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REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMISSION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ON  
THE IN-DEPTH STUDY OF THE UNITED NATIONS INTERGOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE  
AND FUNCTIONS IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FIELDS

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## INTRODUCTION

1. At its organizational session for 1987, the Economic and Social Council, by decision 1987/112, established the Special Commission of the Economic and Social Council on the In-depth Study of the United Nations Intergovernmental Structure and Functions in the Economic and Social Fields, open to the full participation of all States Members of the United Nations on an equal basis, and invited Governments to participate at the highest possible level in the work of the Commission.
2. In accordance with the provisions of Council decision 1987/112, the Special Commission was to carry out the in-depth study of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields and its secretariat support structures, as called for in recommendation 8 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations, 1/ referred to in section I, paragraph 1 (e), of General Assembly resolution 41/213. Recommendation 8 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts reads as follows:

### "Recommendation 8

- "(1) A careful and in-depth study of the intergovernmental structure in the economic and social fields should be undertaken by an intergovernmental body to be designated by the General Assembly. This body should preferably have a limited membership, at the highest possible level of representation and based on the principle of equitable geographical distribution. In discharging its tasks, the body should seek the co-operation of the intergovernmental organs whose functions are being reviewed in the study and draw on the expertise of relevant United Nations bodies, such as the Joint Inspection Unit and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research.
- "(2) In general terms, the study should include a comparative analysis of agenda, calendars and programmes of work of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and related subsidiary bodies, in particular the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Food Council. The study should also include their support structures.
- "(3) The purpose of the study should be, inter alia, to:
  - "(a) Identify measures to rationalize and simplify the intergovernmental structure, avoid duplication and consider consolidating and co-ordinating overlapping activities and merging existing bodies in order to improve their work and make the structure more responsive to present needs;

"(b) Develop criteria for the establishment and duration of subsidiary bodies, including periodic reviews of their work and mechanisms for implementing their decisions;

"(c) Define in precise terms areas of responsibility for the various bodies. Particular attention should be given to strengthening the coherence and integrity of the structure, to facilitating the formulation of a comprehensive approach to development issues and to the necessity of putting more emphasis on regional and subregional co-operation;

"(d) Consider the establishment of a single governing body responsible for the management and control, at the intergovernmental level, of United Nations operational activities for development;

"(e) Improve the system of reporting from subsidiary to principal organs, thereby reducing the number of reports and avoiding duplication of documentation;

"(f) Strengthen on a continuous basis the co-ordination of activities in the economic and social fields under the leadership of the Secretary-General.

"(4) The study should be undertaken as a matter of priority and its findings and recommendations should be presented to the General Assembly not later than at its forty-third session."

3. In decision 1987/112, the Council requested the Special Commission to consider, in the context of the in-depth study, the relevant provisions of recommendation 2 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts. The relevant provisions of recommendation 2 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts read as follows:

"Recommendation 2

"The number of conferences and meetings can be significantly reduced and their duration shortened without affecting the substantive work of the Organization. To this end:

"(a) The Economic and Social Council should be invited to hold an annual session;

"(b) The General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council should request their subsidiary bodies to review urgently their current agenda and schedules of meetings in order to reduce substantially their number, frequency and duration. In this context, the move towards biennialization of conferences and meetings, which has been initiated particularly in the economic and social fields, should be vigorously pursued;

"...

/...

"(d) Until 1978, a number of resolutions had requested that only one major conference be scheduled annually. The decision of the General Assembly that no more than five special conferences should take place in a given year and that no more than one special conference should be convened at the same time should be strictly implemented."

4. In decision 1987/112, the Council requested all subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly in the economic and social sectors and all subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council to submit to the Special Commission, within 30 days of the conclusion of their forthcoming sessions, their views and proposals on achieving the objectives envisaged in recommendation 8 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts regarding their functioning and that of their subsidiary machinery.

5. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Special Commission the following:

(a) Information on the intergovernmental machinery of the United Nations in the economic and social fields and its secretariat support structures, including information concerning terms of reference, programmes of work, agenda, reporting procedures and periodicity of meetings, that information to be submitted to the Special Commission at its first session;

(b) A list of available United Nations studies on the functioning and restructuring of the intergovernmental bodies in the economic and social sectors, as well as legislative decisions taken in that regard;

(c) Other studies and analyses as required by the Special Commission.

6. The Council also decided that the proceedings of the Special Commission would be governed in all other respects by the relevant rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council (E/5715/Rev.1) and that, in undertaking its task, the Special Commission should establish, as appropriate, drafting or working groups.

7. In its decision 1987/112 the Council requested the Special Commission to make its final report available in time for consideration by the Council at its second regular session of 1988. In this connection, in the same decision and by resolution 1987/64, the Council requested the Secretary-General, to the extent possible within existing resources, to provide conference services, facilities and other necessary support on a preferential basis to the Special Commission to enable it to operate with sufficient frequency as from the first half of 1987 to fulfil its mandate in the limited time available.

## I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Opening and duration of the Special Commission

8. The Special Commission of the Economic and Social Council on the In-depth Study of the United Nations Intergovernmental Structure and Functions in the Economic and Social Fields held nine sessions at United Nations Headquarters from 2 March 1987 to 23 May 1988. The Special Commission held 36 meetings (1st to 36th) and a number of informal meetings.

9. The sessions were opened by the Chairman of the Special Commission, Abdel Halim Badawi (Egypt), appointed by the Economic and Social Council by decision 1987/112 of 6 February 1987.

B. Attendance

10. In accordance with the provisions of Economic and Social Council decision 1987/112, the Special Commission was open to the full participation of all States Members of the United Nations on an equal basis.

11. Representatives and observers of the following States attended the Special Commission:

Algeria	Denmark	Jamaica
Argentina	Dominican Republic	Japan
Australia	Ecuador	Jordan
Austria	Egypt	Kenya
Bahamas	Ethiopia	Lesotho
Bangladesh	Finland	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Barbados	France	Madagascar
Belgium	German Democratic Republic	Malaysia
Belize	Germany, Federal Republic of	Malta
Benin	Ghana	Mexico
Bolivia	Greece	Mongolia
Brazil	Grenada	Morocco
Bulgaria	Guatemala	Mozambique
Burma	Guinea	Nepal
Burundi	Guyana	Netherlands
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	Holy See	New Zealand
Cameroon	Hungary	Nicaragua
Canada	Iceland	Nigeria
Cape Verde	India	Norway
Chile	Indonesia	Oman
China	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Pakistan
Colombia	Iraq	Panama
Costa Rica	Ireland	Peru
Cuba	Italy	Philippines
Cyprus		Poland
Czechoslovakia		Portugal

Republic of Korea	Trinidad and Tobago	Uruguay
Romania	Tunisia	Venezuela
Rwanda	Turkey	Viet Nam
Saudi Arabia	Uganda	Yugoslavia
Senegal	Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic	Zambia
Sierra Leone	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	
Somalia	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	
Spain	United Republic of Tanzania	
Sri Lanka	United States of America	
Sudan		
Suriname		
Sweden		
Thailand		
Togo		

12. The following specialized agencies were represented:

International Labour Organisation  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization  
World Health Organization  
World Bank  
International Monetary Fund  
International Fund for Agricultural Development  
United Nations Industrial Development Organization

13. The International Atomic Energy Agency was also represented.

14. The following intergovernmental organizations was represented: European Community.

15. The following non-governmental organizations were represented:

International Chamber of Commerce  
International Confederation of Free Trade Unions

C. Election of officers

16. At its 1st (organizational) meeting, on 13 February 1987, the Special Commission elected, pursuant to Council decision 1987/112 of 6 February 1987, the following four Vice-Chairmen by acclamation:

Chinmaya R. Gharekhan (India)  
Adriaan Jacobovits de Szeged (Netherlands)  
Lev I. Maksimov (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic)  
Mario Moya-Palencia (Mexico)

D. Agenda and organization of work

17. At its 2nd meeting, on 2 March 1987, the Special Commission adopted the agenda as contained in document E/SCN.1/1.

18. At its 25th meeting, on 18 January 1988, the Special Commission adopted its indicative programme of work as contained in document E/SCN.1/6.

E. Documentation

19. The Special Commission had before it the following documents:

(a) Annotated provisional agenda (E/SCN.1/1);

(b) Follow-up action to the recommendations contained in General Assembly resolution 32/197 relating to the functioning of the intergovernmental machinery of the United Nations: note by the Secretariat (E/SCN.1/2);

(c) Secretariat support structures: note by the Secretariat (E/SCN.1/3);

(d) Draft indicative programme of work: note by the Chairman (E/SCN.1/4);

(e) Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1987 and the General Assembly at its forty-second session which are brought to the attention of the Special Commission of the Economic and Social Council on the In-depth Study of the United Nations Intergovernmental Structure and Functions in the Economic and Social Fields: note by the Secretariat (E/SCN.1/5);

(f) Indicative programme of work (E/SCN.1/6).

20. In addition to the formal documentation listed above, the Special Commission also had before it informal working papers, including individual submissions made by all subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly in the economic and social sectors and all subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council in response to the request made by the Council in decision 1987/112 (see annex VIII).

21. In addition the Special Commission had before it synoptic summaries of its discussions on each of the subsidiary bodies, prepared by the Secretariat at the Special Commission's request (see annex IX).

II. WORK OF THE SPECIAL COMMISSION

A. First session (2-6 March 1987)

22. The Special Commission considered the organization of its work, including the identification of documentation that would be required for it to conduct the in-depth study of the intergovernmental structure and its functions in the economic and social fields. The Special Commission also considered different approaches with regard to the methodology for the study.



23. It was agreed that the Commission should proceed with its substantive work on the basis of an integrated thematic and functional approach in order to address both the nature and structure of intergovernmental bodies, as well as their substantive activities.

24. The Commission requested the Secretariat to prepare a number of informal working papers providing additional information on the terms of reference, the frequency and duration of meetings of and secretariat support for intergovernmental bodies in the economic and social sectors. The Secretariat was also requested to prepare a list of available United Nations studies on the functioning and restructuring of intergovernmental bodies in the economic and social sectors as well as relevant legislative decisions in that regard. The Secretariat was further requested to compile a list of resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council relating to the functioning of the intergovernmental machinery in the economic and social sectors since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977.

B. Second session (18-20 March 1987)

25. At its second session, the Special Commission reviewed informal working papers prepared by the Secretariat, including some sample analyses of substantive areas in the economic and social sectors, with a view to providing further guidance to the Secretariat on the format and content of future documentation to be prepared for submission to the Commission. The Commission also continued its discussion of its future programme of work and decided that two more sessions should be held in the course of 1987: a third session from 27 April to 1 May and a fourth session from 1 to 4 September.

26. The Commission accepted an offer made by UNITAR to prepare an analytical study summarizing the conclusions and recommendations of relevant evaluations that had been made concerning the efficiency and effectiveness of United Nations activities in the economic and social sectors.

27. The Chairman was requested to undertake further consultations with various delegations, with a view to agreeing on the format and content of further documentation to be prepared by the Secretariat and the most appropriate manner to proceed with its substantive work beginning with its third session.

C. Third session (27 April-1 May 1987)

28. At the outset of the third session, the Special Commission was informed that, as a result of informal consultations held by the Chairman following the adjournment of its second session, an understanding had been reached that the substantive work of the Commission should proceed "from the general to the specific" and that the Commission could begin its work at its third session with a preliminary exchange of views on the functioning of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. For that purpose, the Commission agreed to establish an informal working group of the whole.

29. The informal working group met throughout the third session to undertake a preliminary review of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. At the end of the session, the Chairman informed the Commission that the exchange of views that had taken place had been very useful and that, in broad terms, there was a reaffirmation of the principle that the General Assembly should function as the principal forum for policy-making and for the establishment of overall strategies, policies and priorities for the United Nations system as a whole in respect of international co-operation in the economic, social and related fields in accordance with the provisions of the Charter. There was equally a reaffirmation that the Economic and Social Council should monitor and evaluate the implementation of overall strategies, policies and priorities established by the Assembly in the economic, social and related fields. Other major tasks of the Economic and Social Council were to ensure the overall co-ordination of the activities of the organizations of the United Nations system in the economic, social and related fields and to continue to assist in the preparation of the work of the General Assembly in those fields. The Chairman also stated that it would be necessary, at a later stage of the work of the Commission, to elaborate the necessary modalities to assist both the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in fulfilling their responsibilities under the Charter.

30. On its future programme of work, the Commission agreed, on the proposal of the Bureau, to request the Economic and Social Council to make the necessary arrangements for the Commission to meet for about 50 working days in 1988.

#### D. Fourth session (1-4 September 1987)

31. In his opening statement, the Chairman briefed the Special Commission on the informal consultations held by him and members of the Bureau with executive heads of organizations of the United Nations system since the third session. The exchanges of views had focused mainly on the relationship between the United Nations and the other organizations of the system, including, in particular, the co-ordinating role of the Economic and Social Council and modalities for harmonizing efforts towards development and international co-operation in the economic, social and related fields.

32. The Commission, through its informal working group, undertook an extensive discussion of the role and functions of the Economic and Social Council, including the question of its relationship with the General Assembly. The discussion took place on the basis of an informal paper put forward by the Group of 77 on 1 September 1987 (annex I). In the course of the discussion, proposals were also made by the European Community, the Nordic countries, the German Democratic Republic (on behalf of Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Australia, Canada, Japan and the United States.

33. The Chairman, in his closing statement, stated that it had become obvious from the deliberations that the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council would require the adoption of a number of interrelated measures in major areas that

affected its work. Many of these areas had been identified by various delegations and groups of delegations. A great degree of convergence had emerged on a number of issues related to these areas; others would require further consideration by the Commission in the future.

34. The Commission approved a tentative programme of work for 1988 and requested the Chairman, in consultation with the Bureau and the Secretariat, to prepare a more detailed work programme indicating the order in which subsidiary bodies would be considered, and to make it available to delegations well in advance of the beginning of the fifth session. Concerning the work undertaken by the Commission regarding the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, the Chairman expressed his hope that delegations would hold informal consultations among themselves and with the Bureau in order to clarify some of the issues that had been identified in the course of the work of the Special Commission during its third and fourth sessions.

35. The Special Commission endorsed the suggestion that the informal working papers relating to secretariat support and follow-up to the recommendations contained in General Assembly resolution 32/197 relating to the functioning of the intergovernmental machinery of the United Nations should be made available in all official languages.

#### E. Fifth session (18-29 January 1988)

36. At its fifth session, the Special Commission approved a detailed programme of work for 1988 (E/SCN.1/6), as revised, and agreed to proceed with the review of the functioning of the subsidiary bodies set out therein in the informal working group. The Secretariat was requested to assist in such meetings by responding to questions that delegations might have on the functioning of those bodies. The Secretariat was also requested to prepare informal synoptic summaries of comments and proposals made by delegations during the discussion (see annex IX).

