the human environment and to remedy and prevent its impairment, by means of international co-operation, bearing in mind the particular importance of enabling developing countries to forestall the occurrence of such problems;

3. *Entrusts* the Secretary-General with over-all responsibility for organizing and preparing for the Conference, bearing in mind the views expressed during the debates of the Economic and Social Council at its forty-seventh session and of the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session;

4. *Establishes* a Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment—consisting of highly qualified representatives nominated by the Governments of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, France, Ghana, Guinea, India, Iran, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Mauritius, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Singapore, Sweden, Togo, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Arab Republic, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Yugoslavia and Zambia—to advise the Secretary-General;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to set up immediately a small conference secretariat by drawing, with the agreement of the specialized agencies concerned, particularly upon regular staff of the United Nations system, and to appoint at the appropriate time a Secretary-General of the Conference;

6. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to pursue the consultations on the preparations for the Conference, undertaken by him in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2398 (XXIII), to take account of the results of other international conferences, such as the conference on the problems of environment organized by the Economic Commission for Europe and scheduled to take place at Prague in 1971, and to draw on contributions from appropriate inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations;

7. *Invites* the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development to collaborate closely with the Secretary-General in the preparations for the Conference and to assist, as appropriate, in the work of the Preparatory Committee;

8. *Invites* the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned to lend every possible assistance in the preparations for the Conference;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Preparatory Committee, to take the necessary steps, as part of the preparations for the Conference, to bring to public attention the nature and importance of the problems of the human environment;

10. *Believes it essential* that all participating countries should be enabled to take an active part in the preparations for the Conference and in the Conference itself, and requests the Secretary-General to investigate what concrete steps could be taken to this end;

11. *Notes* the outline of the range of the possible financial implications for the United Nations of the holding of the Conference presented in the report of the Secretary-General⁶³ and in his note⁶⁴ and requests him, in the light of the views expressed during the debates of the Economic and Social Council at its forty-seventh session and of the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session, to make all efforts to reduce the costs of the Conference;

12. *Decides* that the Conference should be of two weeks' duration and requests the Secretary-General to take full account of this fact in preparing for the Conference;

13. *Believes* that, for the Conference to achieve its objectives, it is essential that its agenda be selective, its organizational structure simple and efficient, and that the documentation be kept within reasonable limits;

14. *Accepts with appreciation* the invitation of the Government of Sweden to hold the Conference in Sweden,⁶⁵ in June 1972;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a brief progress report, through the Economic and Social Council at its forty-ninth session, to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session;

16. *Decides* to consider the progress of the preparatory work of the Conference and to take the necessary further decisions at its twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth sessions.

*1834th plenary meeting,
15 December 1969.*

⁵⁹ E/4667.

⁶⁰ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/7603 and Corr.1), chapter V, section D.*

⁶¹ *Ibid.*, Twenty-fourth Session, Annexes, agenda item 21, document A/7707.

⁶² See E/4667, paras. 82-92.

⁶³ *Ibid.*, paras. 139-143.

⁶⁴ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fourth Session, Annexes, agenda item 21, document A/7707, paras. 5-8.*

⁶⁵ *Ibid.*, document A/7514.