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ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

1. Since the Secretariat prepared the working paper on the organization of the work of the Council, contained in document E/L.1249 dated 10 April 1969, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, and the Economic Commission for Latin America have held their regular sessions. The views expressed and decisions taken by these Commissions at their respective sessions relating to suggestions No. 1 on biennial sessions, No. 4 on schedule of meetings of subsidiary bodies, and No. 6 on the question of dispensing with summary records are presented below. The decisions of the Economic Commission for Africa on these questions have already been reported in document E/L.1249, paragraph 17.

2. The Economic Commission for Europe, by the provisions adopted in resolution 5 (XXIV), decided to continue to meet annually. It was, however, understood, in the light of the favourable results of the establishment of a sessional committee at the twenty-fourth session which examined reports of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, that the duration of the twenty-fifth and future sessions would be shortened from thirteen to ten working days. The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East considered the question of having biennial meetings but did not take a decision on the matter. However, efforts were made to streamline existing procedures with a view to shortening the proceedings. Such efforts will be continued at the next session. The Economic Commission for Latin America has been holding its regular sessions on a biennial basis and this practice will be continued in the future. The Commission decided, at its thirteenth session, to dispense with the biennial meetings of its

Committee of the Whole, which in the past were held during the intervening years between its regular sessions. The Commission, however, agreed that whenever any matter requiring the urgent decision of the Commission arose, the Executive Secretary would be authorized to convene a special session of the Committee of the Whole.

3. In operative paragraph 7 of its resolution 5 (XXIV), the Economic Commission for Europe endorsed the proposals of the Executive Secretary for modification of the organizational structure and calendar of meetings of its subsidiary bodies as contained in paragraphs I to XV of annex II of document E/ECE/717. It invited its principal subsidiary bodies to consider and to give effect to these proposals. Regarding the two subsidiary bodies of the Economic Commission for Latin America, namely, the Trade Committee and the Central American Economic Co-operation Committee, it should be noted that these bodies do not hold meetings at regular intervals and only meet when necessary.

4. The Economic Commission for Europe decided to dispense with summary records of its future sessions. At the same time it reserved the right to ask for summary records of any item on its agenda should this be considered necessary. The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East considered that summary records for the plenary sessions were particularly useful and decided that they should be maintained as long as circumstances warranted. The Economic Commission for Latin America in its resolution 284 (XIII) decided that summary records of the meetings of the Commission should not normally be kept, but that the Commission would reserve the right to request summary records for any discussion which might require special treatment.