37. At its fifth session, the Commission carried out an in-depth review of the functioning of the following bodies:

Commission on Transnational Corporations

Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting

Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Working Group on the Problem of Corrupt Practices  
Statistical Commission

United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

Committee for Development Planning

Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance

Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Co-operation in Tax Matters

Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods  
Committee for Programme and Co-ordination  
Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations  
Committee on Negotiations with Intergovernmental Agencies  
Trade and Development Board

38. In the informal working group, delegations exchanged views on the role of the Economic and Social Council and its relationship with the General Assembly.

F. Sixth session (8-19 February 1988)

39. At its sixth session, the Special Commission carried out an in-depth review of the following bodies:

Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund  
Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes  
Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme  
High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries  
Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme  
Commission on Human Settlements  
Population Commission  
Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development  
Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development  
Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy  
Committee on Natural Resources  
World Food Council

G. Seventh session (7-18 March 1988)

40. At its seventh session, the Commission reviewed the following bodies:

Economic Commission for Europe  
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific  
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean  
Economic Commission for Africa

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia  
Commission for Social Development  
Commission on the Status of Women  
Commission on Narcotic Drugs  
Committee on Crime Prevention and Control  
Commission on Human Rights  
Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

41. The Commission thus concluded its review of the functioning of individual bodies of the United Nations intergovernmental machinery in the economic, social and related fields. In order to prepare for the next and final phase of the Commission's work, the Chairman urged all delegations and groups of delegations to develop specific ideas and thoughts and make them available by 4 April 1988, so that an informal exchange of views could begin well in advance of the eighth session of the Commission.

#### H. Eighth session (18-29 April 1988)

42. At the eighth session, the Special Commission had before it the informal papers submitted since the end of the seventh session by Australia, Canada, China, the Federal Republic of Germany (on behalf of the member States of the European Community), Japan, Norway, Tunisia (on behalf of the Group of 77), the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (on behalf of Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) and the United States of America (see annex I). These papers were introduced and discussed in informal meetings during the period preceding the eighth session.

43. At its 31st meeting, on 18 April 1988, the Commission requested the Chairman to prepare an informal consolidated discussion paper on the proposals and suggestions made so far on the functioning of the United Nations intergovernmental machinery in the economic and social fields, including its secretariat support. The Chairman was requested further to indicate, to the extent possible, areas of convergence and divergence in the paper. The paper was issued on 21 April 1988 (see annex III, A). Informal consultations on the paper were subsequently held by the Chairman. In introducing the informal consolidated discussion paper, the Chairman stated that the paper did not cover all the issues addressed during the discussions held in the Commission. He said that a supplement covering the remaining issues would be circulated in due course. This supplement was presented by the Chairman on 23 May 1988 and was not the subject of informal consultations in the Special Commission (see annex III, B).

44. At its 32nd meeting, on 29 April 1988, the Commission requested the Chairman to prepare a Chairman's text on the draft conclusions and recommendations of the Special Commission. In response to that request, the Chairman stated that the

Commission had thus far managed to conduct the in-depth study entrusted to it and had diagnosed the problems. Despite the convergence of views on many issues, there still remained much ground to be covered on the means and modalities needed for effective and practical reform. In view of the absence of sufficient common ground on various issues, the Chairman made it clear that, while he was willing to prepare a Chairman's text as requested, he would have to exercise his judgement in putting together a balanced package of elements that were reasonable and that could be implemented, based on views and preliminary ideas contained in the informal papers circulated by a number of delegations and groups of delegations to serve as a basis for negotiations.

45. The Chairman expressed the hope that with the requisite determination and understanding the Special Commission could apply itself in the days ahead to the process of formulating agreed conclusions and recommendations for submission to the Economic and Social Council.

#### I. Ninth session (2-6, 11 and May 1988)

46. At its 34th meeting, on 4 May 1988, the Special Commission had before it the Chairman's text on the draft conclusions and recommendations of the Special Commission of the Economic and Social Council on the In-depth Study of the United Nations Intergovernmental Structure and Functions in the Economic and Social Fields (E/SCN.1/CRP.1; see annex III). In introducing the text, the Chairman made some explanatory remarks (see annex IV).

47. At its 35th meeting, on 11 May 1988, the Chairman informed the Commission of the outcome of the informal consultations held on document E/SCN.1/CRP.1 with the spokesmen of various groups and delegations in the presence of the members of the Bureau. He said that, after three lengthy sittings, sentiments had been expressed that the divergent views on major outstanding issues could not be reconciled at that stage. He stated that, while such a development was disappointing and that as Chairman it was his duty to do his best to co-ordinate the work of the Special Commission with a view to assisting members in reaching agreement, he could not impose an agreement on them.

48. Statements were made by the representatives of Tunisia (on behalf of the Group of 77), the Federal Republic of Germany (on behalf of the member States the European Community), China, the United States, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (on behalf of Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Canada, Norway, Japan, Australia, Austria and Sweden (see annex V).

49. The Chairman made a concluding statement in which he assessed the work of the Special Commission, including the outcome (see annex VI).

50. At its 36th meeting, on 23 May, the Chairman made reference to annex II, B, saying that it did not encompass all the views expressed during the informal discussions and that its contents were thus not binding. Several delegations

explained that they had reservations with regard to specific paragraphs of annex III, B. The delegation of Mexico expressed reservations on the inclusion of annexes III and IV in the report (see annex X).

51. At the same meeting, the Special Commission adopted its report for submission to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1988.

Notes

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 49 (A/41/49).

Annex I

INFORMAL PAPER PRESENTED BY THE GROUP OF 77 ON 1 SEPTEMBER 1987

This paper is divided into three parts: section I describes the role and mandate of the Economic and Social Council; section II asks why the Council has not fulfilled its mandate; section III offers recommendations/proposals for reform.

I. MANDATE OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

The functions and powers of the Council are spelt out in articles 60, 62 and 66 of the Charter of the United Nations. Its responsibilities were further clarified in section II of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197.

As articulated in the latter document the responsibilities of the Council are as follows:

(a) To serve as the central forum for the discussion of international economic and social issues of a global or interdisciplinary nature and the formulation of policy recommendations thereon addressed to member States and to the United Nations as a whole;

(b) To monitor and evaluate the implementation of overall strategies, policies and priorities established by the General Assembly in the economic, social and related fields, and to ensure the harmonization and coherent practical operation implementation on an integrated basis, of relevant policy decisions and recommendations emanating from United Nations conferences and other forums within the United Nations system after their approval by the Assembly and/or the Economic and Social Council;

(c) To ensure the overall co-ordination of the activities of the organizations of the United Nations system in the economic, social and related fields and, to that end, the implementation of the priorities established by the General Assembly for the system as a whole and in this task to engage itself in the budgetary process;

(d) To carry out comprehensive policy reviews of operation activities throughout the United Nations system, bearing in mind the need for balance, compatibility and conformity with the priorities established by the General Assembly for the system as a whole.

II. HAS THE COUNCIL FULFILLED ITS MANDATE?

A plethora of reasons have been adduced to explain the failure of the Council to fulfil its mandate. Principal among these are:

(a) Restricted membership;



- (b) Expansion of its subsidiary machinery (necessitated, inter alia, by the restrictive membership of the Council);
- (c) Short duration of meetings;
- (d) Inadequate secretariat support structure;
- (e) Lack of recognition of its authority by other (intergovernmental and inter-secretariat bodies) bodies of the United Nations system;
- (f) Dismal organization of work and reporting procedures.

### III. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REFORM

The following recommendations for the rationalization of the Council are proposed taking into account the close interrelationship between the Council and its subsidiary organs and the need to look at the reform of the Council bearing in mind that of its subsidiary machinery.

#### A. Universalization of its composition

This recommendation was mentioned in paragraph 13 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197.

#### B. Relationship with its subsidiary machinery

The Council will assume to the maximum extent possible direct responsibility for performing the functions of its subsidiary bodies.

#### C. Integrated reporting structure by intergovernmental bodies in economic and social fields

The reporting procedure of the United Nations intergovernmental bodies in the economic and social fields should be modified to enable all bodies to report in the first instance to the Council and transmit to the General Assembly, it deemed appropriate, consolidated reports.

#### D. Increased duration of meetings and reorganization of working schedule

Reflective of its mandated responsibilities, the duration of its meetings should be increased. To better fulfil its functions of monitoring and evaluation, a reorganization of its schedule of meetings and methods of work should be achieved. Its working structure should also be reorganized in a manner that is consistent with and supportive of its role and functions.

E. Relations with the work of the General Assembly

The work and functions of the Council and the General Assembly should be co-ordinated and complementary, considering the pre-eminence of the General Assembly as the main and superior forum for policy-making in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

F. Relations with specialized agencies

Specialized agencies should participate actively in meetings of the Council. The specialized agencies should submit reports to the Council on how the latter's recommendations and policy guidelines are being fulfilled. This envisaged reporting arrangement would be different from that discarded in the 1970s, in that the reports emanating from the specialized agencies under the new arrangement will be more focused and specific, in particular regarding the implementation of the General Assembly guidelines.

G. Relations with regional commissions

The Council should increase its contribution to strengthening the co-operation and co-ordination of the activities of the regional commissions. The Council should devote more time to the consideration of substantive activities of the regional commissions (see para. 32 of A/42/232).

H. Biennialization

The Council should continue to biennialize, as appropriate, discussions/consideration of the items on its agenda and of the work of its subsidiary organs.

I. Separate and identifiable secretariat support structure

A separate and identifiable secretariat support structure, comparable to those of other chartered bodies, should be designed. The secretariat would among other things consolidate reports on related issues/themes that emanate from the United Nations system and make recommendations/summaries as appropriate (see para. 31 of A/42/232).

J. Co-ordination of operational activities

The Council should play its role of co-ordinating operational activities for development through an effective control and evaluation of management and implementation of these activities.

Annex II

## INFORMAL PAPERS PRESENTED BY DELEGATIONS OR GROUPS OF DELEGATIONS

The following informal papers were presented by the delegations of Australia, Canada, China, the Federal Republic of Germany (on behalf of the member States of the European Community), Japan, Norway, Tunisia (on behalf of the Group of 77), the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (on behalf of Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) and the United States of America.

### Delegation of Australia

Australia considers that the vital first step in the reform process is to agree on the principles or direction of reform, and then to settle on detailed arrangements.

Australia's views on the seven headings proposed by the Chairman of the informal meeting of the Special Commission on 14 April flow from our firm conviction that the aim of increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of the Economic and Social Council would be served by a net reduction in the resources required for the consideration of social and economic issues in the United Nations. The most commonsensical way of achieving this is to eliminate one level of debate at which issues are considered and to ensure that there are effective cross-organizational co-ordination mechanisms.

Therefore, under the heading: "Role, responsibilities and relationships between the General Assembly, the Council and the Trade and Development Board", we seek to enhance and streamline the Council. In particular, we agree fully with proposals to reduce significantly the combined meeting time of the General Assembly and the Council, and to reduce substantially the unnecessary duplication of debate in these forums. Two general debates - perhaps at a spring session of the Trade and Development Board and at the General Assembly - could replace the current three at no loss to the United Nations system. The World Economic Survey and the Trade and Development Report could be combined in one useful, comprehensive study which would enjoy the prestige of being the report of the central United Nations organs on the state of the world's economy and its implications for developing countries.

Second, we believe that strong co-ordination is crucial to the successful operation of the intergovernmental machinery. Co-ordination between economic and social sectors, and within each of these sectors, is a difficult challenge which needs careful thought. What is needed is a mechanism for managing better the work-flow through the Council. In particular, we support proposals for an enhanced role for the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC). We also consider that the co-ordination function would be aided by a modification of the secretariat procedures whereby the Secretary-General would be asked to present a report with recommendations on the Council's future work programme to the Council's annual organizational meeting. The Secretariat, in preparing its recommendations, would need to be directed to ensure that, to the greatest extent possible, the consideration of issues in the Council's subsidiary bodies was not repeated by the Council.

As regards the subsidiary bodies of the Council, we support with several other delegations, the elimination of as many subsidiary bodies as possible where the functions of those bodies are better carried out by another body or by the Council itself. For example, the Council could take over some of the functions from the Commission for Social Development, especially on broad social development issues and where economic factors are significant (for example, the World Social Situation). We also support the merger with the Council of some subsidiary bodies, such as the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy, and the Committee on Natural Resources.

Australia considers that operational activities for development issues should receive greater and more co-ordinated attention at the Council. We concur with delegations which propose that the Council should concentrate on the system-wide co-ordination aspects of operational activities, in particular exercising a cross-organization oversight or monitoring role to ensure that individual agencies' programmes are harmonized and consistent with one another.

Australia is of the view that there is a clear need for an examination of the macro-structure of the regional commissions and, in particular, the relationship between these regional commissions and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), but attention needs to be given to assigning priorities to programmes and activities within the regions.

It is again consonant with our objective of increasing the United Nations efficiency and effectiveness that we would not want to see the universalization of membership of the Council, at least without the elimination of one entire level of debate in the economic and social fields. Such universalization without appropriate, durable reductions in other areas of the United Nations work would be unlikely to bring about greater efficiency, especially in relation to important functions such as co-ordination. Second, it would, in the economic field, duplicate the work already undertaken by the universal bodies with mandates in that field - the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and the Second Committee of the General Assembly. Finally, it would make the Council's procedures more time-consuming. Such a change in the Council's composition would by itself not advance and may indeed run counter to the reform objective.

With regard to the last of the seven headings, we support the broad proposals of several other delegations for the streamlining and simplification of the secretariat structure so as to enhance, in particular, its ability to fulfil its important co-ordination function. In this regard, we would be interested in an elaboration of the proposal for a single integrated Council secretariat.

## Delegation of Canada

### INTRODUCTION: REFORMS IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL STRUCTURE

As the Special Commission progresses to the final stage of its work, it is becoming increasingly apparent that some reforms are needed in order to make the United Nations economic and social sectors function more efficiently and effectively. In short, there is a need to make the present system less cumbersome and repetitive. There is also a need to enhance the ability of the Economic and Social Council in co-ordination and issue management, as envisaged by the Charter.

With this in mind, this paper offers suggestions for restructuring and reform on three fundamental levels:

- (a) The relationship between the General Assembly and the Council;
- (b) The relationship between the Council and its subsidiary bodies;
- (c) The secretariat support structure.

