

calendar of conferences, in order to ensure the timely availability of documentation;

5. *Instructs* the subsidiary bodies of the Council to take urgent measures to streamline their agendas and programmes of work and to bring about a substantial reduction in their requests for documents, bearing in mind the duration and the cycles of their meetings, and to report to the Council on measures adopted, taking strictly into account the guidelines set forth in the pertinent resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of intergovernmental and expert bodies, before decisions are adopted, any request for documentation that exceeds the ability of the Secretariat to prepare and process on time and within its approved resources;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the strict observance of the thirty-two page limit for documents and the reduction of their average length;

8. *Reaffirms*, for a further period of two years, the provision concerning the discontinuance of summary records for certain subsidiary bodies, contained in subparagraph (b) of its resolution 1979/69, as revised by its decision 1980/133 of 2 May 1980;

9. *Decides* to consider, at its organizational session for 1982, the possibility of discontinuing, for an experimental period of two years, the provision of summary records for its sessional committees and their replacement by reports reflecting the course of the discussions;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that documentation is effectively disseminated to the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies on time and simultaneously in all the working languages, in accordance with rule 13, paragraph 4, of the rules of procedure of the Council;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to inform the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council, eight weeks prior to the beginning of each regular session, of the state of preparedness of the documentation for that session, in order to enable the Bureau to make appropriate recommendations to the Council on its agenda and organization of work;

12. *Recommends* that the General Assembly should undertake, on a priority basis at its thirty-sixth session, a thorough examination of the overall problem of documentation in the United Nations, under the item entitled "Pattern of conferences: report of the Committee on Conferences", and also recommends that it should entrust to the Committee on Conferences the question of a review of the calendar of conferences and meetings for the next biennium, with particular reference to the

economic and social fields, with a view to adjusting the calendar to the servicing capacities within the Secretariat, taking into account the problems that are occurring with regard to the timely submission and dissemination of documentation, and should request the Committee to report thereon to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1982;

13. *Invites* the Secretary-General, in relation to the recommendations in paragraph 12 above, to submit to the General Assembly and the Committee on Conferences appropriate recommendations on the problem of documentation, with particular reference to the economic and social fields.

*41st plenary meeting
24 July 1981*

1981/84. Revitalization of the Economic and Social Council

The Economic and Social Council,

Having heard statements by its President and by several of its members on the need to revitalize the Council as the principal organ of the United Nations under the Charter in the economic and social fields,

Confirming its resolution 1622 (LI) of 30 July 1971,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 and the consultations being held pursuant to General Assembly decision 35/439 of 16 December 1980, concerning the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system,

1. *Decides* to accord primary importance to the subject of the revitalization of the Economic and Social Council;

2. *Requests* the President of the Economic and Social Council to hold the consultations he deems to be in the best interests of an early resolution of this important issue, including consultations with the President of the General Assembly, in the light of the opinions expressed in the Council at its second regular session of 1981, and to report to the Council at its resumed second regular session of 1981;

3. *Decides* to convey the views of the Council, in the light of the report of the President of the Council and of the discussions at its resumed second regular session of 1981, to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session;

4. *Requests* Governments to co-operate fully with the President of the Economic and Social Council in the pursuit of his consultations and to accord this matter their priority attention at a senior policy level.

*41st plenary meeting
24 July 1981*