

Other questions

678 (XXVI). Co-operation between the United Nations and The Hague Conference on Private International Law and the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering that a progressive unification of the rules of private international law and the unification and harmonization of the rules of private law in matters relating to international economic and social questions would facilitate the continued development of international commercial exchanges,

Considering further that the scope of The Hague Conference on Private International Law and that of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law include activities in the field indicated above,

Noting that the programmes of work of the regional economic commissions of the United Nations include projects of a similar nature,

Being concerned to avoid duplication and overlapping in the respective programmes of the United Nations and of other international organizations whose activities affect the economic and social fields,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to take appropriate steps in order to ensure reciprocal exchange of information and documentation with The Hague Conference on Private International Law and with the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law in matters of mutual interest in order to promote co-operation and co-ordination with those organizations;

2. Further requests the Secretary-General to report to the Council, whenever appropriate, on matters within this area of activities which may be of interest to the Council.

*1023rd plenary meeting,
3 July 1958.*

693 (XXVI). Concentration of activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies in the economic, social and human rights fields

A

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 664 A (XXIV) of 1 August 1957, paragraph 2 (b) of which invited the specialized agencies to include in their reports in 1958 passages dealing specifically with the further concentration of their programmes in the light of the discussions which have taken place in the Council and to cite examples of concentration achieved during the preceding year,

Considering that such concentration of activities, to achieve its full value, should be a continuing process,

1. Notes with satisfaction the efforts being made by the specialized agencies to achieve further concentration of their programmes;

2. Expresses its thanks to the specialized agencies for their response to the above request of the Council, as contained in their annual reports submitted to the Council at its twenty-sixth session;

3. Invites the specialized agencies to include similar passages in their reports in 1959 and subsequent years.

*1043rd plenary meeting,
31 July 1958.*

B

The Economic and Social Council,

Having reviewed the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Observations on the Work Programme of the Council in the Economic, Social and Human Rights Fields",⁴³ prepared in response to paragraph 1 of Council resolution 664 B (XXIV) of 1 August 1957,

Noting that the Secretary-General's review of the work programme is a continuing process and is not designed primarily to bring about financial savings, but to enable the Council to consider how best to use the limited resources available in the light of changing requirements,⁴⁴

1. Approves the efforts undertaken by the Secretary-General to achieve a greater concentration of activities in the economic, social and human rights fields, as set forth in the above-mentioned report;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts in this connexion and to prepare a similar report for the Council, at its twenty-eighth session, keeping in mind the principles outlined in section A of the annex to Council resolution 664 (XXIV),

3. Emphasizes the desirability that the regional and functional commissions keep under constant review their calendars of conferences and meetings, particularly those of working parties, *ad hoc* bodies, and subsidiary organs, with the aim of reducing, whenever possible, the number and the length of those meetings,⁴⁵ and that, when so doing, they bear in mind the provisions of General Assembly resolution 1202 (XII) of 13 December 1957;

4. Endorses the views of the Secretary-General regarding the periodicity of meetings of functional commissions, that, as a general principle, the biennial pattern should be adopted wherever practicable;⁴⁶

5. Decides, nevertheless, that the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women may for the time being continue to hold annual meetings;

6. Requests the Transport and Communications Commission, in view particularly of the fact that the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization has

⁴³ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twenty-sixth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 3, document E/3134.

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*, document E/3134, para. 8.

⁴⁵ Council resolution 664 (XXIV), annex, para.3(d).

⁴⁶ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twenty-sixth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 3, document E/3134, para. 10.

come into existence, to submit to the Council, at its twenty-eighth session, a final report on its work, including recommendations for future arrangements for handling the remaining activities hitherto performed by the Commission;

7. Approves the following annex to this resolution.

1043rd plenary meeting,
31 July 1958.

ANNEX

TEXT OF THE ANNEX TO THE REPORT OF THE CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE ON CONCENTRATION OF ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS FIELDS⁴⁷

Introduction

1. The Council agrees with the Secretary-General's suggestion that the Secretariat might be entrusted, to an increasing extent, with certain functions for which *ad hoc* committees have from time to time been set up by functional commissions.⁴⁸ The Council therefore requests that these commissions, as far as possible, be guided by this suggestion, it being understood that the responsibility for review of programme questions and questions of priorities must continue to remain with the commissions and the Council.