#### I. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE COUNCIL

A major source of inefficiency and ineffectiveness in the economic and social sectors is the repetition and overlap between the work of the General Assembly and the Council. What is needed is a clearer division of labour between these two Charter bodies and a bolstering of the Council's role as an effective management "filter" and tool for the General Assembly. We are proposing:

##### For the General Assembly:

To shorten the duration and agenda of the Second (Economic) and Third (Social) Committees of the General Assembly:

- (a) Each would meet concurrently for three weeks from mid-November to December;
- (b) Each would concentrate on two annual agenda items:
  - Item 1. General Debate: World Economic/Social-Human Rights Situation;
  - Item 2. Executive Recommendations from the Council.

##### For the Council:

(a) To convene an annual plenary session of the Council concurrently with the General Assembly session, but prior to the sessions of the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly, in order to maximize the opportunity for high-level participation:

- (i) The plenary session of the Council would meet from end September to end October;
- (ii) The work plan of the plenary session of the Council would be organized in such a way as to complement the six-year medium-term plan cycle of the United Nations. It would ensure that over a period of six years, all sectors of the Council activity would be scrutinized by the Council at least once;
- (iii) The Council would act as a management "filter" for the General Assembly;
- (iv) For the first two weeks it would consider and, as much as possible, take decisions on recommendations emanating from economic/social subsidiary bodies;
- (v) For the third week it would consider and take decisions on the social and economic sections of the medium-term plan and of the biennial programme budget;
- (vi) A few days would be set aside to approve the Executive Report of the Council to the General Assembly. This single and brief document would highlight the key economic and social policy issues (with recommendations from the Council) which should be considered by the General Assembly;

(b) To allow the Council to fulfil its Charter mandate and fully to play its co-ordinating role. The Council would therefore act as an executive board for those economic and social intergovernmental bodies that do not have their own board and as an overview and co-ordination organ for all other economic and social institutions in the United Nations system. The Council would have final legislative authority on most economic and social matters. In other words, the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly would no longer reconsider and approve all Council work. Consequently the General Assembly would be "freed-up" to examine only key policy recommendations from the Council ("Executive Report"), and could more effectively consider emerging global issues and priorities each year;

(c) In light of the aforementioned, to consider enlarging or universalizing the membership of the Council;

(d) To convene an annual one week organizational session of the Council in late January for the purpose of incorporating new General Assembly mandates into the existing Council work programme and for holding Council elections and appointments.

## II. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE COUNCIL AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES

A major source of inefficiency and ineffectiveness in the economic and social sectors is due to the Council's inability to properly overview, analyse and co-ordinate its sectors of responsibility on a system-wide basis. What is needed primarily is a reorganization of the Council's Committee structure, better use/consolidation of expertise and resources within its sub-body structure, reporting tailored to the Council's needs, a biennial and triennial work programme and an improved interaction with the specialized agencies. We are proposing:

### Committee structure:

- (a) To modify the Council's present Committee structure into shorter, more focused meetings taking place every two months, organized along sectoral lines as follows:
- (i) Operational activities/regional co-operation: in late March to review operational activities/regional economic commissions and economic/social programmes region by region;
  - (ii) Social co-operation/human rights: in late May to review social issues/human rights and intergovernmental bodies and institutions;
  - (iii) Economic co-operation/technical functional co-operation: meeting in mid-July to review economic issues/technical-functional co-operation and intergovernmental bodies and institutions;

### Reporting:

- (b) To have the Council consider consolidated "management reports" on a given item or sector. In other words, the Council would no longer need to review individual technical reports from subsidiary bodies. "Management reports" to the Council would:
- (i) Provide a system-wide overview and analysis of latest developments in an item/sector and assess longer-term implications;
  - (ii) Give particular attention to co-ordination issues;
  - (iii) Monitor implementation of mandates and assess user-benefits (where applicable);
  - (iv) Outline select policy recommendations for possible incorporation into the Council's final "Executive Report" to the General Assembly;

### Subsidiary bodies:

(c) To consolidate, to the greatest extent possible, the expertise and resources of related spheres of activities/sectors. In other words, rationalize, simplify and streamline the present subsidiary body structure of the Council, aimed at a clearer division of labour between the Council and its sub-structure:



Where possible, decentralize expertise and analytical capabilities to the technical expert level or the most established and capable United Nations research body in a given sector;

Work methods:

(d) To adopt a biennial work programme for agenda items and a triennial system-wide review of Council sectors;

(e) To adopt a thematic or priority issue approach during the system-wide review of each Council sector;

(f) The Council and its subsidiary bodies would adopt improved working methods along the lines of those recommended by the Trade and Development Board and ECE in their submissions to the Special Commission;

Specialized agencies:

(g) To encourage a more active and focused participation of specialized agencies (particularly the "Big Four": WHO, FAO, ILO, UNESCO) in the aforementioned work programme and Committee structure of the Council. This would be achieved through submission of brief thematic reports/statements, as well as through informal discussions or seminars;

(h) To establish close administrative links between ACC and the secretariat of the Council;

Co-ordination:

(i) To ensure that co-ordination becomes an integral aspect of the Council's work, through the improved reporting and Committee structure proposed above;

(j) To ensure that the relationship of the Council and CPC is more complementary, particularly on system-wide co-ordination issues in the economic/social sectors:

The plenary session of the Council would devote one week for considering the economic and social sectors of the medium-term plan and the United Nations programme budget. The Council would also take on responsibilities for cross-organizational reviews of medium-term plans/cross-organizational programme analyses for areas of its responsibility.

### III. THE SECRETARIAT SUPPORT STRUCTURE

The present secretariat support structure in the economic and social sectors would need to be modified in line with the structural and reporting changes outlined above. What is clearly needed is a substantive secretariat support structure to properly service a restructured Council, particularly with respect to quality control and preparation of "management reports" to the Council, as well as the Council's annual "Executive Report" to the General Assembly:

A separate secretariat unit for the Council drawn from expertise in the existing Secretariat structure (both substantive and support services).

We are proposing:

- (a) To transfer, as much as possible, all project-oriented and programme-implementation secretariat units in the social field to Vienna;
- (b) To transfer, as much as possible, all economic analysis secretariat units in the economic field to Geneva;
- (c) To transfer, as much as possible, all secretariat units responsible for implementing operational activities to the regional economic commission;
- (d) To consolidate all remaining economic or social policy secretariat units into a Council department based in New York;
- (e) A Council department subdivided into two divisions:
  - (i) Operational activities;
  - (ii) Council support;
- (f) The Council Support Division would be headed by an Under-Secretary-General, who would also be Head of the Department. The Under-Secretary-General for the Council would be a full member of ACC and would chair an "Economic and Social Sectors Committee" composed of the Heads of the Geneva and Vienna offices, the Director-General of UNCTAD, the Head of the Operational Activities Division and the Heads of all other economic and social sections of the Secretariat providing support to the intergovernmental bodies in sectors I, II, III, and VI of the Council (see appendix I);
- (g) The Operational Activities Division would be headed by a Director-General, who would chair an Operational Activities and Regional Co-operation Sectors Committee composed of the Administrator of UNDP, the Executive-Secretaries of the regional economic commissions, the Executive-Director of UNEP, and other intergovernmental bodies in sectors IV and V.

Appendix I

SECTORAL STRUCTURE OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

I. Economic co-operation sector:

- (a) Commission on Transnational Corporations;
- (b) Committee for Development Planning;
- (c) Trade and Development Board;
- (d) World Food Council;
- (e) United Nations Environment Programme;
- (f) Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy;
- (g) Committee on Natural Resources.

II. Social co-operation sector:

- (a) Commission for Social Development;
- (b) Commission on the Status of Women;
- (c) Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
- (d) Commission on Human Settlements;
- (e) Population Commission;
- (f) Commission on Narcotic Drugs;
- (g) Committee on Crime Prevention and Control.

III. Human rights sector:

Commission on Human Rights.

IV. Operational activities sector:

- (a) United Nations Development Programme;
- (b) United Nations Population Fund;
- (c) Department of Technical Co-operation for Development;

- (d) United Nations Capital Development Fund;
- (e) United Nations Children's Fund;
- (f) Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;
- (g) Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes;
- (h) World Food Programme.

V. Regional co-operation sector:

- (a) Economic Commission for Europe;
- (b) Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific;
- (c) Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;
- (d) Economic Commission for Africa;
- (e) Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

VI. Technical and functional co-operation sector:

- (a) Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development;
- (b) Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development;
- (c) Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting;
- (d) Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Working Group on the Problems of Corrupt Practices;
- (e) United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names;
- (f) Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance;
- (g) Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Co-operation in Tax Matters;
- (h) Statistical Commission;
- (i) Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods;
- (j) Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations.

Appendix II

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

- I. First Committee (Economic co-operation/technical-functional co-operation):
- (a) Economic co-operation sector:
    - (i) Commission on Transnational Corporations;
    - (ii) Committee for Development Planning;
    - (iii) Trade and Development Board;
    - (iv) World Food Council;
    - (v) United Nations Environment Programme;
    - (vi) Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy;
    - (vii) Committee on Natural Resources.
  - (b) Technical and functional co-operation sector:
    - (i) Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development;
    - (ii) Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development;
    - (iii) Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting;
    - (iv) Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Working Group on the Problems of Corrupt Practices;
    - (v) United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names;
    - (vi) Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance;
    - (vii) Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Co-operation in Tax Matters;
    - (viii) Statistical Commission;
    - (ix) Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods;
    - (x) Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations.

II. Second Committee (Social co-operation/human rights):

- (a) Social co-operation sector:
  - (i) Commission on Social Development;
  - (ii) Commission on the Status of Women;
  - (iii) Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
  - (iv) Commission on Human Settlements;
  - (v) Population Commission;
  - (vi) Commission on Narcotic Drugs;
  - (vii) Committee on Crime Prevention and Control.
- (b) Human rights sector:
  - Commission on Human Rights

III. Third Committee (Operational activities/regional co-operation):

- (a) Operational activities sector:
  - (i) United Nations Development Programme;
  - (ii) United Nations Population Fund;
  - (iii) Department of Technical Co-operation for Development;
  - (iv) United Nations Capital Development Fund;
  - (v) United Nations Children's Fund;
  - (vi) Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;
  - (vii) Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes;
  - (viii) World Food Programme;
- (b) Regional co-operation sector:
  - (i) Economic Commission for Europe;
  - (ii) Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific;
  - (iii) Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;
  - (iv) Economic Commission for Africa;
  - (v) Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

Appendix III

SCENARIO FOR SESSIONS OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Organizational Committee of the Council  
One-week session - late January

The purpose of the Organizational Committee session of the Council would be to:

- (a) Assess how the general or thematic debates held in the fall by the Second and Third Committees should impact on the Council's work-plan and on the United Nations system. Specifically, to translate decisions and resolutions of the General Assembly into additional instructions for economic and social intergovernmental bodies funded under the regular budget or into statements of guidance for specialized agencies and for voluntary-funded organizations financing or conducting operational activities;
- (b) Call for specific studies and reports from secretariat units, intergovernmental bodies, specialized agencies and organizations;
- (c) Set the agenda and work-plans of the plenary session of the Council and other sectoral committees of the Council;
- (d) Hold Council elections and appointments.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ANNUAL PLENARY SESSION

Annual plenary session of the Council  
end September to late October  
New York

The purpose of the annual plenary session of the Council would be to:

- (a) Review the summary assessments and recommendations prepared by its sectoral committees;
- (b) Review the economic and social sections of the medium-term plan and biennial budget;
- (c) Consider and adopt the final "Executive Report" of select policy recommendations to the General Assembly (no resolutions or decisions).

The plenary session of the Council would be organized in such a way as to ensure that over a period of six years, corresponding to the operating cycle of the United Nations medium-term plan, all sectors, all regions, and a full set of economic and social issues have been scrutinized at least once. The plenary session of the Council would convene primarily for the purpose of adopting a single "Executive Report" of key policy recommendations for consideration by the Second (Economic) and Third (Social) Committees of the General Assembly.

## Appendix IV

### CRITERIA FOR SUBSIDIARY INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES

Here are some preliminary thoughts on criteria that the Council might use to make decisions in regard to its subsidiary bodies. If this is of interest, we could further refine the ideas.

#### A. Criteria for establishment of new intergovernmental bodies

A recommendation for the creation of a new intergovernmental body (subsidiary to the Council) should not lead to the creation of a new body unless it has been subjected to the following "four-filter" mechanisms:

(a) Filter one: Specialized agencies:

Would the proposed body deal with issues or questions that are within the mandate of an existing specialized agencies? (E.g., UNESCO is already mandated and perfectly capable of taking on the activities of a science and technology body; there is therefore no reason to create one).

(b) Filter two: Regional economic commissions:

Does the issue or question interest primarily the members of particular regions (e.g., because the expertise lies there)? Would the new body engage in activities or programmes that can have a direct impact on member States? Are the regional economic commissions able to provide support services?

(c) Filter three: Structure of the Council and operating cycle:

- (i) Would it be possible to address the issue by amending or extending the mandate of an existing intergovernmental body?
- (ii) Could the Council deal with the issue by integrating it in its operating cycle (i.e., looking at it as part of its regular overview of economic or social questions)?

(d) Filter four: Expert group:

Can the issue be dealt with by an ad hoc group of experts that would meet as the need arises?

#### B. Mandating and monitoring

The first responsibility of the Council is to mandate properly the new intergovernmental body. The work of the Council would be simplified and made more rational if the three following criteria were adopted:



(a) Complementarity criterion:

- (i) The Council would first assign the new body to a sector and adjust its mandate to ensure that there is no duplication with existing bodies;
- (ii) The Council would then ensure that the rest of the sector is itself adjusted to take into account the new body.

(b) Practicality criterion:

The new body would be given (or asked to recommend to the Council) a formal definition of its objectives for its first two years (detailed plan of its work-programme) and a long-term outline for the first five years (only if the body is expected to be needed for that period of time).

(c) Monitoring criterion:

The Council would review the new intergovernmental body after it has completed its first 24 months. The purpose of the review being to make adjustments as required, in order for the body to function at peak effectiveness and efficiency.

C. Review, evaluation and reform

In the course of its regular six-year overview of all economic and social issues and intergovernmental bodies, and of all regions, the Council would review, evaluate and, if necessary, reform the new intergovernmental body. The work of the Council would be made simpler if the three following criteria were used:

(a) Effectiveness criterion:

- (i) Does the intergovernmental body meet its stated objectives and is it fulfilling its work-programme?
- (ii) Is the level of participation satisfactory?

(b) Efficiency criterion:

- (i) How does the cost of running the intergovernmental body compare with the average?
- (ii) How much secretariat service does it require to function?

(c) Overview criterion:

Every six years, the Council would review how well the current priorities of the member States are reflected in the structure and in the agenda of the intergovernmental bodies. The Council would also attempt to identify the lowest priorities.

