

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL DURING ITS FIFTY-FIRST SESSION

ECONOMIC QUESTIONS

1600 (LI). Question of the admission of the Swiss Confederation to the Economic Commission for Europe

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering that the Swiss Confederation has participated since 1947 in the work of the Economic Commission for Europe in consultative status and that it now wishes to be able to make a more positive contribution to the activities of the Commission by accepting the responsibilities inherent in the status of members,

1. *Decides* to change paragraph 7 of the Economic Commission for Europe's terms of reference by adding the Swiss Confederation to the list of members of this Commission, on condition that this State offers itself as a candidate and agrees to pay each year an equitable contribution, the total amount of which will be determined periodically by the General Assembly in accordance with the procedure established by the Assembly in similar cases;

2. *Invites* the Secretary-General to enter into the consultations and to take the steps necessary for the Swiss Confederation and the General Assembly to reach agreement on the contribution which this State will be required to make to the United Nations budget.

*1785th plenary meeting,
20 July 1971.*

1601 (LI). Regional and sub-regional advisory services

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 793 (XXX) of 3 August 1960 on decentralization of activities and operations, and General Assembly resolutions 1709 (XVI) of 19 December 1961 and 1823 (XVII) of 18 December 1962 on the decentralization of the economic and social activities of the United Nations and strengthening of the regional economic commissions,

Noting the Council's recommendation in its resolution 1442 (XLVII) of 31 July 1969 that the regional

economic commissions and the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut play a more active role in the implementation of operational programmes for economic and social action,

Taking into account that the expansion of the membership of the regional economic commissions has required both an extension of the existing services of the Commissions over a wider area and a reflection in their activities of new aspirations and new urges,

Recognizing that the regional economic commissions have been called upon to reorient their activities in response to the wide acceptance of new approaches to development, particularly the consideration and implementation, under the aegis of the commissions, of an increasing number and variety of schemes for regional and sub-regional economic co-operation and integration, multi-disciplinary approaches to development, the need to integrate economic and social aspects of development, and vast possibilities opened up recently in the field of the application of science and technology to development,

Taking note of the provisions on the new country programming approach, approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 2688 (XXV) of 11 December 1970,

Considering that the adoption of a new country programming approach has called for a new orientation and a re-definition of the operational functions of the regional economic commissions,

Noting the conclusion of the Joint Inspection Unit that the regional economic commissions, while continuing their functions of economic studies and research and advisory services to member countries, have increasingly become operational bodies in the field of economic co-operation and will be called upon to undertake in the future even greater responsibilities in these directions,¹

Recalling that the General Assembly in its resolution 2563 (XXIV) of 13 December 1969 and the Council in its resolution 1552 (XLIX) of 30 July 1970 requested the Secretary-General together with the Executive Secretaries of the regional economic commissions and the Director of the United Nations Economic and Social

¹ See E/4733, paras. 23-25; E/4781, paras. 64-67; E/4935, paras. 127-133, 164 and 165.

Office in Beirut to initiate multinational interdisciplinary United Nations Development Advisory Teams.

Noting that a number of those Teams have been launched on a sub-regional basis, as indicated in the report of the meetings of the Executive Secretaries of the regional economic commissions held in 1971,²

Recalling further that the General Assembly, in its resolution 2687 (XXV) of 11 December 1960, requested the regional economic commissions and the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut to continue and further intensify their efforts in helping to promote, on a regional, sub-regional or inter-regional basis, trade expansion, economic co-operation and integration among their member countries, as a concrete step towards the attainment of the goals and objectives of the Second United Nations Development Decade,

Considering that the regional economic commissions and the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut will be called upon to assume major responsibilities for review and appraisal at the regional level of the progress in the implementation of the International Development Strategy,

Recognizing that the accretion of such responsibilities to the regional economic commissions has meant a considerable strain on their organizational and administrative resources,

Recalling that the General Assembly, in its resolution 2687 (XXV), urged that the regional economic commissions and the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut be provided with the means and resources necessary to fulfil their role for the benefit of their member countries,

Stressing that the increasing responsibilities being discharged by the regional economic commissions in the operational field are an integral part of their mandatory and policy functions and any distinction between these two categories of functions is arbitrary,

Taking note that the regional advisory services under the United Nations regular programme have in recent years been utilized by the regional economic commissions for the discharge of these responsibilities,

Welcoming the new orientation being imparted to the regular programme, in both its country and regional components, particularly through its concentration in the least developed among the developing countries and in areas which are of crucial importance to the development process of these countries,

1. *Recommends* that, as a first step and at least partially to relieve the financial and administrative burden on the regional economic commissions and the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut imposed by the expanded scope of these responsibilities, the General Assembly should decide to establish at its twenty-sixth session a separate section in the United Nations regular budget to make provision for a unified system of regional and sub-regional advisory services, earmarked for the operations of the regional economic commissions and the

² E/5039.

United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut, and to transfer to this section the existing regional advisory services at present under part V;

2. *Further recommends* that the existing section 13 of part V of the United Nations budget for the regular programme of technical assistance be maintained for 1972 at its current level of \$5,408,000 and concentrate its operations substantially to support country programmes of the least developed among the developing countries, as well as regional and sub-regional programmes of special interest to those countries

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1602 (LI). Annual report of the Economic Commission for Europe

The Economic and Social Council

1. *Takes note* of the annual report of the Economic Commission for Europe for the period 25 April 1970 to 30 April 1971,³ of the views expressed during the discussion, and the resolutions and the other decisions adopted by the Commission during its twenty-sixth session;⁴

2. *Endorses* the programme of work and priorities contained in the report.⁵

*1785th plenary meeting,
20 July 1971.*

1603 (LI). Inclusion of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate within the geographical scope of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East and admission of the Protectorate to the Commission as an associate member

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of the recommendation of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East with regard to the request of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the inclusion of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate within the geographical scope of the Commission and the admission of the Protectorate as an associate member,⁶

1. *Approves* the recommendation of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East that the British Solomon Islands Protectorate be included in the geographical scope of the Commission and admitted as an associate member of the Commission;

³ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 3 (E/5001).*

⁴ *Ibid.*, part III.

⁵ *Ibid.*, part V.

⁶ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 2 (E/5030), para. 233