

**Reports of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and of the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination**

(Agenda item 16 b)

At its 1837th meeting, on 28 July 1972, the Council took note of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on its twelfth session<sup>98</sup> and of the report of the Chairman of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination.<sup>99</sup>

**New form of presentation of the United Nations budget**

(Agenda item 16 b)

At its 1837th meeting, on 28 July 1972, the Council:

(a) Concluded that the new form of presentation of the United Nations budget as envisaged in the Secretary-

<sup>98</sup> *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 10 (E/5186).

<sup>99</sup> E/5188.

General's report entitled "Form of presentation of the United Nations budget and the duration of the budget cycle"<sup>100</sup> constituted a useful basis for proceeding towards the early implementation of a system of programme budgeting in the United Nations;

(b) Expressed the hope that it would be possible to build on and improve the report in the light of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in its report on the form of presentation of the United Nations budget and the duration of the budget cycle;<sup>101</sup>

(c) Drew the attention of the General Assembly to the views expressed on this question by delegations during the discussions in the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its twelfth session<sup>102</sup> and in the Co-ordination Committee at the fifty-third session of the Council.<sup>103</sup>

<sup>100</sup> A/C.5/1429 and Corr.1 and 2.

<sup>101</sup> A/8739.

<sup>102</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 10* (E/5186), chap. VIII; also E/AC.51/SR.372, E/AC.51/SR.374-377.

<sup>103</sup> See E/AC.24/SR.440 and E/AC.24/SR.441.

**RATIONALIZATION OF THE COUNCIL'S METHODS OF WORK**

**1724 (LIII). General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Having considered* at its fifty-third session items 2 and 7 of its agenda on international economic and social policy and on regional co-operation,

*Having noted* the opinions expressed during the discussions at that session,

*Recalling* its resolution 557 (XVIII) of 5 August 1954 on the organization and operation of the Council and its commissions, in particular paragraphs 3 and 4 of section B (II) thereof,

*Recalling further* its resolution 1623 (LI) of 30 July 1971 on the organization of the work of the Council, paragraph 3 of which requested the Secretary-General to develop a more rational agenda designed to avoid duplication of discussion and to enable the Council to concentrate on policy issues, grouping items on related issues and providing for the consideration of important substantive issues on a longer-term planning cycle, where this is appropriate,

*Recalling also* paragraph 8 of the same resolution, stating that reports submitted to the Council should be action-oriented,

*Recalling also* paragraph 10 of its resolution 1643 (LI) of 30 July 1971 on the review of the sphere of activities and competence of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination,

*Convinced* of the need for increased co-ordination as a means of placing the Council in a better position to discharge its responsibilities as regards the application of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to arrange for the Executive Secretaries of the regional economic commissions and the Director of the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut, in addition to the executive heads of the specialized agencies, including the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Monetary Fund, as appropriate, and heads of other relevant organizations in the United Nations system, particularly the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, to partici-

pate at the beginning of the Council's summer session in the discussion of the item on international economic and social policy;

2. *Considers* that the statements of the Executive Secretaries of the regional economic commissions and the Director of the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut, and the executive heads of the specialized agencies, should focus on issues of vital concern to their regions and sectors which have important implications for international economic and social policy and require examination and decision by the Council;

3. *Recommends* the President of the Economic and Social Council to hold, at the beginning of the Council's summer sessions, periodic meetings of the Bureau with the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, the Assistant Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs, the Secretary of the Council, the Executive Secretaries of the regional economic commissions, the Director of the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut and, whenever possible, the Chairmen of the regional economic commissions or their representatives, so that the Council will be in a better position to assist the regional economic commissions and the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut to discharge their functions in accordance with their terms of reference and within the framework of the Second United Nations Development Decade;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, at the Council's summer sessions:

(a) To arrange for the Executive Secretaries of the regional economic commissions and the Director of the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut to take part as appropriate in the meetings of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and its Preparatory Committee;

(b) To make the necessary arrangements for the Executive Secretaries of the regional economic commissions and the Director of the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut or their authorized representatives to take part in the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination;

5. *Further requests* that the report of the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination focus attention on one or more issues requiring priority consideration by the Council in the field of co-ordination or sectoral developments, and that the report on the meetings of the Executive Secretaries of the regional economic commissions should similarly draw attention to issues in the field of regional co-operation requiring policy decisions by the Council;

6. *Decides* that the agenda item for the general debate should be reworded to read "General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments".

*1836th plenary meeting  
28 July 1972*

## **1730 (LIII). Rationalization of the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary organs**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recognizing* its continued obligation to consider improved working methods under General Assembly resolution 2579 (XXIV) of 15 December 1969, entitled "Final report of the Enlarged Committee for Programme and Co-ordination",

*Conscious* of the continued need to strengthen and render more compact its co-ordinating machinery,

*Recognizing* that the problem of documentation both results from and compounds the difficulties of an unreasonably crowded calendar of meetings of the Council, its subsidiary committees and commissions, related bodies and other organizations in the United Nations system concerned with social and economic development,

*Recognizing also* that the establishment of additional subsidiary bodies in recent years has not been accompanied by a reconsideration of the division of work among subsidiary bodies as a whole,

1. *Calls for* the close observance of its resolutions on measures to improve the organization of the work of the Council adopted at its fifty-first session (resolutions 1621 (LI)-1624 (LI) of 30 July 1971);

2. *Establishes* a working group in which Governments of all States members of the sessional committees of the Council which indicate by 10 January 1973 their wish to participate may do so, to meet initially for not more than 10 working days after the Council's organizational meetings in January 1973 to review the terms of reference of all the Council's committees, commissions and other subsidiary bodies, to consider whether the tasks of all such bodies could be arranged in ways which would reduce the number of such bodies without prejudice to the conduct of those tasks, to consider whether any such body can henceforth be justified in meeting more frequently than the established norm of once in two complete years, to consider whether a greater interval than two years would be appropriate in the case of any such bodies, and to report to the Council at its fifty-fourth session on its conclusions and any possible recommendations on these matters;

3. *Forwards* to the Working Group all the relevant proposals submitted to the Working Group of the Co-ordination Committee at the Council's fifty-third session, requesting it to bear in mind paragraph 5 of Council resolution 1621 A (LI) and resolution 1472 (XLVIII) of 13 January 1970 and the annex thereto, concerning the reconstitution of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to facilitate the deliberations of the Working Group by preparing a short note which would:

(a) Provide statistics on the number and length of meetings of the Council and all its subsidiary and related