D. Merger, suspension or elimination

Substantive review criterion:

The intergovernmental bodies that are least effective or efficient (see above criteria) would be reviewed. Either their mandates and the work-programmes would be strengthened and updated or the bodies would be merged into others, temporarily suspended, or, ultimately, eliminated.

Structural review criterion:

Intergovernmental bodies that are at the low end of the priority scale (whether or not they are effective and efficient) would be reviewed. Either their mandates and the work-programmes would be strengthened and updated or the bodies would be merged into others, temporarily suspended, or, ultimately, eliminated.

### Delegation of China

The purpose of the structural reform of the United Nations system in the economic and social fields is to strengthen the rôle of the United Nations in enhancing economic co-operation and development and in promoting social progress. In other words, it is to enable the United Nations organs and bodies to better address the urgent problems confronted in the economic and social fields, to enhance their capabilities of coping with the challenges the future may present, and to revitalize them so that they can better fulfil their mandates under the Charter and serve the member States, particularly the developing countries, more effectively.

In order to achieve the above-mentioned objective, it is necessary to simplify and rationalize the existing system, raise the efficiency of the intergovernmental organs and the secretariat supporting structure.

In accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and General Assembly resolution 32/197, it is for the General Assembly to concentrate on the establishment of overall strategies, policies and priorities for the system as a whole while the Council should function in finding ways and means to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the strategies, policies and priorities, to serve as the central forum for the discussion of international economic and social problems and the formulation of policy recommendations and to co-ordinate the overall activities of its subsidiary bodies and specialized agencies.

There should be good co-ordination between the General Assembly and the Council with each having its respective focuses, and overlapping should be avoided. The strengthening of the role of the Council should be considered in conjunction with the strengthening of the role of the Second and Third Committees.

Practice has shown that the biannualized arrangement for the review of agenda items of the Council and for the meetings of the subsidiary bodies is effective and therefore should be continued.

The number and duration of meetings should be reduced as much as possible. Discussions should focus on important issues of common concern. The number of papers and documents should be cut down and the quality of meetings improved. The bureau should see to it that the secretariat prepares the papers and documents required for the meetings in good time. The meetings should start punctually and there should be a limitation on the length of statements to be made.

The Council convenes every year an organizational session to plan its work for the whole year and one regular session to consider the reports submitted by the subsidiary organs, specialized agencies and regional economic commissions, decide on the recommendations to be submitted to the General Assembly, and carry out policy planning and co-ordination within its mandate. Ad hoc, subject-oriented and high-level meetings may be convened when necessary. The regular sessions of the Council must not overlap with those of the General Assembly.

It is necessary to revise the reporting procedures for the intergovernmental organs in the economic and social fields. All these organs should first report to the Council, which should improve its filtering function so that its reports to the General Assembly are brief and to the point, with due emphasis on all major issues. The various organs should submit their respective reports in good time, and their chief executives should take an active part in the discussion. In addition, repetition in reports should be avoided and the number of similar reports should be cut down.

The Council should discharge its responsibility of co-ordinating and monitoring the functioning of its subsidiary organs in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter. It should turn the positive inputs from the subsidiary organs into concerted policies, provide those organs with policy guidelines, and follow their development to ensure the effective implementation of its policy decisions in day-to-day work and in all its activities. While strengthening the Council, measures should also be adopted to ensure the vitality of the subsidiary organs, increase the participation and input of professionals and improve the quality of meetings. With respect to the few subsidiary organs whose functions might be taken over directly by the Council, there should be clear-cut and strict standards, and the whole matter must be handled with great care.

In accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Council should co-ordinate the activities of the specialized agencies so as to avoid unnecessary overlapping. Of course, the Council should also consult the specialized agencies and respect the agreements signed with them. The specialized agencies should actively participate, as required by the functions of the Council, in the relevant Council meetings and submit to the latter implementation reports with proper focus, clear recommendations and inputs from experts so as to facilitate the work of relevant Council meetings.

While strengthening its role of co-ordination, the Council should pay attention to giving full play to the role of the existing co-ordinating organs, including CPC.

While strengthening the role of its Third Committee in co-ordinating development operational activities, the Council should also give full play to the role of existing organs of co-ordination, including the Joint Committee on Policy Co-ordination.

In accordance with the global development strategy and policies adopted by the General Assembly, the Council should put greater emphasis on considering the reports of the regional economic commissions concerning the implementation of their substantive activities, and should, in light of the need for co-operation among the regional commissions, co-ordinate the activities on a global basis and strengthen the role of the regional economic commissions.

It is essential to improve the quality of work of the supporting structure of the secretariat, strengthen the co-ordination among these units, reduce the structural layers within the secretariat, improve the quality of staff, and strictly abide by the principle of equitable geographical distribution in recruiting the staff so as to adapt to the new situation and new tasks of the Council after the reform.

Delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany (on behalf of the  
member States of the European Community)

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 41/213 and Economic and Social Council decision 1987/112, it is the purpose of the in-depth study of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields to identify measures which would enable the United Nations - as an indispensable instrument for multilateral co-operation - to fulfil its functions better, as defined in the Charter (especially in Art. 1, paras. 3 and 4), to promote international economic and social co-operation and universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. In line with recommendation 8 of the report of the Group of 18, which is based upon broad recognition of the need for the efficiency of the United Nations to be improved and for reform as a matter of priority, restructuring should aim at strengthening the effectiveness of the United Nations and improving its efficiency by simplifying and rationalizing the intergovernmental machinery and its secretariat support structure. In particular, in the economic field the areas of responsibility for the General Assembly, the Council and the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development must be defined more clearly, while in the social field the debate in the Council might be tailored more closely to its supervisory function and co-ordinating role vis-à-vis the functional commissions. Furthermore, any reform effort has to take into consideration the special and distinct emphasis given by the Charter to the issue of human rights as reflected also in the existing relevant institutional framework (Art. 68 of the Charter). This is why for the purposes of this paper a distinction is made between economic, social and human rights issues.

#### I. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly should play its role as the supreme United Nations organ in the economic and social fields (United Nations Charter, Art. 60), and as a forum for policy-making and harmonizing international action. The General Assembly should continue to give political guidance by formulating overall strategies and setting political priorities. The General Assembly, in its deliberative function in economic matters, should provide the forum for the general debate on macro-economic issues in the autumn, complemented by the general economic discussion of the Trade and Development Board (in the spring) with its emphasis on trade and development aspects, making redundant the traditional general debate on macro-economic issues in the Council. More generally, in order to fulfil these functions properly, the work of the General Assembly must be better prepared and more focused so that it becomes not only more effective, but also substantially shorter. This could be achieved by rationalizing its agenda, including by means of biennialization of agenda items. The Council should have the primary responsibility for establishing the agenda of the General Assembly in the social and economic areas.

## II. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

In order to facilitate better focused and shorter work of the General Assembly, the Council should submit to it reports on the work done by the Council and its subsidiary machinery in the economic field, with the current practice of technical reports in the social field to be continued. These reports in the economic field should - just as those submitted to the Council by the subsidiary bodies - highlight issues where political guidance by the General Assembly is needed, with the understanding that the General Assembly, in its concrete work, would concentrate on these issues, without prejudice to the comprehensive deliberative function of the plenary meeting of the General Assembly. The new reporting system would necessitate an appropriately focused input from the Secretariat.

In its co-ordinating role the Council is supported by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC). The respective areas of responsibility for the Council and CPC must be defined more clearly, with the Council providing the necessary political authority, which CPC recommendations have been lacking so far:

(a) CPC, in accordance with its role as main subsidiary organ for planning, programming and co-ordination, and in view of its new responsibilities in the field of budgeting, should focus its co-ordinating efforts on the United Nations itself ("intra-co-ordination");

(b) The Council should, as envisaged in the Charter, co-ordinate programme activities effectively on a system-wide basis ("inter-co-ordination").

CPC co-ordination instruments such as cross-organizational programme analyses/cross-organizational review of medium-term plans, ACC/CPC meetings and ACC reports should be adapted to the role to be played by the Council. The Council should adopt a thematic/sectoral approach where applicable. It should establish its agenda on the basis of a flexible multiennial work-programme. The cross-sectoral approach would necessitate the active participation of the agencies concerned. The working calendars of the subsidiary bodies would have to be adapted to the needs of the Council.

Concerning the regional commissions, the Council should ensure coherence between global and regional activities and facilitate interregional co-operation. Reports from the regional commissions should focus on questions which have actual or potential global implications or which have important implications for other regions. The Council and its subsidiary organs should be used as a framework for the preparation of, and the follow-up to international conferences and high-level meetings, which might themselves - as appropriate - take place within the Council context.

The Council's co-ordinating role should in particular be strengthened in the field of operational activities for development, with its role defined in more concrete terms. The Council should concentrate on the system-wide co-ordination aspect of the implementation of policies and programme activities, defining - as necessary - specific areas of activity for the different United Nations agencies

and organs in order to ensure coherent and effective programme delivery. The primary responsibility for programme policy decisions and the review of programme implementation is to remain with the governing organs of the individual programmes and the agencies concerned. More specifically, for the years to come the co-ordination role of the Council should be defined along the lines of the provisions of General Assembly resolution 42/196, i.e. monitoring of the functioning of the inter-secretariat co-ordinating mechanisms and acting on policy proposals made by the Director-General to facilitate the solution of problems encountered in ACC, defining a more effective programming process overseeing the simplification and harmonization of delivery and the reporting procedures of the United Nations organs and agencies and re-examining the arrangements in the field in order to take action on the resident co-ordinator's role and on the co-location of field offices. Every two years a special session of the Council should be devoted to operational activities, based on the report of the Director-General on operational activities, which will be biennialized.

In order to enable the General Assembly to focus on only a few major issues and to shorten its work substantially, a guiding principle for the structure of the Council's work must be a stringent delegation of authority, with most decisions to be taken by the Council itself and, preferably, at the level of the subsidiary bodies. Issues to be addressed by the Council should be highlighted in the reports and documents to be submitted to it.

In the context of a major effort to simplify drastically the subsidiary Council machinery, the following bodies deserve special attention: the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development, the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy, the Committee on Natural Resources, the High-level Committee for Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries and the Commission for Social Development. These bodies should be merged as appropriate or their functions should be assumed by the Council or other United Nations bodies. For example, the natural resources questions could be transferred partly to UNCTAD/Committee on Commodities (minerals) and partly to UNEP (water) and partly taken up by the Council itself (energy). The co-ordination function of the High-level Committee for Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries could be absorbed by the Council and its more operational functions transferred to the UNDP Governing Council. In many cases, parts of the task which at present are undertaken by global bodies (e.g., in the field of technical co-operation among developing countries and natural resources) should be delegated to the regional commissions as the main development centres in their respective regions. One element of a streamlined Council machinery could be subject-oriented sessions on related clusters of issues, for which the Council has assumed direct responsibility or to which the Council has decided to give particular attention. Such subject-oriented sessions could attract high-level participation. The subjects discussed in the subject-oriented session should not appear on the agenda of the regular session of the Council. WFC meetings should be biennialized.

In order to carry out these proposals, it will be necessary to make changes in the structure and timetable of Council meetings, taking into account the experiences of previous reform exercises. The thrust of our proposals is to

restore the Council to the position envisaged for it in the Charter and to enable it to act effectively in the economic and social fields. At present, this task is impeded by the complex hierarchical structure which has tended over the years to weaken the functioning and authority of the Council. Leaving aside the question of membership, there are various adjustments to the structure which might be contemplated. These include consideration of the future of the organizational session and the subsequent regular sessions of the Council. One option might be to maintain broadly the present pattern, provided the proposals for the Council to act as a filter outlined in this paper can be effectively implemented. An alternate proposal would be for the Council to meet at the same time as the General Assembly. In that case, the present regular sessions of the Council should be consolidated in one session, meeting during the General Assembly and reporting to the Assembly direct or in a consolidated form through the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly. The agenda and meeting time of the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly might be adapted to make them compatible with the agenda and meeting time of the First and Second Committees of the Council. Co-ordination items would be taken up in the First and Second Sessional Committees of the Council, so that the Third Sessional Committee would then become redundant.

Consideration of structure and timetable has raised the question of the Council's membership. The proposals of restructuring described above in themselves would not, in our view, require universalization of the Council. Universalization of the Council in itself would not improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the United Nations. With four universal bodies in the economic field, the General Assembly/the Second Committee, the Council and UNCTAD, duplication and competition between these major United Nations bodies would become more apparent and even more difficult to avoid than under the present circumstances. For the Council itself universalization would make working procedures more cumbersome and time consuming. It goes without saying that on top of that universalization would require an amendment to the Charter, which in accordance with Article 108 has to be adopted and ratified by two thirds of the members of the United Nations, including all the permanent members of the Security Council. A change in the composition of the Council membership, like the proposed universalization, in itself would not bring about a profound and lasting improvement in achieving the purposes of the Charter in the economic and social fields. The question of a universal membership can only be discussed in the framework of a further-reaching, more radical reform package encompassing the General Assembly and its Committees as well as the Trade and Development Board. The creation of a new universal body would undermine the credibility of the system even further, unless it proved feasible to organize a built-in constitutional mechanism to enable the General Assembly to focus in a disciplined manner on a few major policy issues, based upon the preparatory work of the Council. The Council would then become responsible for much of the present agenda of the General Assembly and its Committees and would have to hold its annual session during the General Assembly session. It could imply, for example, that the Council should take final action on most economic issues and that the General Assembly itself would focus on its deliberative functions through a general macro-economic debate.



### III. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

The Trade and Development Board (with only one session in the spring) would complement the overall macro-economic debate of the General Assembly, both debates constituting elements of one continuous dialogue (with no general debate in the Council). This must be reflected in the documents serving as the basis for these debates, i.e., the Trade and Development Report and the World Economic Survey. Part of a more effective division of labour could be the concentration of science and technology activities in New York, given the co-ordinating role of the Centre for Science and Technology for Development.

### IV. WORKING METHODS

Suggestions made by the Trade and Development Board working group and ECE should be generalized. They concern work programmes, pre-sessional consultations, the calendar of meetings, the duration and conduct of meetings as well as documentation. In general terms the number of meetings of different organs should be reduced and the remaining meetings should be rescheduled in order to establish a logical sequence. The length of the different meetings would have to be decided upon after a close review, reordering and hopefully shortening of the respective agendas.

### V. SECRETARIAT STRUCTURE

The outlined restructuring of the intergovernmental machinery would have to be reflected in a corresponding streamlining of the secretariat support structures reflecting the need for more rationalization and simplification on the one hand and better co-ordination on the other and the provision of adequate means for all agreed tasks. Particular attention should be given to the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs in the context of its relationship with the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, UNCTAD as the main subsidiary body of the General Assembly in the economic field and the United Nations Office in Vienna. The Office for Development and International Economic Co-operation must through redeployment be adequately equipped so that the Director-General would be in a position to carry out his central co-ordinating role, i.e., in the field of operational activities. Consequential changes for the secretariat support structures would have to be considered in the light of new arrangements for the intergovernmental structures in the different areas.

