

depth review of two or three agencies,⁸² as well as other suggestions made during the course of the fifty-first session of the Council,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the analytical summaries provided by the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency and in particular the improvements introduced in the summaries;

2. *Requests* the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency to continue to furnish such analytical summaries, bearing in mind the guidelines laid down by the Council, in particular in its resolution 1548 (XLIX) of 30 July 1970;

3. *Instructs* the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination to recommend that the Council approve at its spring session the choice of the reports of two or three agencies which the Council might appropriately examine in depth, and to recommend procedures to be followed, having regard to the desirability of ensuring that the reports of all the agencies should receive detailed consideration over a five-year period;

4. *Decides* that, at the Council's summer session, after finishing the in-depth discussion of the reports selected on the recommendation of the Committee, sufficient time should be allowed for the discussion of any of the other reports.

*1799th plenary meeting,
30 July 1971.*

1643 (LI). Review of the sphere of activities and competence of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the provisions of Chapter IX of the Charter of the United Nations concerning international economic and social co-operation and, in particular, Article 58 concerning recommendations to be made by the Organization for the co-ordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies, and the provisions of Chapter X of the Charter, in particular Article 63, paragraph 2, which provides that the Council may co-ordinate the activities of the specialized agencies through consultation with and recommendations to such agencies and through recommendations to the General Assembly and to the Members of the United Nations,

Recalling the establishment of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination in pursuance of Council resolution 13 (III) of 21 September 1946 and the concurring decisions of the competent organs of the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency and, in some cases, the relationship agreements concluded between the Council and the agencies,

Recalling further its resolutions 1367 (XLV) of 2 August 1968 and 1547 (XLIX) of 30 July 1970,

Considering the need to increase the efficiency of the activities of the United Nations system in the economic,

social and related fields, *inter alia*, through a move by the United Nations family of organizations towards a more co-ordinated and rational approach in terms of the formulation and implementation of programmes on a system-wide basis,

Noting that the implementation of the goals and objectives set forth in the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade will require, on the part of the United Nations system, dynamic action for the fulfilment of the needs of the developing countries, the maximum productivity and impact through adequate planning and programming and the rational utilization of all available resources,

Recalling that the policy-making role in the United Nations system is the prerogative of Member States represented in the competent organs of the system and that the different secretariats perform the functions assigned to them by those organs, in accordance with the constitutional provisions of each organization and agency,

Noting further that suggestions by various secretariats and secretariat bodies on possible courses of action would assist the competent intergovernmental bodies in exercising their decision-making role,

Noting also that, in accordance with the constitutional provisions and responsibilities of each of its components, the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, in carrying out its functions as the main co-ordinating body at the secretariat level, can, *inter alia*, effectively assist the Council in fulfilling its task of co-ordinating the activities of the system in the economic, social and related fields by providing the necessary information and basic data, by serving as a clearing-house for matters that can more effectively be dealt with on a system-wide basis, by providing a suitable forum for consultations at the secretariat level on work programmes and by performing such other tasks as may be specifically entrusted to it by the Council,

Stressing the importance of securing the effective implementation of the agreements entered into between the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency,

Stressing further the need for a more effective participation of the regional economic commissions in the co-ordination arrangements at the secretariat level,

1. *Invites* the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to maintain under constant review measures to be suggested to the Economic and Social Council, in order to ensure the fullest and most effective implementation of the agreements entered into between the United Nations, the specialized agencies, and the International Atomic Energy Agency;

2. *Requests* the Committee to give priority to the study of uniform and co-ordinated methods which would enable the United Nations system to achieve greater productivity and efficiency through economies of scale and related advantages;

⁸² *Ibid.*, Fifty-first Session, 1780th meeting.

3. *Further requests* the Committee to present annually to the Council and, as appropriate, to the competent legislative bodies of the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency a concise report on the way in which the system operates, bringing out the problems solved and in addition highlighting those which are unresolved, for action at the intergovernmental level, and making suggestions and proposals designed to facilitate the implementation by the organizations concerned of decisions taken by the Council in the field of co-ordination, in order to ensure that actions taken are mutually supporting and complementary;

4. *Calls upon* the Committee to present annually to the Council a list of possible topics for in-depth consideration, with a system-wide coverage, and, once the list has been approved in principle by the Council, to present to the Council and, as appropriate, the competent legislative bodies of the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency separate reports on each topic containing a concise and factual picture of the way in which the system as a whole operates, pointing out in particular any shortfalls or duplication and also the practical difficulties arising from the implementation of policies and programmes of work related to the topic in question;

5. *Invites* the Committee to make available to the Council and the competent legislative bodies of the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency the results of the work of its subsidiary bodies, including *ad hoc* groups or panels, or, where appropriate, brief summaries including the main topics and trends of discussions;

6. *Urges* the Committee, in order to ensure greater efficiency and avoid duplication, to continue to make the necessary arrangements for prior consultations among interested secretariats of the United Nations system before proposals on draft programmes are presented to the legislative bodies and also before changes are made in the execution of approved programmes, keeping the Council informed on developments by means of periodic reports;

7. *Calls upon* the Committee, when it submits suggestions and studies, to state options and alternative courses of action in order to facilitate the decision-making role of the appropriate legislative organs;

8. *Further calls upon* the Committee to ensure, where appropriate, close control over all inter-agency meetings held for purposes of consultation and co-ordination;

9. *Decides* that all members of the Council and of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination should receive notification of the meetings of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, its Preparatory Committee and other subsidiary bodies, together with an indication of the agendas of those meetings;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to pursue his consideration of the possibility of associating, where and when necessary, the Executive Secretaries of the regional economic commissions and the Director of the United

Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut with the meetings of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and its Preparatory Committee.

1799th plenary meeting,
30 July 1971.

1644 (LI). Reports of the Secretary-General on work programme performance in the economic, social and human rights fields

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the significant improvement of the Secretary-General's report on work programme performance in the economic, social and human rights fields for the financial year 1970⁸³ over reports of previous years,

Noting that the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination felt that the report could still be further improved, in terms of both format and content, to enhance its usefulness,⁸⁴

Noting further that future reports should be more output-oriented and should provide an over-all analysis of performance,

Requests that the Secretary-General in future reports should ensure that:

(a) The format of the budget performance document for any given year should have a direct correlation with the work programme document for that year, in order to enable meaningful comparisons to be made;

(b) The document should be amplified by more detailed and more output-oriented information, since it continues to emphasize input factors, such as man-months spent in preparation of projects in progress, to the detriment of information on allocation of resources and even on non-administrative impediments to the implementation of the approved programmes;

(c) The Secretariat should exercise greater central supervision over the preparation of the document, to ensure the consistency of its various parts, and, pending the study on a system of programme budgeting, the Secretariat should prepare an overview section in which the various parts are synthesized, in which the over-all problems of the work programme performance are analysed, and in which, where possible, and provided this is based on the decisions taken and the priorities set by the intergovernmental organs concerned, the allocations of resources between the various sections of the work programme are explained;

(d) The period covered by the data presented in the tables should be extended to five years, i.e. the authorization with reference to the specific decisions taken by the competent intergovernmental bodies and performance data for the four previous years together with the authorization data for the current year should be

⁸³ E/AC.51/52 and Add.1.

⁸⁴ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 9 (E/5038)*, paras. 15 and 16.