

**590 (XX). General review of the development and co-ordination of the economic, social and human rights programmes and activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies as a whole**

**A**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

**I**

Recalling its co-ordinating functions under Articles 58 and 63 of the United Nations Charter,

Having examined the statement by the Secretary-General entitled "General Review of the Development and Co-ordination of the Economic, Social and Human Rights Programmes and Activities of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies as a Whole"<sup>92</sup> and the annual reports of the specialized agencies,<sup>93</sup>

Having further examined the seventeenth and eighteenth reports of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination,<sup>94</sup>

Considering that close co-ordination in the work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies is indispensable in order to achieve the maximum benefit from their limited resources,

1. Takes note of the above-mentioned reports;<sup>95</sup>

<sup>92</sup> Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twentieth Session, Annexes, agenda item 4, document E/2769.

<sup>93</sup> International Labour Organisation, *Ninth Report of the International Labour Organisation to the United Nations*, Geneva, 1955 (E/2733); Food and Agriculture Organization, *Report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to the Twentieth Session of the Economic and Social Council* (E/2753), *Report of the Twentieth Session of the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization*, Rome, November 1954 (E/2753/Add.1) and *The State of Food and Agriculture 1954*, Rome, September 1954 (E/2753/Add.2); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Report to the United Nations 1954-55* (E/2735); World Health Organization, *The Work of WHO 1954, Annual Report of the Director-General to the World Health Assembly and to the United Nations*: Official Records of the World Health Organization No. 59, Geneva, March 1955 (E/2724) and *Supplementary Report: Notes on the Report of the World Health Organization for 1954*, June 1955 (E/2724/Add.1); International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, *Ninth Annual Report to the Board of Governors 1953-1954*, Washington, D.C. (E/2668) and *Supplement to the Ninth Annual Report* (E/2668/Add.1); International Monetary Fund, *Annual Report of the Executive Directors for the Fiscal Year ended April 30, 1954*, Washington, D.C. (E/2661) and *Summary of Activities May 1, 1954 to December 31, 1954* (E/2661/Add.1); International Civil Aviation Organization, *Report of the Council to the Assembly on the Activities of the Organization in 1954*, Montreal, June 1955 (E/2749), *Council's Budget Estimates, 1956, and Information Annex*, Montreal, May-June 1955 (E/2749/Add.1) and *Supplementary Report to the Assembly on the Activities of the Organization, 1 January - 31 May 1955* (E/2749/Add.2); Universal Postal Union, *Report on the Work of the Union 1954*, Berne (E/2692); International Telecommunication Union, *Report on the Activities of the International Telecommunication Union for 1954* (E/2748); World Meteorological Organization, *Annual Report of the World Meteorological Organization 1954*, Geneva, 1955 (E/2722).

<sup>94</sup> Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twentieth Session, Annexes, agenda item 4, documents E/2659 and Corr.1, E/2728 and Corr.1.

<sup>95</sup> Specific action was taken by the Council on the reports of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (E/2668, E/2668/Add.1) and of the International Monetary Fund (E/2661, E/2661/Add.1) at the nineteenth session. See resolutions 561 (XIX) and 562 (XIX).

2. Notes with appreciation the efforts of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, under the chairmanship of the Secretary-General, to foster greater co-ordination of the programmes and operations of the United Nations and the specialized agencies;

3. Reaffirms:

(a) The need for continuing concentration of effort on the part of the United Nations and the specialized agencies in order to ensure the most effective use of available resources and, accordingly, the curtailment of less important activities;

(b) As an over-all objective the economic and social development of under-developed areas;

4. Stresses, in the interest of co-ordination and co-operative action, the importance of early and close consultation among the United Nations and the specialized agencies in the advance planning of programmes of interest to more than one of these bodies, and invites the co-operation of the specialized agencies to this end;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to consider, with the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, the various questions raised and suggestions made in the course of the Council's discussions<sup>96</sup> and to prepare, for the twenty-second session of the Council, a report with particular reference to any methods used and any consultations held relating to the advance planning of programmes and projects;

6. Considers that the appropriate bodies of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies should review from time to time their publications and studies and the use made of them, in order to determine the extent to which they are of specific and continuing value;

7. Invites the Secretary-General, the subsidiary bodies of the Council, and the specialized agencies to bear in mind that certain activities might better be undertaken by such bodies as universities, national, private or public institutions, or non-governmental organizations;

8. Expresses the belief that in the interest of better preparation and adequate representation, efforts should be made by the United Nations and the specialized agencies to reduce further the number, the frequency, and, if possible, the length of conferences and meetings;