## Delegation of Japan

### 1. BASIC OBJECTIVES

The basic objectives of the Special Commission are to strengthen the effectiveness of the United Nations in dealing with economic and social activities, by identifying measures to rationalize and simplify the intergovernmental structure, by avoiding duplication and overlapping activities and when needed merge existing bodies so as to improve their work and make the structure more responsive to their present needs as mentioned in recommendation 8 of the report of the Group of 18.

In the light of discussions and consultations so far made in the Special Commission, the following reforms should be undertaken to enhance the effective and efficient functioning of the United Nations system in the economic and social fields. However, these measures form only the first step towards attaining the above-mentioned objectives and should be reviewed constantly in the future.

## II. REFORM OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

### A. Basic role

The basic role of the Council, as a chartered body, is to co-ordinate various activities of the United Nations organizations in the economic and social fields and consider basic policy guidelines, which are transmitted to the General Assembly in the form of recommendations or reports. It has been pointed out that the role of the Council in co-ordination and policy-making is not satisfactory, and basic reforms are strongly required. The Council needs to regain its authority as the central body of the United Nations in the economic and social fields. The duplications of discussion which are often noticed between the Council and the General Assembly are more or less the result from the facts that the Council takes up inappropriate topics in its discussion or that the General Assembly simply repeats the same discussions as the ones already made in the Council. These duplications should be eliminated by the joint efforts of member States both at the Council and the General Assembly.

### B. Reforms to be considered

The items on the agenda of the Council are too many and should be substantially reduced. The Council meetings thereby should be subject-oriented, with in-depth discussions on a limited number of issues. These should be urgent or priority issues of the particular year or issues which require co-ordination. Its general debate should not deal with macro-economics and north-south problems in general, which should be discussed at the General Assembly. As to the other issues which are sent by the Council to the General Assembly, the member States should refrain from mere repetition of discussion simply because some of the members are not Council members and did not participate in the Council discussions.

There are at present too many reports submitted to and rubber-stamped by the Council. The reports which do not require substantive discussion by the Council should be sent directly to the General Assembly.

It should be considered that the Council should hold only one annual session. Its annual session could be held in New York and Geneva alternately.

The Council should absorb the functions of some subsidiary bodies.

### C. Operational activities

The Council is not playing the expected role in co-ordination of the operational activities of the United Nations system. The co-ordination in the area of operational activities should be improved at two levels: policy-making level and operational level.

#### 1. Policy-making level

The co-ordinating role should be drastically strengthened by the following measures:

(a) A sessional committee on the Council should be developed to deal solely with the co-ordination of operational activities. This could be made by reforming the present Third Committee of the Council;

(b) This sessional committee takes up at each year a limited number of priority issues which require co-ordination among agencies concerned. The executive heads of those agencies should be requested to participate in the in-depth discussion of this Committee;

(c) The results of the discussion should be adopted in the form of recommendations to the General Assembly. The follow-up of the recommendations should be monitored closely and the agencies concerned should report back to the subsequent sessions of the Council about their follow-up for consideration of the Council.

#### 2. Operational level

At the operational level, the role of resident co-ordinators should be strengthened by the following measures:

(a) The authority and function of resident co-ordinators should be clearly defined;

(b) The capacity of resident co-ordinators' authority should be secured from the recipient Governments and all United Nations agencies concerned, possibly in the form of a written agreement;

(c) The resident co-ordinators should report regularly to the Council through the Director-General on actual constraints they face in pursuing co-ordination efforts in this field and the reports thus submitted should be thoroughly examined in the reformed Third Committee of the Council in the manner mentioned above.

### III. SUBSIDIARY BODIES

There are a number of subsidiary bodies which need reforms and improvements in their functions. Considerations should particularly be given to the following bodies.

#### A. Commission on Transnational Corporations

Considering the nature of the issues taken up by the Commission, the Commission should work towards the biennialization of its session. The special session for the Code of Conduct should be held only when a clear perspective of progress on resolving pending substantive problems has emerged. As to the session of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Standards of Accounting and Reporting, biennialization of its work would be appropriate.

#### B. Committee for Development Planning

The activities of the Committee are satisfactory with higher quality of results. But those results are not sufficiently benefiting other United Nations bodies. Some measures should be considered so that a greater impact and interaction be assured between the works of the Committee and those of other United Nations bodies.

#### C. United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

Considering the nature of the activities of the Group, triennialized meetings should be sufficient.

#### D. Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Co-operation on Tax Matters

The Group should not necessarily meet on a biennial basis. The possibility of meeting on an ad hoc basis should be studied.

#### E. Committee for Programme and Co-ordination

The ACC/CPC joint meetings, currently held in Geneva just before the summer session of the Council, achieve very little. This is due to the number and levels of participants mainly from CPC members. There is a clear need to strengthen the

joint meetings by changing the venue and timing of the meeting. Joint meetings should be held in New York in October when ACC holds its regular session so that the joint meetings may have a better participation, of member States at higher levels and assure substantial exchange of views between the representatives of ACC and CPC.

The role of CPC for programme co-ordination and budget outline should be strengthened as stipulated in General Assembly resolution 41/213.

F. Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

UNCTAD should improve its effectiveness especially in respect of adapting itself to the world economy which has undergone profound changes in the past quarter of a century of its existence. Realistic ways have to be sought to make UNCTAD responsive to the increasingly diversified needs of individual developing countries. Japan endorses the report of the ad hoc intergovernmental working group adopted at the resumed thirty-fourth session of the Trade and Development Board. The Trade and Development Board and its subsidiary organs should have a more focused agenda without duplication to discharge effectively their functions.

The possibility of merging the Trade and Development Report with the World Economic Survey should be explored since both reports sometimes deal with the same issues.

G. United Nations Environment Programme

Reform measures which were agreed on in the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) should duly be pursued and implemented. Steps should further be taken to streamline meetings and reduce documentation.

H. Population Commission

The distinction between the Commission and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in some activities are getting vague. There should be a clearer division of responsibility between the two bodies, taking due account of existing mandates.

I. Intergovernmental Committee for Science and Technology for Development

Extremely low level of participation shows that member States are not interested in continuing the activities of the Committee. As a result, the Committee's achievements have been disappointing and the function of the Committee should be taken over by the Council. The Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development has achieved good results and therefore should be maintained. This Advisory Committee should report its activities to the Council.

J. Committee on Natural Resources

The Committee has not been able to exercise its mandate and has not had enough impact on other United Nations bodies. Its function therefore should be taken over by the Council.

K. Committee on Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy

The Committee has not functioned satisfactorily although the area which is dealt with remains important. The participation of member States in the meeting has been very poor. Considering the low interest of member States in the Committee's activities and yet the future possible change in energy situation, the following solution should be considered:

(a) The Committee should be taken over by the Council and the Council should continue its deliberation on the area;

(b) An ad hoc expert group may be formed and meet when necessary and the group, whose members are appointed in their individual capacity, may report its activities to the Council.

L. Committee for Social Development

Duplications are noticed in the activities of this Committee and other bodies and the items of its agenda are too many and not specific. Considering the nature of activities of the Committee, its function should be taken over by the Council.

IV. SECRETARIAT SUPPORT STRUCTURE

In order to improve the co-ordination of the United Nations system in the economic and social fields, the role of the Director-General's office should be strengthened. The Director-General's office should make more use of the capacity of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs in its co-ordinating activities.

The secretariat structure should be reformed in such a manner as corresponds to the reform measures to be taken at the level of intergovernmental bodies.

Delegation of Norway

BASIC OBJECTIVES

To strengthen the activities of the United Nations in the economic and social fields.

To simplify the present United Nations structure in these fields.

To ensure that substantive deliberations on economic and social issues are maintained in appropriate forums.

1. Economic and Social Council

(a) Universal membership;

(b) Will hold two regular annual sessions:

(i) Organizational session in January/February. Bureau will play a more active management role. Its composition and size should be further explored;

(ii) Substantive session in October/November;

(c) Will hold ad hoc sessions - allocated as necessary throughout the year - on specific substantive or co-ordination issues;

(d) Will base its activities on long-term agendas, in accordance with a biennial programme of work;

(e) Will absorb most of the functions of a number of subsidiary bodies, including the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development, the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy, the Committee on Natural Resources, the World Food Council and the High-level Committee on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries;

(f) It should be considered to request the Commission on Human Rights to report directly to the General Assembly. This will ease the Council's work-load and prevent repetitious discussions;

(g) To enhance the impact of overall macro-economic discussions they should be limited to one general debate in the spring (preferable in the Trade and Development Board) and one in the autumn (General Assembly).

2. General Assembly

(a) The Second and Third Committees will meet for approximately two weeks in November/December;

(b) Basic tasks should be:

- (i) Overall, general discussions on global economic and social issues, based on the reports, resolutions and recommendations from the Council;
- (ii) Formally adopt - and submit to the plenary - the reports, resolutions and recommendations from the Council.

3. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

(a) The economic sections of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs should, to the largest extent possible, be merged with the UNCTAD secretariat;

(b) The Trade and Development Board should hold one substantive annual session. It would take place in the spring and one major agenda item should be an overall, general debate on macro-economic issues;

(c) The World Economic Survey and the Trade and Development Report should be consolidated into one annual report on macro-economic issues.

4. Secretariat

All reforms of the intergovernmental machinery - as outlined above - will necessitate corresponding streamlining, rationalization and simplification of the secretariat support structures.



Delegation of Tunisia (on behalf of the Group of 77)

I. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The overall reform proposal aims at strengthening the role of the United Nations and of its supreme organ, the General Assembly, in the economic and social fields which are of the highest importance for achieving peace and international security through international co-operation and promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedoms.

The General Assembly, as the supreme organ of the United Nations system, remains the principal forum for policy-making and for the harmonization of international action in respect of international economic, social and related problems, as established in the Charter and relevant General Assembly resolutions.

As a result of the overall reform proposal outlined in this paper, the Second and Third Committees should take the necessary steps to adjust their work to the changes deriving from it. These adjustments imply that the Second and Third Committees shall review their agendas, and the duration of their sessions.

Both Committees shall consider, inter alia, those matters brought to the attention of the General Assembly by the Council or directly by any Member State.

II. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

In exercising its functions and power under the Charter and fulfilling its role as set out in the relevant General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions, the Council, under the authority of the Assembly or in the performance of such functions as may be assigned to it by the Assembly, should concentrate on its responsibilities:

(a) The Economic and Social Council shall serve as the central forum for the substantive co-ordination of international economic and social issues of a global or interdisciplinary nature and for the formulation of policy recommendations thereon addressed to Member States and to the United Nations system as a whole;

(b) The Council shall monitor and evaluate the implementation of overall strategies, policies and priorities established by the General Assembly in the economic, social and related fields, and shall ensure the harmonization and coherent practical operational implementation, on an integrated basis, of relevant policy decisions and recommendations emanating from the United Nations conferences and other forums within the United Nations system after their approval by the General Assembly and/or the Economic and Social Council;

(c) The Council shall ensure the overall co-ordination of all activities of the United Nations system in the economic, social and related fields and, to that end, the implementation of priorities established by the General Assembly for the system as a whole;

(d) Such implementation shall include the elaboration of guidelines and priorities for the preparation of the introduction of the medium-term plan in the economic, social and related fields, as well as a thorough review of it for submission to the General Assembly;

(e) The Council shall recommend to the General Assembly the priorities for the programme budget of the organization in the economic and social fields;

(f) The Council shall recommend to the General Assembly the overall priorities and guidelines for operational activities throughout the United Nations system, and carry out comprehensive policy reviews.

#### Organization and programme of work

The Council continues to organize its programme of work on a biennial basis and provide for frequent subject-oriented sessions spread throughout the year.

In formulating its biennial programme of work, the Council shall decide on the schedule and agenda for its subject-oriented sessions which would, inter alia, deal with issues of the subsidiary bodies it has subsumed.

The Council shall meet in plenary as well as in sessional committees constituting:

- (i) The first (economic) committee;
- (ii) The second (social) committee;
- (iii) The third (operational activities and programming) committee, which will consider the reports of all funds, programmes, governing bodies and institutions of the United Nations system involved in operational activities and programming questions, with a view to co-ordinating, and recommending priorities and guidelines for those activities;

There shall be a high-level segment which will be part of the regular session of the Council.

The Council shall meet, in addition to the subject-oriented sessions as set out above, at an organizational and a regular session.

The Council shall set the periodicity of its sessions and shall organize its programme of work in the light of its new structure and responsibilities.

The Council shall not meet during the regular session of the General Assembly.

The agenda of the Council's session may be allocated as follows:

- (a) Organizational session:

- (i) Consideration of modalities for the implementation of the relevant decisions adopted by the General Assembly;
- (ii) Organization of work for its regular session;
  - (b) Regular session:
    - (i) Consideration of items on the biennial agenda and adoption of recommendations thereon;
    - (ii) Consideration (transmission) of the report of the Trade and Development Board;
    - (iii) Consideration of the reports of the subsidiary bodies which report to or through the Council;
  - (c) Subject-oriented sessions.

Consideration of specific issues including, inter alia, those that have been subsumed by the Council.

The Council shall propose the most appropriate dates for the meetings of the bodies reporting to it so that it could consider the reports of all those bodies in a timely and effective manner.

When considering the policy aspects of items on its agenda, the Council shall, at the same time, deal with all relevant reports of organs, bodies and agencies of the United Nations system, so as to ensure effective substantive co-ordination in economic and social fields. In this regard, the Council shall receive consolidated reports on the various social, economic and related issues submitted by relevant bodies and agencies of the United Nations system or prepared by the Council's secretariat, as appropriate. A world economic and social survey shall be issued annually and will be a basis for discussions at the Council.

The Council shall draw up its biennial programme of work, including the subject-oriented sessions, in good time to allow for the preparation of substantive analytical reports and their submission by all relevant organs and agencies of the United Nations system to the President of the Council for a given year in order to enable the Council's secretariat to integrate all inputs received, on a given issue, in a consolidated report for consideration at the respective session.

The Council should, to the maximum extent possible, refrain from establishing new subsidiary bodies, taking into account that subject-oriented sessions could undertake the task that may be assigned to a new body.

The Council shall assume direct responsibility for carrying out the preparatory work for ad hoc conferences convened by the Council or the General Assembly.

The Council shall prepare, for consideration at the forty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly, a thorough review of the relationship between the United Nations and the specialized agencies in order to enable it to fulfil its overall co-ordination functions under Articles 63, 64 and 66 of the Charter.

