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INTEGRATED AND COORDINATED IMPLEMENTATION OF AND FOLLOW-UP
TO MAJOR UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCES AND SUMMITS

Draft resolution submitted by the President of the Council
on the basis of informal consultations

Integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of
major United Nations conferences and summits

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its productive dialogue with a broad range of representatives of the United Nations system and with non-governmental organizations at its session on the integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of major United Nations conferences and summits, held from 13 to 15 May 1998, and taking note with appreciation of the summary of that session by the President of the Economic and Social Council¹ and of the report of the Secretary-General² as well as the guidance provided by Member States,

Reiterating the need for integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of major United Nations conferences and summits, while recognizing the specific identity and integrity of each conference,

Recalling its agreed conclusions 1995/1 on coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system and implementation of the results of the major

¹ E/1998/90.

² E/1998/19.

international conferences organized by the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields,³

Noting that the work in the follow-up to General Assembly resolutions 50/227 of 24 May 1996 on further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields and 52/12 B of 19 December 1997 entitled "Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform", and on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities, on mainstreaming the gender perspective and in many other areas, addresses key issues related to integrated conference follow-up and is complementary to the present resolution,

Reaffirming the importance of the progress towards meeting the commitments, objectives and goals emanating from conferences,

Recognizing that, while each country has the primary responsibility for the implementation of the integrated and coordinated follow-up to major United Nations conferences, the United Nations system is an important instrument in helping countries to meet this challenge,

I

Cross-cutting issues

1. Reiterates that poverty eradication and improving the living conditions of people everywhere are key development objectives of the Council's efforts to ensure integrated and coordinated follow-up to conferences;

2. Reaffirms the urgent need for the timely and full implementation of all commitments, agreements and targets agreed upon at the major United Nations conferences and summits, including by the United Nations system and international financial institutions, and, in this context, notes the efforts to achieve those targets as well as the target of reducing by one half, by 2015, the proportion of people living in extreme poverty;

3. Reiterates the importance of mobilizing new and additional resources from all sources for implementing conference outcomes and, in this regard, reaffirms the commitments undertaken to fulfil as soon as possible the agreed United Nations targets for official development assistance, and stresses the need for further progress in implementing the 20/20 initiative for those interested countries;

4. Stresses the important role of civil society in support of the implementation of conference goals, and calls upon Governments and organizations of the United Nations system to support the participation of non-governmental organizations, particularly those from developing countries, in the conference follow-up processes of the United Nations; stresses also that efforts should be made to facilitate the balanced participation of non-governmental organizations

³ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/50/3/Rev.1), chap. III, para. 22.

from developed and developing countries; and invites the Non-governmental Liaison Service to play an active role in involving non-governmental organizations, as appropriate, and in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, particularly those from developing countries, in United Nations conference follow-up activities;

II

Coordination and management role of the Economic and Social Council

(a) Functional commissions

5. Notes the results obtained from the review of the functional commissions and, in that context, agrees that the Council, on the basis of an integrated report by the Secretary-General, will consider annually the relevant outcomes of the functional commissions on conference follow-up, for transmission, as appropriate, to the funds, programmes and specialized agencies;

(b) Regional commissions

6. Notes the results obtained from the review of the regional commissions and, in that context, invites the regional commissions to pursue conference follow-up on a systematic basis, within their respective mandates and priorities by, inter alia, enhancing their interaction with other parts of the United Nations system, in particular the functional commissions;

(c) Executive boards of the funds and programmes

7. Invites its Bureau and secretariat to convey the outcome of its deliberations to the executive boards of the funds and programmes, and requests the executive boards to take into account the Council's guidance on the coordinated implementation of conferences, in accordance with their respective mandates and priorities;