9. Transmits this resolution, together with the records of the discussion in the Council,<sup>96</sup> to the specialized agencies for their consideration and appropriate action;

10. Draws the attention of the subsidiary bodies of the Council to the terms of this resolution;

**II.**

Considering that co-ordination at the national level in relation to international organizations operating in the economic and social fields is of paramount importance to the co-ordination of the efforts of these organizations,

Recalling resolution 125 (II) of the General Assembly which *inter alia* "Calls upon Members to take measures

<sup>96</sup> See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twentieth Session, 878th to 882nd and 893rd meetings and E/AC.24/SR.134 to 138.

to ensure on the national level a co-ordinated policy of their delegations to the United Nations and to the different specialized agencies in order that full co-operation may be achieved between the Organization and the specialized agencies . . . ”,

*Draws the attention* of all Governments to the desirability of taking further steps to ensure such co-ordination.

893rd plenary meeting,  
5 August 1955.

## B

### *The Economic and Social Council,*

*Having considered* the statement by the Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs on the financial implications of actions of the Council <sup>97</sup>,

1. *Takes note* with appreciation of this statement;
2. *Expresses* the hope that the Secretary-General will continue to give careful study to this question and will bring his conclusions to the attention of the Council, whenever he considers it necessary;
3. *Endorses* the Secretary-General's proposal <sup>98</sup> that action be suspended on project No. 24 of the programme of work of the Social Commission; <sup>99</sup>

4. *Endorses* the Secretary-General's proposal <sup>100</sup> to make available in the United Nations Headquarters Library bibliographical material on works and studies relating to human rights, and *requests* the Secretary-General to suspend action on the preparation of a biblio-

<sup>97</sup> *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twentieth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 14, document E/2791.

<sup>98</sup> See *ibid.*, para. 8.

<sup>99</sup> *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 9 (E/2758), Annex II.

<sup>100</sup> *Ibid.*, Annexes, agenda item 14, document E/2791, para. 12.

graphical index to the *Yearbook on Human Rights* pending consultation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization regarding the availability of bibliographical material on that subject and to report to the Council at its twenty-second session on the outcome of those consultations.

893rd plenary meeting,  
5 August 1955.

### **591 (XX). Term of office of members of functional commissions meeting biennially**

#### *The Economic and Social Council,*

*Considering* that, under its previous resolutions establishing the functional commissions, the term of office of members of these commissions was fixed at three years,

*Considering* that, in accordance with Council resolution 557 C IV (XVIII), sessions of the Population Commission, the Statistical Commission, the Social Commission and the Transport and Communications Commission are normally convened biennially,

*Considering* that in order to ensure generally a more effective participation of members in the work of these commissions and to establish as much uniformity as possible with respect to the number of sessions which members of these commissions will normally attend, it is desirable to lengthen their term of office to a period of four years,

*Decides* that, beginning with the members elected in 1955, the term of office of the members of the Population Commission, the Statistical Commission, the Social Commission and the Transport and Communications Commission shall be four years.

893rd plenary meeting,  
5 August 1955.

## **Other decisions taken by the Council at its twentieth session**

### **Confirmation of members of functional commissions of the Council**

At its 869th meeting, on 8 July 1955, the Council decided to defer until its resumed twentieth session the confirmation of members of functional commissions of the Council nominated by their Governments since the close of the nineteenth session.

### **Question of the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the Council**

At its 890th meeting, on 3 August 1955, the Council decided to consider at its resumed twentieth session the question whether and by what means the tenth anniversary of the Economic and Social Council should be celebrated.

### **International machinery for trade co-operation**

At its 891st meeting, on 4 August 1955, the Council decided to postpone until its resumed twentieth session consideration of the draft resolution entitled "International Machinery for Trade Co-operation" contained

in the report of the Economic Committee on item 2 of the agenda <sup>101</sup> as well as of the amendments proposed thereto. <sup>102</sup>

### **Question of admission of new members to the Economic Commission for Europe**

At its 891st meeting, on 4 August 1955, the Council decided to postpone until its resumed twentieth session the question of the admission of new members to the Economic Commission for Europe.

### **Arrangements regarding the report of the Council to the General Assembly**

At its 893rd meeting, on 5 August 1955, the Council agreed to the arrangements for the preparation of its report to the General Assembly described by the Secretary-General in document E/L.668.

<sup>101</sup> *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twentieth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 2, document E/2787/Rev.1.

<sup>102</sup> *Ibid.*, document E/L.685.