The Secretary-General and the executive heads of the organizations of the United Nations system should participate more actively in the deliberations of the Council and should provide all assistance to the Council in accordance with the general and specific directives.

The Council shall assume, to the maximum extent possible, direct responsibility for performing the functions of its subsidiary bodies in the economic and social fields; these bodies would accordingly be discontinued or their terms of reference redefined or regrouped. The regional commissions should continue in being.

The criteria for the possibility for the Council to perform the responsibility and the role of its subsidiary bodies are:

- (i) The need for application of the same general principles to the subsidiary bodies of the Council in both the economic and social fields;
- (ii) The subsuming by the Council of its subsidiary bodies should not over-burden its agenda and should ensure appropriate attention and consideration by the Council of the respective issues;
- (iii) Highly technical functions of some subsidiary bodies and expert groups may not be entrusted to the Council.

As a consequence of its new and enhanced role and responsibilities as set out above, the Economic and Social Council shall consist of all Members of the United Nations.

### III. SECRETARIAT SUPPORT STRUCTURE FOR THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

- (a) A separate and identifiable secretariat for the Council shall be provided;
- (b) The new Council secretariat shall provide substantive as well as relevant conference services and facilities to the Council. Therefore, the secretariat shall be adequately staffed at both the Professional and General Service levels, in strict observance with the principle of equitable geographical representation; Professional staff should be of the highest quality in all the disciplines and issues dealt with by the Council, so as to provide the best possible assistance to the Council in accordance with its new functions;
- (c) The Council's secretariat shall, inter alia, collate, consolidate and produce, as appropriate, the reports requested to be submitted to the Council, with conclusions, as necessary;

The Council's secretariat shall be composed in such a way as to be capable of preparing requested substantive and analytical reports of a global or interdisciplinary nature covering both policy and co-ordination aspects for consideration by the Council; thereby enabling substantive co-ordination by the Council;

(d) A periodic evaluation and appraisal of the quality and content of reports prepared for the Council shall be made;

(e) Reports submitted to the Council shall be standard format to facilitate reading and consideration by all delegations.

#### IV. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

The views and proposals of the Trade and Development Board on its functions and responsibilities as set out in informal paper TDB/1154 of 23 November 1987, will be incorporated in the final recommendations of the Special Commission.

It is also recommended that the substantive debate on the interrelated issues in the Trade and Development Board take place at its spring session with a corresponding change in the date of the autumn session of the Trade and Development Board.

#### V. OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

The implementation of operational activities by the United Nations system and its review should aim to promote the following:

(a) The promotion of self-reliance of the developing countries in building up, inter alia, their productive capacity and their indigenous resources and by developing internalized and self-sustaining managerial, technical, institutional, administrative and research capabilities required in the development process and within the socio-cultural context of each recipient country;

(b) Utilization of external technical co-operation and assistance should be for the benefit of the developing countries, at their request and in accordance with their own national plans, objectives and priorities;

(c) The overall orientation of operational activities should reflect fully the overall strategies, policies and priorities of the General Assembly and the Council;

(d) The achievement of optimum efficiency and the reduction of administrative costs in operational activities for development, with a consequent increase in the proportion of resources available to meet the assistance requirements of recipient countries;

(e) A real increase in the flow of resources for such activities on a predictable, continued and assured basis.

The Council, as envisaged in General Assembly resolution 32/197, should reassert itself and carry out the co-ordination function of all operational activities of the United Nations system, setting priorities and giving policy guidance to all the funding and executive bodies.

The various intergovernmental governing bodies should primarily concentrate on implementing with effectiveness the policy guidance and priorities given by the Council and the General Assembly, as well as on programming, managing and efficiently utilizing the available resources to each body. Overall priorities and policy guidance should be established by the General Assembly based on the recommendations drawn by the Council.

Measures designed to enable the Council to assume its co-ordination functions would be included.

The Third Committee of the Council shall, inter alia, deal with both policy and co-ordination issues on an annual basis (substantive co-ordination).

The Third Committee of the Council shall, in addition, meet every three years to review at a global level the progress made in the operational activities field in fulfilling the objectives mentioned above and following the policy guidance of the General Assembly. The conclusions and recommendations of these triennial discussions will be reported to the General Assembly.

The other two years of each triennium, the Council shall monitor the implementation of the guidelines and policies established by the General Assembly and make recommendations in view of their full implementation. It shall also concentrate on providing clear guidelines on a thematic basis so as to avoid often conflicting priorities by agencies in the same sector. The Council Committee on Operational Activities should have before it on a thematic basis:

- (a) Conclusions from other Council Committees based on discussions of the consolidated reports;
- (b) Reports from the various governing bodies, funding and executing agencies;
- (c) Consolidated reports designed to facilitate sectorial integrated review;
- (d) Reports of the intergovernmental bodies relating to their specific areas of operational activities.

The Council's co-ordinating role in this field should concentrate on:

- (a) Reviewing and adjusting the programming process of operational activities so as to improve the efficient utilization of resources at a systematic level, simplify, harmonize and adapt this process to the needs of recipient countries and co-ordinate in a sectorial approach the activities of the various institutions involved;

(b) Issues on improving the field co-ordination of operational activities by reviewing the procedure for appointing the resident co-ordinator and enhance its functioning on the basis of the needs of recipient countries and in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions.

The Council (Third Committee) should design tools for monitoring harmonization, evaluation and to ensure co-ordination of the entire system for operational activities.

The secretariat support structure should be strengthened so as to create capability to prepare reports and evaluations of different aspects of operational activities. UNCTAD would play a key role in the interrelated areas of money, finance and trade and other case programmes like economic co-operation among developing countries and the Substantial New Programme of Action.

Member States should endeavour to strengthen their level of participation in the Council Committee on Operational Activities.

The Council should clarify the role of and relationship between funding and executing agencies.

The role and function of the Bureau of the Second and Third Committees of the Council and other relevant bodies should be clearly defined.

#### Secretariat support structures

The secretariat functions and structures of the funding bodies in charge of operational activities for development shall be reviewed by the Economic and Social Council in 1989, taking into account, inter alia, the following:

(a) The need for reducing substantially the administrative costs and maximizing the level of financial resources devoted to the projects;

(b) The need for rationalizing and streamlining the secretariat support structures in view of achieving the highest possible level of decentralization and of transparency of its activities;

(c) The need to comply with the principle of equitable geographical distribution;

(d) The need to consolidate the secretariat functions for all aspects related to policy analysis, study and research in the field of operational activities for development in the Economic and Social Council secretariat structure.

Delegations of Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

The basic objectives of reform should be:

(a) To strengthen the activities of the United Nations and the United Nations system in economic and social fields, to bring those activities in line with the realities of interdependence of countries and issues in the world economy, as well as to make them more action-oriented and more responsive to practical interests of Member States;

(b) To improve co-ordination of the activities of the United Nations and the United Nations system in those fields in order to allow for effective search for common and practical solutions to the economic and social problems on the basis of a coherent approach reflecting their interlinkages;

(c) To rationalize the present United Nations structure in those fields accordingly.

In order to facilitate the achievement of those objectives it is suggested to consider, inter alia, the following:

1. To strengthen the role and functions of the Council in:

(a) Review and assessment of the world economic and social situation and identification of substantive areas which need multilateral consideration and action;

(b) Strengthening the role of the Council in promotion of multilateral co-operation in solving international economic, social and related problems;

(c) Promotion of an integrated approach to both economic and social development;

(d) Substantive co-ordination of economic and social programmes of the United Nations and the specialized agencies;

(e) Overall monitoring of the follow-up to relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions;

2. To establish that all United Nations bodies in the social and economic fields should report to the Council as the final authority. This would help to avoid repetitive discussion of the same reports by the United Nations General Assembly. In this case, the work of the General Assembly on economic and social issues could be shortened and could concentrate on consideration of the consolidated annual report of the Council and on examination of major economic and social problems of a global dimension in order to work out mutually acceptable ways and means of solving such problems.



3. To improve co-ordination of general debates among the Council, the Second Committee of the General Assembly and the Trade and Development Board. In principle, general debate in the Trade and Development Board should concentrate on the sectors of trade and development and the related issues of money, finance, debt, etc., the Council's general debate should be structured on the basis of sectoral inputs (from the Trade and Development Board and other key bodies) and should be aimed at developing a system-wide integrated approach to international economic and social policy with its intersectoral and regional dimensions. The debates in the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly should be centred on major global economic and social issues requiring priority attention of the international community, including those highlighted in the report of the Council.

4. To restructure the sessional committees of the Council on the basis of organic merger and integration of substantive and co-ordination functions. Its sessional committees (economic, social and on operational activities) should not repeat the debates already held in the subsidiary bodies, but rather concentrate on working out coherent recommendations on the basis of a comprehensive analysis of specific proposals contained in the reports of those bodies.

5. To ensure effective co-ordination by the Council of all United Nations operational activities through, inter alia, allocation of this function to one of its sessional committees which would be entrusted with working out policy recommendations on the principles and practical conduct of those activities.

6. To ensure that the work of the Council provides for elaboration of action-oriented recommendations on an integrated approach to economic and social development and co-operation, as well as for an accountable follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of those recommendations. To facilitate this, it would be feasible, inter alia, to consider the following:

(a) To ensure that the basic documentation annually submitted by the Secretariat to the Council facilitates an integrated discussion of economic and social issues, taking into account, inter alia, the title of the general debate item on the agenda of the Council, which is "General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments";

(b) Whenever several draft resolutions are submitted by sessional committees on the same broad sectoral issue, they should be, as a rule, merged at the plenary level in order to provide the United Nations and its system with a coherent policy guidance on the issue;

(c) Secretariat support structure should reflect the need for the Council to exercise more vigorously an integrated approach to economic and social issues, including an improved policy-planning and co-ordinating role of the Director-General's office.

7. To strengthen the management role of the Bureau, in particular in such fields as elaboration of draft programme of work, allocation of items, monitoring the work of the Secretariat related to implementation of Council decisions, ensuring effective follow-up, timely preparation of documentation, etc.

8. Consideration could also be given to holding, whenever feasible, informal meetings of members of the Council Bureau with members of the bureaux of other organs and specialized agencies. Such meetings could be arranged with no financial implications, when schedule and venue of various sessions so permit, or they could be financed from the funds allocated for intersecretariat co-ordination.

9. Feasibility of participation of the Council bureau members in the work of ACC should also be explored in order to promote constructive system-wide dialogue.

10. To take practical measures on the basis of the United Nations Charter in order to strengthen the role of the Council in co-ordination of social and economic activities of the United Nations system. In particular, as a matter of principle and in accordance with Article 64 of the Charter, United Nations resolutions on major economic and social issues should be brought by the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Council and/or by the Secretary-General to the attention of relevant organs of the specialized agencies with a view to obtaining regular reports from them, including reports on the steps taken to give effect to General Assembly and Council resolutions and recommendations.

11. To strengthen the role of regional commissions as unique multidisciplinary forums responsible for development of multilateral co-operation within and among respective regions. To achieve a better integration of regional aspects in the Council's consideration of global economic and social problems.

12. To oblige all United Nations subsidiary bodies in economic and social fields to reflect in their regular reports the measures taken in implementation of General Assembly and Council resolutions and decisions.

13. To rationalize the reporting to the Council by subsidiary bodies through, inter alia, clustering major system-wide economic and social activities (medium-term plan structure could be used) and designating a lead body responsible for the preparation of a consolidated report of substantive work and level of co-ordination achieved in the respective field; such a report should also contain action-oriented recommendations. The Director-General's office might have a role in assisting in the preparation of such reports.

14. To continue and improve the application of biennial approach to the work of the Council and its sectoral subsidiary machinery.

15. To rationalize and synchronize the cycles of meetings of the Council and all subsidiary bodies so that to ensure timely submission of relevant reports to the Council and to allow for a meaningful in-depth consideration by the Council of their recommendations in a coherent and co-ordinated manner.

16. When discussing measures to rationalize and simplify the United Nations subsidiary structure in economic and social fields to consider ways and means to increase the input of professional expertise into the United Nations work on sectoral issues. Such professional input should not in any way substitute for decision-making functions at an intergovernmental level, but should rather help Governments and the Council to take fuller advantage from expert analysis and advice.

17. The number and duration of annual sessions of the Council (recommendation 2 of the report of the Group of 18) as well as membership of the Council should be considered in the overall context of the final outcome of the study by the Special Commission, when it would be clear, whether a balanced approach has been ensured to all bodies under review - in economic, social and human rights fields.

18. To ensure implementation of all United Nations decisions adopted in recent years concerning the organization and methods of work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies, including decisions on rationalization of documentation.

Delegation of the United States of America

The reform effort should aim at reducing the number of layers in the present United Nations system. This multi-tiered structure causes unneeded repetition of work (documentation, meeting time, debates, etc.) which produces no measurable increase in the output of the organization. A more streamlined system would include the following roles for the major bodies:

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

As the highest body of the United Nations system, the General Assembly will inevitably continue to deal with economic and social issues. However, it should do so in a more focused, limited fashion, taking no more than two or three major issues each year. These issues would be developed at the Council:

(a) Second and Third Committees would meet for two/three weeks at the end of each General Assembly;

(b) Second Committee would hold a general debate and focus on one or two other key issues recommended to it by the Council;

(c) Third Committee would discuss human rights (reported directly from the Human Rights Commission) and one or two other topics recommended by the Council.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

The Council will become the central United Nations organ for in-depth discussion of economic and social issues and for the co-ordination of United Nations activities in these areas. It will serve as the primary forum for policy-oriented debate and will be required to take final action on most issues. The Council will also select the limited number of issues to be referred to the General Assembly each year, refining these issues and preparing concise documentation for General Assembly use. To fulfil these functions, the following modifications would be recommended:

(a) The Council would hold one substantive session each year. Deliberations would be held in New York from early September to mid-November each year;

(b) The fall session would be issue oriented, with 5-8 day segments devoted to specific topics. The topics covered in these sessions would be determined in accordance with the need to biennialize the Council work programme. There would be no general debate;

(c) These issue-oriented sessions would allow the Council to assume responsibility for many of its subsidiary bodies, such as:

(i) Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development;

- (ii) Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy;
  - (iii) Committee on Natural Resources;
  - (iv) Commission for Social Development;
  - (v) Commission on Transnational Corporations;
- (d) Operational activities would also be discussed in the Council as a special segment on a biennial basis;
- (e) Macro-economic issues would be discussed first at the Trade and Development Board which would report its findings to the Council. The Trade and Development Board would meet annually in the spring. Its meetings would include a general debate and discussion on specific macro-economic issues. The Trade and Development Report would also be merged with the World Economic Survey;
- (f) The Council would be responsible for taking final action on all of the issues discussed at its fall session. A brief "executive summary" of its decisions would be compiled for submission to the General Assembly;
- (g) The Council would also select two or three key items for direct action by the General Assembly. These items would be determined at the organizational session of the Council to allow sufficient time for preparation of documents and for input from other bodies (e.g., the Committee for Development Planning);
- (h) The Council would also hold an organizational session in February in Geneva. This meeting would be used to determine the agenda for the fall Council session, to select the action items for the next General Assembly and to co-ordinate United Nations activity in the economic and social fields in light of the resolutions passed at the last General Assembly;
- (i) At the organizational session, much of the co-ordinating function should be done by a smaller group such as an expanded bureau.

