

(b) The present analytical summaries prepared by the Secretariat should continue to be reproduced in four languages;

(c) The subject and country indexes should also be continued.

(7) The Commission on Human Rights and its *Ad Hoc* Committee on Periodic Reports should keep under continuing review the possibility of refining and improving the present system of periodic reports.

Periodic reports on human rights (Item 18)

At its 1858th meeting, on 18 May 1973, the Council decided to draw the attention of the General Assembly to the importance of the periodic reports system and to invite the Assembly to urge States Members of the

United Nations and members of the specialized agencies to co-operate fully in submitting reports under that system.

Human rights (Item 18)

At its 1858th meeting, on 18 May 1973, the Council, having taken note of the letter dated 4 May 1973 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General,¹²⁸ rejected the contents of the letter and the baseless attacks on the members of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group of Experts as well as the Commission on Human Rights.

¹²⁸ E/5325.

RATIONALIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL

1767 (LIV). Ratification of the amendment to Article 61 of the Charter of the United Nations

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1621 A (LI) of 30 July 1971 on the enlargement of the membership of the Economic and Social Council,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 2847 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971 on the enlargement of the Economic and Social Council,

Aware that early ratification by Member States of the amendment to Article 61 of the Charter of the United Nations, enlarging the membership of the Economic and Social Council to fifty-four, would facilitate the implementation of procedural and structural reform measures for the rationalization of the work of the Council,

Noting that, in spite of the length of time that has elapsed, many Member States have not yet ratified the amendment to Article 61 of the Charter,

1. Urges all Member States which have not yet done so, particularly the permanent members of the Security Council, to ratify the amendment at an early date, pursuant to paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 2847 (XXVI), with a view to making the amendment effective before the convening of the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly, if possible;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to inform the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-fifth session of the progress made in implementing paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 2847 (XXVI).

1858th plenary meeting
18 May 1973

1768 (LIV). Rationalization of the work of the Council

The Economic and Social Council,

Conscious of its responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations as the central forum for discussion and policy recommendations on issues relevant to the world economic and social situation and for the promotion of human rights,

Reaffirming the need for the renewed commitment of all Member States, regardless of their level of development or their social or economic systems, to worldwide co-operation within the framework of the United Nations in order to bring about the necessary fundamental improvement in the world economic and social order, thereby creating a more just and rational world economic and social order for the benefit of all peoples and nations,

Considering that, within the relevant provisions of the Charter, the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade¹²⁹—especially when complemented by the inclusion after due consideration, as appropriate, by the Economic and Social Council or the General Assembly, of emerging concepts such as collective economic security, the relationship between environment and development and new methods and norms of international co-operation and in the light of the new politico-economic developments which have taken place since its adoption—provides a comprehensive body of principles to guide the policies and programmes of all the institutions of the United Nations system and its Member States in their activities related to economic and social co-operation,

Convinced that both short-term and long-term measures for the reorganization and reorientation of its own activities and its subsidiary organs are required to strengthen the role of the United Nations in international economic and social co-operation and, in particular during the Second United Nations Development Decade, to secure the implementation of the goals and policy measures of the International Development Strategy,

Having considered the report of its Working Group on Rationalization,¹³⁰

1. *Decides* that henceforth the Council shall so orient its deliberations as to focus attention on major issues and emerging developments on which action is necessary to bring about more equitable and harmonious economic and social relationships, in particular through the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations

¹²⁹ General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV).

¹³⁰ E/5259.