III

Inter-agency coordination

8. Welcomes the role played by the Administrative Committee on Coordination, and the contribution of its ad hoc task forces and its standing machinery, in promoting United Nations system-wide coordination and in inter-agency coordinated and integrated follow-up to conferences at all levels; also welcomes the efforts of the Administrative Committee on Coordination to ensure a clear sharing of tasks and interaction within its standing machinery on the follow-up to conferences, and encourages regular interaction between the inter-agency committees of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and enhanced interaction between the relevant executive committees and the standing bodies of the Administrative Committee on Coordination; further welcomes and encourages the interaction between the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods institutions on the follow-up to conferences; and requests that collaboration among organizations of the system

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on conference follow-up also include the use of networks of United Nations system organizations that make use of task managers and information technology and liaise with the Administrative Committee on Coordination;

9. Welcomes the briefings on the work of the Administrative Committee on Coordination given in 1998, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure more intensive and improved interaction between the Administrative Committee on Coordination and the Council and its functional and regional commissions, inter alia, by providing briefings after each meeting of the Administrative Committee on Coordination on a regular and timely basis;

10. Urges the Administrative Committee on Coordination to disseminate widely throughout the United Nations system, including through greater use of the Internet, the results of its deliberations, including the work of the task forces, and to make the outputs of the task forces available to intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system for their consideration when integrating conference goals into their work programmes, and invites the organizations of the United Nations system, bearing in mind the guidance of member States, to fully use and implement the outputs of these task forces;

11. Stresses the role of the specialized agencies in the implementation and follow-up to conference outcomes, calls for further interaction between the Council and the specialized agencies, and encourages more active and high-level participation, particularly at the level of executive heads, by the specialized agencies in its sessions, especially in the consideration of conference follow-up;

IV

Country-level follow-up

12. Reaffirms that national Governments have the primary responsibility for the implementation and evaluation of conference follow-up, and calls on all countries to continue to assess the progress in implementing conference outcomes in those countries and encourages the dissemination of best practices;

13. Welcomes the progress achieved in the coordination of conference follow-up at the country level and urges further intensified efforts to this end; reaffirms that the resident coordinators, within their mandates, have an important role to play in assisting Governments and in enhancing United Nations system-wide coordination and in this regard calls on the resident coordinators to facilitate through their annual reports an evaluation of the coordination of the United Nations system activities relating to conference implementation and to disseminate best practices, and invites the United Nations Development Group to fully exercise its important role in ensuring coordinated United Nations follow-up to conferences;

14. Encourages the resident coordinator system, within existing mechanisms and in close collaboration with Governments, to continue to foster a broad dialogue with and to support the involvement of all relevant actors in the follow-up to conferences; and encourages the establishment of thematic groups on cross-cutting conference themes, as well as the full utilization of

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collaborative programming frameworks, including the country strategy note, where they exist and the ongoing pilot phase of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, as appropriate, to support, at the request of Governments, the development of national strategies and action plans for integrated conference follow-up; and also encourages greater interaction between the country representatives of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and the Bretton Woods institutions;

15. Recognizes the importance of integrated and coordinated implementation of conference outcomes, including commitments made under those conferences, in countries not covered by the resident coordinator system, and calls on those countries to continue to assess the progress they have made in implementing conference outcomes and encourages the dissemination of best practices in this regard, including through their existing national voluntary reporting mechanisms;

V

Evaluation of the integrated implementation of
conference follow-up

16. Reaffirms the importance of the monitoring and evaluation, by the relevant intergovernmental bodies of the performance of relevant parts of the United Nations system, in accordance with the priorities set by Member States, with respect to assisting countries to meet the commitments, objectives and goals emanating from conferences, and calls upon the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to carry out evaluations of the impact of their activities in support of the coordinated implementation of conferences, taking into account their existing practices;

17. Agrees to consider conducting in the year 2000, as a possible contribution to the Millennium Assembly, without prejudice to the discussion of this issue by the General Assembly, a review by the Council of progress made within the United Nations system in the promotion of integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Council at its substantive session of 1999 on possible modalities of such a review;

18. Invites the Secretary-General to prepare a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution for consideration by the Council in 1999.