Annex III.A

INFORMAL CONSOLIDATED DISCUSSION PAPER PRESENTED BY THE CHAIRMAN  
ON 21 APRIL 1988

INTRODUCTION

1. The review of the functioning of the intergovernmental machinery in the economic and social sectors and its secretariat support should aim at achieving the following objectives:

(a) To strengthen the role of the United Nations as an indispensable multilateral instrument for the promotion of international co-operation for economic and social development;

(b) To ensure that the activities of the United Nations in the economic and social sectors will be more responsive to the needs of Member States;

(c) To ensure that these activities will be more coherent and reflect better the realities of interdependence among countries and issues;

(d) To enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the functioning of the intergovernmental machinery and its secretariat support through appropriate rationalization and streamlining.

2. It is recognized that in order to strengthen the United Nations in the economic and social sectors as a whole, it is important to strengthen the role of the General Assembly as the supreme body of the United Nations and the pivotal role of the Economic and Social Council as envisaged in the Charter. A more effective Council would complement and strengthen the respective roles of the General Assembly and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, as well as their subsidiary machinery.

3. It is also recognized that the restructuring measures as outlined below cannot by themselves ensure the achievement of the above-mentioned objectives unless accompanied by the necessary political will on the part of Member States to make better use of the United Nations as a viable forum for international co-operation.

4. Reform of the United Nations is a continuing process. The present exercise should be seen in that context and should benefit from past experiences, including the implementation of decisions adopted. Restructuring measures should be devised in such a manner as to ensure their full translation into practice. An appropriate monitoring device should also be envisaged.

## I. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### A. Functions

5. The General Assembly, being the supreme body of the United Nations system, should carry out its political role in providing policy guidance for the activities in the economic and social sectors in accordance with the provisions of the Charter.
6. The Assembly should establish the overall strategies, policies and priorities in the economic, social and related fields for the United Nations system as a whole.
7. The Assembly should, while respecting the sovereign right of Member States to raise major economic and social problems of global dimension, focus on a limited number of policy issues each year. The Economic and Social Council could assist in the identification of such issues.

### B. Inputs

8. The General Assembly should hold a general debate on macro-economic issues on the basis of the reports of the Council, the Trade and Development Board and the subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly.
9. The General Assembly should receive a consolidated report on the work of the Council. The consolidated report should highlight principal issues and draw the attention of the General Assembly to issues on which action is required. The General Assembly would, where necessary, endorse the Council decisions in order to enhance their legislative impact, or formulate policy at the global level.

### C. Agenda and programme of work

10. As a result of the overall reform which, inter alia, envisages the enhancement of the Council's ability to assist the Assembly in discharging effectively its responsibilities in the economic, social and related fields, the General Assembly would need to make adjustments in the agendas and programmes of work of its Second and Third Committees.
11. The process of biennialization of the programme of work of the Second Committee and improved synchronization with that of the Economic and Social Council should remain under review in order to bring about necessary improvements.
12. The question of the agenda and work programme for the Third Committee, which deals with social and humanitarian issues, needs to be similarly addressed. There is considerable room for biennialization of its work programme and greater synchronization of its activities vis-à-vis the Council with a view to avoiding apparent duplication.
13. In the context of the work of the Third Committee, the report of the Commission on Human Rights, which is presently received by the General Assembly after full consideration by the Council, should be transmitted directly for the consideration of the General Assembly, thus eliminating the existing duplication.

D. Output

14. The Secretary-General should be requested to prepare a consolidated report on the decisions adopted by the General Assembly in the economic, social and related fields, highlighting matters which require action by relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system. This report should also indicate, in an integrated manner, the priorities laid down by the General Assembly as reflected in those decisions. Such reports should be made available to the organizations of the system and to the Council at its organizational sessions.

II. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

A. Mandates and responsibilities

15. The Economic and Social Council should exercise fully and effectively the functions and power entrusted to it by the Charter and relevant resolutions of the General Assembly. For that purpose, it should concentrate on carrying out the following responsibilities:

(a) To serve as the central forum for the substantive co-ordination of international economic and social issues of a global or interdisciplinary nature and for the formulation of policy recommendations thereof addressed to Member States and to the United Nations system as a whole;

(b) To monitor and evaluate the implementation of overall strategies, policies and priorities established by the General Assembly in the economic, social and related fields, and to ensure the harmonization and coherent practical operational implementation, on an integrated basis, of relevant policy decisions and recommendations emanating from the United Nations conferences and other forums within the United Nations system after their approval by the Assembly and/or the Economic and Social Council;

(c) To ensure the overall co-ordination of all activities of the United Nations system in the economic, social and related fields and, to that end, the implementation of priorities established by the Assembly for the system as a whole;

(d) To elaborate guidelines and priorities for the preparation of the introduction of the medium-term plan in the economic, social and related fields, as well as a thorough review of it for submission to the Assembly;

(e) To recommend to the Assembly the priorities for the programme budget of the United Nations in the economic and social fields;

(f) To recommend to the Assembly the overall priorities and guidelines for operational activities throughout the United Nations system, and carry out comprehensive policy reviews.



B. Working relationship with the General Assembly

16. There should be a co-ordinated and complementary working arrangement between the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, taking fully into account the pre-eminence of the Assembly as the supreme organ of the United Nations system in the economic and social fields and the desirability for the Assembly and the Council to have respective focuses. Overlapping could thus be avoided.

17. For that purpose, the Council should effectively carry out a managerial role in reviewing the work and the activities of the United Nations in the economic and social areas both at the intergovernmental and Secretariat levels.

18. The Council should be entrusted with the authority to take final decisions on reports of subsidiary machinery which hitherto reported to or through it to the Assembly, with the exception of the Trade and Development Board, which would continue to report through it to the General Assembly. The Council should also identify a limited number of policy issues for consideration by the Assembly each year. The Council should refine such issues and prepare concise documentation for the Assembly.

19. Henceforth, there should be two general debates each year on macro-economic issues, one of a more specialized nature, focusing on the interrelated issues of trade, money, finance and development, to take place in the Trade and Development Board in the spring, and the second with wider perspective to take place in the autumn in the General Assembly. The Economic and Social Council should address specific themes in its discussions during the high-level segment of its regular session, 1/ focusing on issues which are multidisciplinary in nature, and paying particular attention to the co-ordination and operational aspects of such issues. 2/ The discussion of the Council should aim at developing a system-wide integrated approach to international economic and social issues, taking fully into account their intersectoral and regional dimensions.

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1/ See para. 33 below.

2/ It was suggested that the following options could be considered for the Secretariat inputs:

(a) The Trade and Development Report should continue to be available to the Trade and Development Board in the spring with the World Economic Survey to be broadened into a world economic and social survey which would serve as a background paper both for the Council and the Assembly.

(b) The Trade and Development Report and the World Economic Survey should be merged. This new report will, in the first instance, be considered by the Trade and Development Board in the spring. It will be upgraded and broadened for the general debate in the General Assembly in the autumn.

C. Relations with the subsidiary machinery

20. The Council should discharge more effectively its responsibility in reviewing, monitoring and co-ordinating the work of its subsidiary bodies. It should translate relevant inputs from these bodies into concrete policy decisions, provide policy guidelines, and monitor the effective implementation by those bodies of the Council's policy decisions. While strengthening the Council, measures should also be adopted to ensure the vitality of the subsidiary bodies through increasing the participation and inputs of representatives and/or individuals with the relevant expertise and improving the quality of meetings.

21. The Council should assume, to the maximum extent possible, direct responsibility for performing the intergovernmental functions of some subsidiary bodies in the economic and social fields. These bodies will, accordingly, be discontinued or their terms of reference redefined or regrouped. 3/

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3/ The following criteria have been identified for bodies whose functions would be assumed directly by the Council:

(a) The need for application of the same general principles to the subsidiary bodies of the Council in both the economic and social fields;

(b) The subsuming by the Council of its subsidiary bodies should not overburden its agenda and should ensure appropriate attention and consideration by the Council of the respective issues;

(c) Highly technical functions of some subsidiary bodies and experts groups may not be entrusted to the Council;

(d) The need to strengthen, where possible, expertise and analytical capabilities at the technical expert level, including better utilization of established United Nations capabilities.

The following bodies have been identified as deserving special attention:

(i) Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development (EEC, United States, Japan, Norway);

(ii) Intergovernmental Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy (EEC, United States, Japan, Norway);

(iii) Committee on Natural Resources (EEC, United States, Japan, Norway);

(iv) Commission for Social Development (EEC, United States, Japan);

(v) High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (EEC, Norway);

22. The Council should convene subject-oriented sessions to deal with issues of the subsidiary bodies it has subsumed. Expert groups could be convened as necessary, to provide the Council with technical inputs.

23. The Council should, to the maximum extent possible, refrain from establishing new subsidiary bodies, taking into account that subject-oriented sessions could undertake the tasks that may be assigned to new bodies. For their part, subsidiary bodies of the Assembly and the Council should refrain from creating new subordinate sessional or intersessional groups without prior concurrence of the Council.

#### D. Work of the Council

##### 1. Co-ordination

24. In order to enable the Council to carry out more effectively the above-mentioned responsibilities, the following considerations should be taken fully into account:

(a) System-wide co-ordination should be an integral part of the work of the Economic and Social Council. The consideration of co-ordination issues should be integrated into the relevant substantive items of the Council's agenda;

(b) When considering the policy aspects of issues/items on its agenda, the Council should also examine all relevant inputs from organizations of the system, so as to ensure substantive co-ordination. The Council should receive consolidated reports from its subsidiary bodies or as appropriate from the Council secretariat. Such reports should highlight both the substantive and co-ordination issues in their respective fields of activities;

(c) Co-ordination instruments such as cross-organizational programmes of analyses for/cross-organizational reviews of medium-term plans, CPC/ACC Joint Meetings and reports from ACC and its subsidiary machinery should be adapted to

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(continued)

(vi) Commission on Transnational Corporations (United States);

(vii) World Food Council (Norway);

It was also suggested that some of the functions of the above-mentioned bodies could be assumed by other relevant United Nations bodies. For example, the natural resources questions of the Committee on Natural Resources could be transferred partly to UNCTAD/Committee on Commodities (minerals) and partly to UNEP (water) and partly taken up by the Economic and Social Council itself (energy). The co-ordination function of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries could be absorbed by the Economic and Social Council and its more operational functions transferred to the UNDP Governing Council. In many cases, parts of the task which at present are undertaken by global bodies (e.g. in the field of TCDC and natural resources) should be delegated to the regional commissions as the main development centres in their respective regions.

enable the Council to effectively carry out its co-ordination functions. Representatives of organizations of the system, including the regional commissions, should participate actively in the relevant deliberations of the Council, particularly in the high-level segment of the Council;

(d) The Council should continue to be supported by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination in carrying out its co-ordination responsibilities. The respective areas of responsibilities of the Council and CPC should be defined more clearly, with the Council providing the necessary political and legislative authority which CPC recommendations lack. 4/

## 2. Operational activities

25. The role of the Council in operational activities for development should be strengthened. It should set priorities and provide policy guidance to all relevant governing bodies and executing organizations. It should also exercise a cross-organizational oversight role to ensure that individual organization's programmes are harmonized. The following guidelines could be envisaged for the future work of the Council and relevant governing bodies in the area of operational activities for development:

(a) Overall priorities and policy guidance should be established by the General Assembly based on the recommendations drawn up by the Council. Various governing bodies should focus on the effective implementation of these priorities and policies, in addition to their responsibilities in the management and programming of resources available to them; 5/

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4/ It was suggested that the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, in accordance with its role as the main subsidiary organ for planning, programming and co-ordination, and in view of its new responsibilities in the field of budgeting, could focus its co-ordinating efforts on the United Nations itself (intra-United Nations co-ordination). The Council on the other hand could focus, as envisaged in the Charter, on the co-ordination of programme activities on a system-wide basis (inter-organizational co-ordination).

5/ It was suggested by a group of delegations that the primary responsibility for programme policy decisions and the review of programme implementation should remain with the governing organs of the individual programmes and agencies concerned. The role of the Council should be defined along the lines of the provisions of General Assembly resolution 42/196, i.e. monitoring of the functioning of the intersecretariat co-ordinating mechanisms and acting on policy proposals made by the Director-General to facilitate the solution of problems encountered in ACC, defining a more effective programming process overseeing the simplification and harmonization of delivery and the reporting procedures of the United Nations organs and agencies and re-examining the arrangements in the field in order to take action on the resident co-ordinator's role and on the co-location of field offices.

(b) The Council should, inter alia, deal with policy and co-ordination issues on an annual basis (substantive co-ordination). It should focus each year on a limited number of priority issues which require co-ordination or harmonization of action among relevant organizations of the system. The executive heads of those organizations should be invited to participate in the discussions;

(c) The Council should, in addition, undertake every three years 6/ a comprehensive policy review. The conclusions and recommendations of these triennial reviews would be reported to the General Assembly;

(d) The Council, in the other two years of each triennium, should monitor the implementation of the priorities and policies established by the General Assembly and make recommendations for their full implementation. It should also concentrate on providing clear guidelines on a thematic basis so as to avoid conflicting priorities in the same sector.

(e) Economic and Social Council's co-ordinating role in this field should concentrate on:

- (i) Reviewing and adjusting the programming process of operational activities so as to improve the efficient utilization of resources system-wide, simplify, harmonize and adapt this process to the needs of recipient countries and co-ordinate in a sectorial approach the activities of the various institutions;
- (ii) Improving the field co-ordination of operational activities by reviewing the procedure for appointing resident co-ordinators and enhancing their functioning on the basis of the needs of recipient countries and in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions;

(f) The Economic and Social Council (Third Committee) should design tools for monitoring harmonization, evaluation and ensuring co-ordination of the entire system for operational activities. The follow-up to the recommendations of the Council should be monitored closely and organizations concerned should be requested to report to subsequent sessions of the Council on their follow-up action;

(g) The Secretariat support structure should be strengthened to prepare reports and evaluations of different aspects of operational activities. The UNCTAD secretariat would play a role in the interrelated areas of money, finance and trade and other case programmes such as economic co-operation among developing countries and the Substantial New Programme of Action;

(h) Member States should endeavour to strengthen their level of participation in the proposed Committee on Operational Activities for Development;

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6/ It was suggested by a group of delegations that this comprehensive policy review should take place henceforth on a biennial basis.