Development Decade in a dynamic way. It shall, for this purpose, and in full accord with its functions under the Charter, make policy recommendations to Governments of Member States and establish adequate policy guidelines and directives for the activities of the United Nations system;

2. *Decides* to this end, that the Council shall in alternate years concentrate its attention on: (a) the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy, in particular during the summer session; and (b) other areas which require policy guidance and action;

3. *Decides further* that the Council shall annually discharge its continuing responsibilities under the Charter, especially in the consideration of programming and co-ordination matters and human rights, in the assessment of the world economic and social situation, as well as in the performance of those tasks resulting from decisions of competent organs of the United Nations;

I. REVIEW AND APPRAISAL

4. *Reaffirms* that the process of the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy shall provide the opportunity to examine, in the comprehensive and interdisciplinary manner required, the progress made in the implementation of the goals and policy measures contained in the Strategy, and to reach broad conclusions therefrom which could provide the necessary dynamism to international co-operation in the economic and social field;

5. *Decides* that, to that effect, the review and appraisal shall be undertaken by each organ which has responsibility in a particular field or sector of the International Development Strategy, that each organ shall examine all the relevant information and (a) assess the progress made in implementing the goals and policy measures in its field of competence, (b) identify the reasons for any shortfall, (c) recommend measures designed to overcome the obstacles to progress, including new goals and policy measures as required. The results of all sectoral or regional reviews shall be transmitted to the Committee on Review and Appraisal, in accordance with the relevant decisions on this matter. The Committee for Development Planning, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2801 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971, shall submit its expert comments to the Committee on Review and Appraisal, on the basis of all the data and information available to it from the sectoral and regional reviews, concentrating on the interdisciplinary sectors where more than one body has responsibility. The Committee on Review and Appraisal shall (i) examine the obstacles and reasons for shortfalls identified in the various sectoral and regional reviews, and (ii) on their basis as well as on its own conclusions, recommend the measures to overcome the obstacles and shortfalls, including new or revised goals and policy measures as required. In submitting these recommendations the Committee on Review and Appraisal should not, normally, reopen discussions of the policy measures and goals which have been agreed upon in the sectoral body concerned. It shall, however, submit its suggestions to harmonize any apparent conflict in the conclusions and/or recommendations of the sectoral reviews. The report of the Committee on Review and Appraisal shall be considered by the Council, together with the result of all the sectoral and regional reviews.

The Council, in its deliberations, shall concentrate on the recommendations made to it by its Committee on Review and Appraisal and those contained in the sectoral and regional reviews and attempt to reach agreement on the measures required to implement the Strategy's provisions, as well as such new goals and policy measures as it feels necessary. The conclusions and recommendations of the Council shall be transmitted to the General Assembly, which will finally decide on these and revise the International Development Strategy accordingly, as required;

6. *Decides* that the Council, in order to ensure the support of all countries and peoples for the objectives and activities of the United Nations in the field of development, shall continue to take all appropriate action to keep world public opinion increasingly informed of the implementation of the goals and policy measures of the International Development Strategy, in particular through the activities of the Office of Public Information and the Centre for Economic and Social Information and the information services of the United Nations organs concerned;

II. THE COUNCIL'S FUNCTIONS IN THE ALTERNATE YEAR

7. *Decides* that in the alternate year the Council shall concentrate on the examination of problems and areas of present or potential significance for development and international co-operation including, in particular, new problems or concepts of a global or interdisciplinary nature which require adequate conceptualization, political action or proper co-ordination of operational implementation. Such problems and areas shall include those identified during the course of the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy or suggested by (i) Member States, (ii) the General Assembly, (iii) other United Nations organs and sectoral or regional bodies, or (iv) the Secretary-General. In these years, the Council shall also carry out a comprehensive policy review of operational activities throughout the United Nations system;

III. THE COUNCIL'S CONTINUING FUNCTIONS

A. *Special sessions*

8. *Recalls* that the Council may be convened at any time in special session under the provisions of Article 72, paragraph 2, of the Charter and in accordance with rules 4 and 5 of its rules of procedure;

B. *Co-ordination and programming*

9. *Decides* that the Council organ delegated the functions of programming and co-ordination shall:

(a) Examine and co-ordinate the programme objectives submitted by the Council's subsidiary bodies, in the light of the system of medium-term planning and programme budgeting;

(b) Consider, on a sector-by-sector basis, the activities and programmes of the agencies of the United Nations system in order effectively to perform its functions as co-ordinator of the system and to enable it to ensure that the work programmes of the United Nations and its agencies are compatible and mutually complementary;

