

7. *Accepts*, as a factor of paramount importance in the formulation and execution of all United Nations programmes and activities in these fields, the conclusion of the Secretary-General "that, in a situation characterized by grave financial difficulties and by a relative scarcity of personnel qualified to carry out many complex projects, any hope of maintaining an efficient secretariat and of sustaining a 'controlled expansion' of the Organization's activities in the economic and social fields rests on the assumption that such expansion and efficiency depends less on the number, length and frequency of reports and meetings than on the quality of the former and the careful preparation and conduct of the latter";<sup>110</sup>

8. *Decides* to consider at its 1964 session the revision of the Council's procedures for discussing financial implications of its actions, taking into account the Extract of the Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

*1303rd plenary meeting,  
2 August 1963.*

#### **991 (XXXVI). Evaluation of programmes**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* its resolution 908 (XXXIV) of 2 August 1962 regarding "the importance it attaches to systematic and objective evaluation of the impact and effectiveness of programmes undertaken by the United Nations as well as the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency directed towards the advancement of economic and social progress of the developing countries";

*Having considered* the observations on the evaluation of programmes presented by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination in its twenty-eighth report to the Council,<sup>111</sup>

*Noting with appreciation* the efforts of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Technical Assistance Board at evaluation on a sector by sector basis,

*Noting*, however, that the Special Committee on Co-ordination has expressed the view that "the approach to evaluation may be too piecemeal and partial in character to produce the results which the Council hoped for in resolution 908 (XXXIV)",<sup>112</sup>

*Being convinced* that the present arrangements are not adequate to assess the extent to which the programmes and activities of the United Nations family of organizations are making an effective contribution to economic and social development in the recipient countries,

*Considering* that comprehensive evaluation can be achieved only by a combination of an evaluation of:

(a) The efficiency of management and operations, staffing, administrative procedures and financial controls;

(b) The technical soundness of programmes and methods employed;

(c) The over-all impact on the development of a given country,

1. *Welcomes* the actions taken by the administrative authorities of the United Nations and its related agencies to keep under review administrative machinery, procedures and financial management;

2. *Expresses the hope* that the appropriate organs of the United Nations and the agencies will continue and intensify their efforts at technical evaluation of their programmes and operations and their effectiveness in achieving set objectives;

3. *Decides* that greater attention must be centred on an evaluation of the over-all impact on the development of the developing countries of the combined programmes of the United Nations system of organizations in terms of performance and results achieved and as a first step on the collection of relevant data on a country by country basis in co-operation with the countries concerned;

4. *Recognizes* that any evaluation of the impact of the technical co-operation programmes and activities of the United Nations and related agencies on the progress of the developing countries is of primary concern to these countries and can be achieved only on the basis of systematic efforts at evaluation by the Governments of these countries;

5. *Requests* the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination in its further consideration of the problem of evaluation to be undertaken in co-operation with Governments:

(a) To formulate proposals designed to assist developing countries in their own evaluation efforts;

(b) To elaborate and define procedures for the collection of relevant information, making the fullest possible use of the resident representatives and the regional economic commissions;

(c) To explore ways and means of consolidating such information with a view to achieving an over-all evaluation of the impact on development and the effectiveness of the activities of the United Nations system in the economic, social and related fields, including the possibility of the establishment of permanent evaluation machinery;

(d) To report on the results of the consideration of this request to the 1964 session of the Council;

6. *Further requests* that this resolution be called to the attention of the governing bodies and general conferences of the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

*1303rd plenary meeting,  
2 August 1963.*

<sup>110</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 12.

<sup>111</sup> *Ibid.*, document E/3765, paras. 30 to 37.

<sup>112</sup> *Ibid.*, document E/3778, para. 35.