

2. *Submits* those criteria and procedures to the General Assembly for consideration at its thirty-fifth session;

3. *Invites* the respective legislative organs of the specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system to adopt those criteria and procedures;

4. *Also invites* States Members of the United Nations to take those criteria and procedures into account in considering proposals for international years.

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25 July 1980

ANNEX

Guide-lines for future international years

I. *Criteria for the proclamation of international years*

1. The proposed subject of the year should be consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations, as stated in the Charter of the United Nations.

2. The subject should be of priority concern in the political, social, economic, cultural, humanitarian or human rights fields.

3. The subject should be of concern to all or to the majority of countries, regardless of their economic and social systems, and should contribute to the development of international co-operation in solving global problems, with special attention to problems affecting developing countries.

4. The desirability of proclaiming international years and the selection of their themes should in general be determined from the point of view of their possible contribution to solving existing international problems, thus contributing to the strengthening of universal peace.

5. The subject should be one involving action at the international and national levels.

6. The subject should be one for which there is a reasonable expectation that an international year would generate significant follow-up at both the national and the international level in the form of new activities or the strengthening of existing ones.

7. Every effort should be made to ensure that there is an interval of at least two years between international years and a longer interval between years designated for similar subjects.

8. Years should be designated to focus on one subject or on closely related subjects.

9. International years should be proclaimed only when celebrations of shorter duration, such as a month, a week or a day, will not suffice.

10. When a world conference on a particular subject has been or is being separately convened, or when a subject is already of wide international concern and effective organizations and programmes exist to further its ends, an international year should not normally be proclaimed.

II. *Procedures preceding the proclamation of international years*

11. A final decision on a proposal for an international year should be taken by the General Assembly, not earlier than one full year after the introduction of the proposal, thus allowing the views of all Member States to be taken into account and allowing the competent organs to make a thorough assessment of the proposal in the light of its practical desirability and the probability of real results.

12. Proposals for international years made under the auspices of organizations within the United Nations system should, before the proclamation of the years, be brought to the attention of the

Economic and Social Council, to enable the Council, in so far as the proposals fall within its competence, to advise on the timing of the proposed years and to evaluate their purpose in the light of the present guide-lines.

13. A year should not be proclaimed before the basic arrangements necessary for its financing have been made and such financing should in principle be based on voluntary contributions.

14. A year should not be proclaimed before the basic arrangements necessary for its organization have been made.

III. *Procedures for organizing the celebration of international years*

15. The basic objectives of each year should be clearly defined.

16. In general, there should be a period of two years between the proclamation of an international year and the beginning of that year.

17. Years having economic or social themes should be primarily directed towards promoting international development efforts in practical ways.

18. Measures and activities to be carried out at the international level should complement and support measures and activities at the national level.

19. There should ordinarily be national committees or other mechanisms for preparing for, conducting and following up the international year at the national level.

20. There should be effective co-ordination of the activities of all United Nations organizations and bodies concerned, so as to avoid any duplication of activities.

21. The proclamation of international years and activities connected with them should not lead to a proliferation of posts in the United Nations Secretariat or in the secretariats of other international organizations; furthermore, expenditures should normally be met from existing resources in the regular budget.

22. As a rule, special secretariats established for the celebration of international years should be dissolved immediately upon the conclusion of those years.

IV. *Procedures for the evaluation of international years*

23. Each international year should have objectives likely to lead to identifiable and practical results.

24. Procedures for evaluation should be established during the preparatory process and should form part of the implementation and follow-up of each international year.

25. Evaluation should, *inter alia*, assess the activities generated during the year and continuing after the year ends, as well as modifications in ongoing activities attributable to the year, with a view to integrating those activities, if necessary, in regular programmes.

26. Evaluation after the year should be based on reporting arrangements designed especially for the subject of the international year; it should facilitate the follow-up process and it should provide guidance for future international years.

27. Evaluation should be carried out within the budgetary resources provided, and the results of such evaluation should be submitted to the existing appropriate intergovernmental bodies for consideration.