(c) Make recommendations for the adoption of the programmes of the United Nations, taking into account

the relevant policy decisions and the need to avoid overlapping and duplication;

(d) Recommend guidelines for the agencies of the United Nations system on their programmes and activities, taking into account their respective functions and responsibilities and the need for coherence and co-ordination throughout the system;

10. *Requests* the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, within the limits of its competence, in order to enable effective review of programmes of inter-organizational interest and to synthesize and harmonize programmes on a system-wide basis, to extend the prior consultation procedure to the medium-term plans of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, utilizing, as appropriate, the technique of programme budgeting;

C. Human rights

11. *Reaffirms* that the Council, in order to fulfil its responsibilities under Articles 55 and 56 of the Charter to promote universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms, shall consider the reports of its functional bodies responsible in the field of human rights and, on that basis, it shall (a) make appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly in this field, and (b) examine and approve the work programmes of the United Nations in the field of human rights;

IV. STRUCTURAL CHANGES

12. *Decides* that a review of the terms of reference of its subsidiary bodies should be undertaken, and that this review should be made on the basis of an assessment and reorientation of their role, particularly in the implementation of the International Development Strategy, taking due account of the responsibilities of the other organs and agencies of the United Nations system. The autonomous organizations, regional economic commissions and specialized agencies are also requested, where necessary, to undertake a similar review of their subsidiary bodies;

V. THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

13. *Decides* that, in view of the profound changes in world-wide economic co-operation within the United Nations system which have taken place since the conclusion of the present agreements between the United Nations and the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Council shall review the existing agreements with a view to strengthening the coherence of the system and its capacity to fulfil, in particular, the objectives of the International Development Strategy in an effective and co-ordinated manner. The Secretary-General is requested for this purpose to submit to the Council, at its fifty-seventh session, a descriptive and analytical report on the past and present relationship between the United Nations and the specialized agencies, in particular in the operational field and on aspects of the relationship between the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency, within the competence of the Council as set forth in the Charter. The executive heads of the specialized agencies and the International Atomic

Energy Agency are also invited to present their views on this matter to the Council, through the Secretary-General;

VI. THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

14. *Decides*, in view of the need for the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to have the structural, managerial and technical means to support the Secretary-General in carrying out the functions required of him in the economic and social field by the Council, to invite the Secretary-General to submit his views and recommendations for the further restructuring of the Department as early as possible for the Council's consideration and appropriate recommendations for final decision by the General Assembly;

VII. THE TASK AND DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

15. *Requests* its President, in consultation with the other officers and the Secretary-General, to initiate, as and when required, consultations with Member States and the executive heads of the organizations of the United Nations system, both during and before its regular and special sessions, for the purpose of preparing those sessions and their agendas and, in general, of facilitating the task of the Council in the light of the consultations referred to above;

VIII. CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES

16. *Decides* that the calendar of conferences shall be so arranged that:

(a) The Council's body responsible for co-ordination, the Committee for Development Planning, the Commission on Human Rights and its Sub-Commission and the regional economic commissions meet every year unless any of these organs decide or have decided otherwise with the concurrence of the Council;

(b) All other subsidiary and expert or advisory bodies meet biennially, unless the Council decides otherwise, and their meetings be so timed as to ensure the submission of their reports in good time for the relevant sessions of the Council and, where appropriate, to the Committee on Review and Appraisal, and spaced so as not to overlap or follow too closely upon each other and so as to ensure that their programme objectives are fully reflected in the work programme and budget to be submitted biennially to the Council;

17. *Requests* other organizations and agencies to ensure that the meetings of their review and appraisal bodies are so timed as to make the results available in time for the over-all review and appraisal of the progress achieved within the framework of the International Development Strategy;

IX. LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION

18. *Considers* that the desired strengthening of the central role of the Council in the United Nations system of economic, social and humanitarian activities could be assisted if Member States were represented at the highest possible political, diplomatic or expert level, including, when appropriate, the ministerial level.

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