I. Statistical activities

2. The Council agrees with the proposed reallocation of priorities, as recommended by the Statistical Commission,⁴⁹ it being understood that the programme of work which will include the compendium of social statistics can be undertaken without additional financial resources. The Secretary-General should continue to explore methods of achieving reductions in the volume of documentation directly submitted to the Statistical Commission and continue the rigorous editorial policy followed with respect to the increasing volume of publishable statistics. In this connexion, in order to be most useful, the compendium of social statistics mentioned above might be published as an annex to the "Report on the World Social Situation", and the Secretariat might consider this, when making further proposals to the Statistical Commission.

II. Social activities

3. While the Council will review the question relating to the future United Nations programme in the field of social defence, at its twenty-eighth session, taking into account recommendations of the Social Commission, it notes and endorses the Secretary-General's suggestion that he should undertake informal discussions with Governments and non-governmental organizations, initially along the lines indicated in paragraphs 18 and 19 of the report entitled "Observations on the Work Programme of the Council in the Economic, Social and Human Rights Fields."⁴⁹ The Council hopes that mutually satisfactory proposals can be agreed to, for submission to the Social Commission, at its twelfth session, and to the Council, at its twenty-eighth session.

4. The Council also notes with interest the recent developments concerning the closer co-operation between the United Nations Children's Fund and the regular and technical assistance programmes of the United Nations, as set out in the report by the

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, document E/3149.

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*, document E/3134, para. 11.

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*, paras. 12 to 14.

Secretary-General entitled "Co-ordination between the United Nations Children's Fund and the regular and technical assistance programmes of the United Nations and the specialized agencies."⁵⁰ Welcoming these developments, which should increase the possibilities of giving practical assistance in the social field to underdeveloped countries, the Council notes the Secretary-General's intention to provide for some strengthening of the social affairs field staff for this purpose within existing staff levels.⁵¹

III. Narcotics

5. The Council agrees with the slightly modified order of priorities recommended by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.⁵² Recognizing that treaty requirements govern documentation in this field to a large extent, it commends the Commission's proposals for limiting both the quantity of documentation and/or the translation workload in respect of the following: national laws and regulations, technical material accompanying notifications of new narcotics, lists of authorities entitled to issue narcotic import and export licences, and the annual paper on diacetylmorphine.⁵³ The Council welcomes the Commission's decision to review the documentation on narcotics control every year in order to hold it to the minimum needed.⁵⁴

6. On the other hand, the Council notes that the Commission has not followed the Council's recommendation, as contained in paragraph 2 of resolution 667 H (XXIV) of 1 August 1957, as regards appointments to the Drug Supervisory Body of persons who are members of the Permanent Central Opium Board.⁵⁵

IV. Human rights activities

Human rights

7. The Council feels that the Commission on Human Rights and its Sub-Commission on Discrimination and Protection of Minorities are moving in the right direction in respect to the limitation of documentation.

8. While the Council has no specific proposals to make with respect to the *Yearbook on Human Rights*, the consensus is that at this stage the *Yearbook* should continue to be published annually. Overlapping between the *Yearbook* and the triennial reports must be avoided. The Council finds the conclusions of the Committee on the *Yearbook* acceptable, subject to the comment of the Secretary-General that in general, only legal or constitutional texts and court decisions should be published therein.⁵⁶ It stresses the need to avoid duplication between the Secretary-General's summary of government reports and the reports of specialized agencies and welcomes the suggestion⁵⁷ that a detailed plan be drawn up to guide Governments in preparing future series of triennial reports.

Status of women

9. The Council welcomes the efforts made by the Commission on the Status of Women to reduce its documentation by spacing, staggering or discontinuing certain reports hitherto prepared on an annual basis.⁵⁸ With respect to certain reports submitted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization annually to the Commission on access of women to education,

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*, document E/3109.

⁵¹ *Ibid.*, document E/3134, para. 21.

⁵² *Ibid.*, paras. 22 and 23.

⁵³ *Ibid.*, paras. 24 to 26.

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, *Twenty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 9* (E/3133), para. 28.

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, *Twenty-sixth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 3, document E/3134, para. 27.

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, para. 31.

⁵⁷ *Ibid.*, para. 32.

⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, para. 34.

the Council considers that the general report on the activities of this organization in the field of education of women could with advantage be on a biennial basis in future, while reports on specific aspects of the problem of access of women to education should, for the time being, continue to be submitted annually.⁵⁹

10. With respect to progress reports on equal pay for equal work prepared by the International Labour Office, the Council notes with satisfaction that the next report would not be prepared for the thirteenth, but for the fourteenth, session of the Commission on the Status of Women in 1960.⁵⁹ The Council endorses the hope expressed by the Secretary-General that the Commission would at a future session again consider whether an annual report on equal pay for equal work is indispensable.⁵⁹

Advisory services on human rights

11. The Council expresses satisfaction with the development of the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights⁶⁰ and with the fact that an increasing number of countries are offering to act as host for seminars under this programme. This shows that what might be termed the "educational and operational" aspects of the human rights programme are receiving increasing recognition. Particular importance is attached by the Council to seminars of a regional character.

V. Economic matters

12. The Council stresses the importance of the work to be undertaken by the Secretariat in the fields of industrialization and water resources. Regarding the former, it is of the opinion that the work should be directed so as to stimulate practical action, in close co-operation with the specialized agencies concerned, and that the composition of the committee of experts contemplated in paragraph 12 of Council resolution 674 A (XXV) of 1 May 1958, should reflect the variety of situations obtaining in different regions. Regarding extension and acceleration of work on water resources development, it emphasizes the significance of this work and trusts that the centre to be established in the Secretariat, under paragraph 3 of section IV of Council resolution 675 (XXV) of 2 May 1958, will be enabled to play a substantial role in the field of water resources development, including regional water development and utilization and underground water development.

13. The Council approves the gradual implementation proposed by the Secretary-General of Council resolution 614 C (XXII) of 9 August 1956 and re-emphasizes the importance of resources and requirements surveys, particularly in connexion with the forthcoming establishment of the Special Fund.

14. It notes the efforts made by the Commission on International Commodity Trade towards formulating a work programme and trusts that the special arrangements made by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination⁶¹ will further contribute to the concentration of efforts in this field.

15. It also notes the possible implications of the coming into being of the Inter-governmental Maritime Consultative Organization and looks forward to the report to be submitted by the Transport and Communications Commission under paragraph 6 of Council resolution 693 B (XXVI).

VI. Regional economic activities

16. The Council notes with satisfaction the extent to which the principles of concentration and co-ordination have been applied in the review of programmes by the regional economic commissions

⁵⁹ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twenty-sixth Session, Annexes, agenda item 3, document E/3134, para. 36.*

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*, paras. 40 to 43.

⁶¹ *Ibid.*, para. 50.

and their secretariats and the progress that has been made in this connexion.

17. The Council endorses the suggestion outlined in paragraph 7 of section I of its resolution 590 A (XX) of 5 August 1955 that the Secretary-General and the Council's subsidiary bodies bear in mind that certain activities might better be undertaken by such bodies as universities, national, private or public institutions, or non-governmental organizations, in order to permit the Secretariat to make the most effective use of its own resources. The Council commends the expressed intentions of the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East to utilize this procedure and expresses the hope that the other regional economic commissions will give consideration to the use of this procedure, wherever practicable.

18. The Council recalls that, at its twenty-fourth session, it approved a recommendation of the Co-ordination Committee,⁶² requesting the Secretary-General to study and report on particular questions with respect to the work of the regional economic commissions. The Council notes that no date for the reports was specified, but that a report on one of these questions will be made available for consideration by the Council, at its twenty-eighth session.

VII. Work programme and resources

19. The Council appreciates the efforts that have been made by the Secretary-General to reduce the length and number of the documents coming before it and its subsidiary bodies. It decides to consider, at its twenty-eighth session, in the light of the five-year appraisal of programmes,⁶³ whether the Secretary-General's consolidated statement of work programmes might be dispensed with or alternatively be produced not annually but at two-yearly or three-yearly intervals.

20. The Council, recalling rule 34, on estimates of expenditure, of its own rules of procedure, expresses its approval of the procedure that is now being followed for its implementation. It expresses the hope that rule 28, on estimates of expenditures of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions will be fully implemented. It notes that the regional economic commissions of the Council do not have such rules. In order to ensure that members of the regional economic commissions have the benefit of similar pertinent information when taking decisions on new work programmes or projects, the Council requests the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions to submit to the commissions the financial implications of programmes or projects before their approval by the commissions and particularly to assure that any new projects or programmes submitted to the commissions for action are accompanied by a statement of financial implications, if any.

694 (XXVI). 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

ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON CO-ORDINATION

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the twenty-second report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to the

⁶² Council resolution 664 (XXIV), annex, paras. 13 and 14.

⁶³ Council resolution 665 C (XXIV).