1980/68. Co-operation in the uses of the sea and coastal area development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1970 (LIX) of 30 July 1975 on the uses of the sea and coastal area development and 2099 (LXIII) of 3 August 1977 on co-operation in coastal area development

Reaffirming that the rational management of marine resources and the peaceful uses of the sea is an essential component of national economic development and international co-operation,

Taking into account the deliberations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea and bearing in mind that activities undertaken by components of the United Nations system relating to the uses of the sea and the development of coastal areas should not prejudice or prejudice the results to be obtained from that Conference,

Noting with satisfaction that the activities pursued in those areas by various organizations of the United Nations system, as presented in the report of the Secretary-General on uses of the sea,⁷⁴ will help member States, particularly developing countries, to realize more fully the benefits to be derived by all mankind from the rational management of ocean resources and the peaceful uses of the sea,

Further noting that arrangements exist for the improved co-ordination of the activities of United Nations organizations involved in the marine field and that efforts are continuing to strengthen further such arrangements, including those at the regional level,

Bearing in mind the initiative taken by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its twentieth session to make the activities of the United Nations system in the field of marine affairs the possible subject of a cross-organizational programme analysis,⁷⁵

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the activities being implemented by the Secretary-General, which aim at introducing, within the allocated budgetary resources, the marine dimension into the development process, and of the activities being carried out by the various United Nations organizations concerned in the field of marine affairs within their respective spheres of competence, and requests the Secretary-General and the heads of the other United Nations organizations concerned to ensure that their activities regarding the scientific, economic and technical aspects of the development of the uses of the sea and its resources are consonant with and lend support to the successful conclusion of a treaty on the law of the sea, having particular regard to the needs of developing countries;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the economic and technical developments taking place in the field of marine affairs to the Council at its second regular session of 1983.

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1980/69. World Communications Year: development of communications infrastructure

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 32/160 of 19 December 1977 on the Transport and Communications

Decade in Africa, in paragraph 5 of which, in view of the importance of transport and communications to other regions of the world, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the International Telecommunication Union and other specialized agencies concerned, to propose for consideration one year during the Decade as World Communications Year,

Recalling also Council decision 1979/63 of 3 August 1979 on the World Communications Year, whereby the Council requested the Secretary-General to consult with Member States on the scope, proposed programme activities and organizational structure for the Year and to report thereon to the Council at its second regular session of 1980,

Recognizing the fundamental importance of the communications infrastructure as an essential element in the economic and social development of all countries,

Convinced that a World Communications Year would provide the opportunity for all countries to undertake an in-depth review and analysis of their policies on communications development and stimulate the accelerated development of communications infrastructures,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General, containing the proposed programme of activities for the World Communications Year, and the comments thereon,⁷⁶

1. *Recommends* to the General Assembly 1983 as an appropriate year for the celebration of World Communications Year, provided that the arrangements necessary for its financing have been made, based on the principle of voluntary contributions;

2. *Recommends also* that the programme of activities and the scope of the Year should be based on activities at the national and international levels and should focus on communications infrastructures;

3. *Further recommends* that the Secretary-General, taking into account the relevant sections of the guidelines for future international years,⁷⁷ should continue consultations with Governments on the content of the programmes of activities and their evaluation and should submit to the Council, at its second regular session of 1981, revised proposals on programmes for the Year;

4. *Requests* that the report of the Secretary-General should be submitted to the Administrative Council of the International Telecommunication Union for consideration and that both the report and the comments of the Administrative Council should be submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1981;

5. *Recommends also* that the International Telecommunication Union should be designated as the lead agency for the Year and should bear the responsibility for co-ordinating the interorganizational aspects of the programmes and activities of other agencies, and as the lead agency should, in co-operation with other organizations concerned within the United Nations system, proceed

⁷⁴ E/1980/68 and Corr.1.

⁷⁶ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/35/38)*, para. 203.

⁷⁶ E/1979/87 and E/1980/65 and Add.1 and 2.

⁷⁷ See Council resolution 1980/67, annex.