(i) The Council should clarify the role of and relationship between funding and executing agencies;

(j) At the operational level, the role of the resident co-ordinators should be strengthened. The resident co-ordinators should report regularly to the Council through the Director-General on actual constraints which they face in pursuing co-ordination in the field.

### 3. Medium-term plan and programme budget

26. The Council should provide the appropriate policy guidance and priorities for the preparation of the medium-term plan in the economic and social sectors, particularly its introduction. The Council should also review the outline of the proposed programme budget, together with the comments of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, with a view to ensuring the effective translation into the proposed programme budget of priorities laid down in the medium-term plan.

27. The Council could convene once every six years at an appropriate time a subject-oriented session for the preparation of the medium-term plan.

28. CPC could be requested to examine both the content and the manner in which the medium-term plan is prepared in order to make the plan and its introduction a more effective instrument for planning and co-ordination in the economic and social sectors.

### 4. Regional commissions

29. In accordance with the global development strategy and policies adopted by the General Assembly, the Council should put greater emphasis on the consideration of the reports of the regional commissions with a view to effectively integrating the regional inputs into the global discussion of substantive issues. The Council should also review and co-ordinate on a global basis interregional co-operation among the regional commissions. Regional commissions should draw the attention of the Council to questions with global implications or which are of relevance to other regions.

30. The Council should examine the structure and the work programmes of the regional commissions, including their relationships with UNDP and other relevant organizations of the system in the area of operational activities for development.

### 5. Ad hoc conferences

31. The Council should assume direct responsibility for carrying out the preparatory work for ad hoc conferences convened by the Council and the General Assembly.

6. Programme and organization of work, including schedule of meetings

32. The Council should adopt, to the extent possible, a six-year plan for its work. This work plan should, to the extent possible, harmonize with the cycle of the medium-term plan of the United Nations. Such a plan should ensure that the Council will review in depth all sectors of the activities of the United Nations in the economic and social fields at least once during this period.

33. Within that context, the Council should continue to draw up its programme of work on a biennial basis, with subject-oriented sessions to be convened at appropriate times throughout each year. Such subject-oriented sessions should deal, inter alia, with issues of the subsidiary bodies whose functions it has assumed.

34. The Council should convene each year an organizational session in February in [New York/Geneva] and one regular session in [July/September] 7/ in addition to subject-oriented sessions. The regular session should be held in [New York/alternately in New York and Geneva].

35. For its regular session, the Council should, in addition to its plenary meetings, convene the following sessional committees:

- (a) First (Economic) Committee;
- (b) Second (Social) Committee;
- (c) Third (Operational Activities and Programming) Committee. 8/

The Council should devote a segment of its regular session to a high-level meeting on specific themes.

36. The work of the Council in a given year could be allocated in the following manner:

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7/ While one group of delegations suggested that the Council should not meet during the regular session of the General Assembly, some other delegations maintained that the Council's regular session should take place concurrently with the General Assembly in September/October immediately preceding the Second and Third Committees, the duration of which would be correspondingly shortened. This would maximize the opportunity for high-level participation in the work of the Council.

8/ It was suggested that these committees either in a formal or an informal setting should meet in advance of the regular session of the Council in order to make the necessary substantive preparation.

- (a) Organizational session:
- (i) Consider modalities for the implementation of relevant decisions adopted by the General Assembly and the Council; 9/
  - (ii) Review and approve a biennial programme of work, including the convening of subject-oriented sessions;
  - (iii) Organize the work of its regular session, including items to be considered during the high-level segment;
  - (iv) Identify two or three key items for direct consideration and action by the General Assembly;
  - (v) Review and approve the biennial calendar of meetings of the United Nations bodies in the economic and social sectors and the work programmes of its subsidiary bodies;
  - (vi) Elections and appointments.
- (b) Regular session: 10/
- (i) Consider items on the biennial agenda and adopt recommendations thereon, including reports of intergovernmental bodies reporting to or through it to the Assembly;

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9/ The Council should translate such decisions, as appropriate, into operational instructions for relevant United Nations intergovernmental and/or expert bodies in the economic and social sectors and statements of guidance for specialized agencies.

10/ The regular session of the Council would be organized in the following manner:

- (a) For the first two weeks it would consider and as much as possible take decisions on recommendations emanating from economic/social subsidiary bodies and those in the area of operational activities for development;
- (b) For the third week it would consider and take decisions on the social and economic sections of the medium-term plan and of the biennial programme budget and/or to convene a high-level segment of the plenary to consider selected issues to be identified at the organizational session;
- (c) A few days would be set aside to approve the executive report of the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly. This single and brief document would highlight the key economic and social policy issues (with recommendations from the Council) for consideration by the Assembly.



(ii) Consider and adopt an integrated "executive report" with executive summary for submission to the General Assembly.

(c) Subject-oriented sessions:

Consider specific issues including, inter alia, those subsumed by the Council.

37. The Economic and Social Council should draw up its biennial programme of work, including the subject-oriented sessions, in good time to allow for the preparation of substantive analytical reports and their submission by all relevant organizations of the United Nations system. This would allow the Council secretariat, in appropriate cases, to integrate all inputs received on a given issue in a consolidated report for consideration at the respective sessions.

38. The programme of work and schedule of meetings of intergovernmental bodies in the economic and social fields should be harmonized with those of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. For that purpose, the Council should discharge more effectively its functions in setting up the overall calendar of meetings and in its review of the work programmes of bodies reporting to it to allow the Council to consider reports of all those bodies in a timely, coherent and co-ordinated manner. In principle, all intergovernmental bodies in the economic and social sectors should convene their meetings each year in the [first five months/January-July period]. Such meetings should be scheduled in co-ordination with the timing of the relevant subject-oriented sessions of the Council.

39. The practice of biennialization should continue to apply to the work of the Council and its subsidiary machinery and, as appropriate, to meetings of its subsidiary bodies.

#### E. Reports and reporting procedures

40. The Council should receive consolidated reports on the various social, economic and related issues submitted by relevant bodies and agencies of the United Nations system or prepared by the Council secretariat, as appropriate. 11/

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11/ It was suggested that such reports should:

(a) Provide a system-wide overview and analysis of the latest developments in an item/sector and assess longer-term implications;

(b) Give particular attention to co-ordination issues;

(c) Monitor implementation of mandates and assess user benefits (where applicable);

(d) Outline select policy recommendations for possible incorporation into the Council's final "executive report" to the General Assembly.

41. The reports of the subsidiary bodies to the Council should be rationalized through, inter alia, clustering major system-wide economic and social activities and designating a lead body responsible for the preparation of a consolidated report. Such a report should contain action-oriented recommendations. The Secretariat should assist in the preparation of such reports.

42. All subsidiary bodies should reflect in their reports measures taken in the implementation of General Assembly and Council resolutions and decisions.

43. The Council should submit an executive report to the Assembly highlighting the key economic and social policy issues for its consideration, together with relevant recommendations of the Council. This consolidated report could be accompanied by a brief "executive summary" of its decisions, including those relating to the work of its subsidiary machinery.

#### F. Role of the Bureau of the Council

44. The role of the Bureau of the Council could be strengthened, in particular in such fields as elaboration of draft programmes of work, allocation of items, monitoring the work of the Secretariat related to implementation of Council decisions, ensuring effective follow-up, timely preparation of documentation, etc. The possibility of an enlarged Bureau could be considered. Consideration could also be given to holding, whenever feasible, informal meetings of members of the Council Bureau with members of the bureaux of other intergovernmental bodies, including the specialized agencies. Feasibility of participation of the Council Bureau members in the work of ACC should also be explored in order to promote a constructive system-wide dialogue.

#### G. Relationship with organizations of the system

45. Executive heads of the organizations of the United Nations system should participate more actively in the deliberations of the Council and should provide all assistance to the Council in accordance with the general and specific directives.

46. Executive heads of agencies of the system or their senior representatives should be encouraged to submit brief thematic reports/statements as well as to participate actively in informal discussions or thematic seminars to be convened by the Council.

47. In accordance with Article 64 of the Charter, the attention of relevant organizations of the system should be drawn to resolutions of the United Nations on major economic and social issues with a view to obtaining regular reports from them, including reports on the steps taken to give effect to those resolutions.

48. A close working relationship should be established between ACC and the Council secretariat.

49. The Council should prepare for consideration at the forty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly a thorough review of the relationship between the United Nations and the specialized agencies in order to enable it to fulfil its overall co-ordination functions under Articles 63, 64 and 66 of the Charter.

#### H. Membership

50. As a consequence of its new and enhanced role and responsibilities as set out above, the Economic and Social Council should consist of all States Members of the United Nations. 12/

#### I. Secretariat support

51. The present secretariat support structure in the economic and social sectors would need to be modified in line with the above-mentioned structural and reporting changes. There is need for a substantive secretariat support structure to properly service the restructured Economic and Social Council, particularly with respect to the preparation of reports to the Council as well as the preparation of the Council's own report to the General Assembly. For that purpose, the Secretary-General as chief administrator of the United Nations should be requested to make the necessary arrangements, taking into account the following considerations:

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12/ Some delegations were of the view that a change in the composition of the Council membership, like the proposed universalization, in itself would not bring about a profound and lasting improvement in achieving the purposes of the Charter in the economic and social fields. The question of a universal membership can only be discussed in the framework of a further-reaching, more radical reform package encompassing the General Assembly and its committees as well as UNCTAD/TDB. The creation of a new universal body would undermine the credibility of the system even further, unless it proved feasible to organize a built-in constitutional mechanism to enable the General Assembly to focus in a disciplined manner on a few major policy issues, based upon the preparatory work of the Council. The Council would then become responsible for much of the present agenda of the General Assembly and its committees and would have to hold its annual session during the Assembly session. It could imply, for example, that the Council should take final action on most economic issues and that the Assembly itself would focus on its deliberative functions through a general macro-economic debate.

(a) A separate and identifiable secretariat for the Council should be provided; 13/

(b) The new Economic and Social Council secretariat should provide substantive as well as relevant conference services and facilities to the Council. Therefore, the secretariat should be adequately staffed at both the Professional and General Service levels, in strict observance with the principle of equitable geographical representation. Professional staff should be of the highest quality in all the disciplines and issues dealt with by the Economic and Social Council, so as to provide the best possible assistance to the Council in accordance with its new functions;

(c) The secretariat of the Council should, inter alia, collate, consolidate and prepare, as appropriate, the reports for submission to it, with conclusions as necessary. The Council's secretariat should be capable of preparing substantive and analytical reports of a global or interdisciplinary nature covering both policy and co-ordination aspects for consideration by the Council, thereby enabling substantive co-ordination by it;

(d) A periodic evaluation and appraisal of the quality and content of reports prepared for the Council should be made;

(e) Reports submitted to the Council should be of a standard format to facilitate reading and consideration by all delegations;

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13/ A suggestion was made that the following restructuring measures could be explored:

(a) To consolidate as much as possible the capacity of the United Nations in the social field in Vienna, including relevant project-oriented and implementation units;

(b) To consolidate as much as possible the basic macro-economic analytical capabilities of secretariat units in Geneva;

(c) To decentralize to the extent possible responsibilities for the implementation of operational activities to the regional commissions;

(d) To consolidate all economic and social policy units into an Economic and Social Council department in New York. This department could have two main branches:

(i) Secretariat support for the Council;

(ii) Operational activities for development.

(f) Efforts should be made to co-ordinate the work of the secretariats in Vienna, Geneva and New York more effectively;

(g) The Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation should be strengthened to enable the Director-General to effectively carry out his responsibility for co-ordination, particularly in the area of operational activities for development.

### III. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

52. The views and proposals of the Trade and Development Board on its functions and responsibilities, as set out in informal paper TDB/1154 of 23 November 1987, adopted at the resumed thirty-fourth session of the Board could be endorsed.

53. In this respect, it may be appropriate to underscore some of those recommendations which have a direct bearing on the work of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

(a) In addition to serving as a main input for the debate of the Trade and Development Board on interdependence, the Trade and Development Report should be used as the main statement on overall policy issues covered by UNCTAD;

(b) To ensure the best use of UNCTAD reviews of the interdependence of economic issues, the Council could draw on, inter alia, these reviews in its discussion of economic and social policies and in the promotion of a more integrated approach to the economic and social aspects of development, and in the exercise of co-ordination and monitoring responsibilities.

54. The Trade and Development Board substantive debate on the interrelated macro-economic issues shall take place at its spring session. 14/ This debate shall concentrate on the sectors of trade and development and the related issues of money, finance, debt, etc.

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14/ It has also been suggested that the Board should hold one consolidated session each year in the spring.

Annex III.B

PAPER INTRODUCED BY THE CHAIRMAN ON 23 MAY 1988 AS A SUPPLEMENT  
TO THE INFORMAL CONSOLIDATED DISCUSSION PAPER PRESENTED BY THE  
CHAIRMAN ON 21 APRIL 1988

IV. SUBSIDIARY BODIES IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED AREAS

55. As appropriate, necessary steps should be taken by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and concerned subsidiary bodies in the economic, social and related fields, to implement the following:

(a) The Council should, at its organizational session each year, review the programme of work and agenda of its subsidiary bodies with a view to harmonizing the work programmes of the intergovernmental bodies in the economic, social and related areas. The review should ensure that the General Assembly and the Council are properly assisted in carrying out their Charter responsibilities. The Council should also in that context determine a biennialized calendar of conferences and meetings.

(b) The Council should review the membership of the subsidiary bodies in order to ensure equitable geographical representation and more effective participation.

(c) Agenda of subsidiary bodies should be rationalized through biennialization and the staggering of the consideration of some items, as well as the adoption of thematic approach in the organization of work. To the extent possible, the agenda for each session should be limited to no more than five substantive items.

(d) Arrangements should be made for subsidiary bodies to have, in principle, a single consolidated document under each substantive item. The Secretary-General should assist in achieving this objective.

(e) Steps should be taken to implement measures envisaged in the respective contributions and submissions to the Special Commission relating to rationalization and streamlining of work including those relating to schedule of meetings and the improvement in quality and reduction in volume of documentation.

(f) Timely submission of documents, particularly for meetings held away from headquarters, should be ensured.

56. Specific recommendations in regard to the subsidiary bodies are given below.

A. Regional Commissions 15/

57. Relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 32/197 should be fully implemented in order to allow the regional commissions to exercise their roles fully and effectively under the authority of the Economic and Social Council, as the main economic and social development centres within the United Nations system for their respective regions.
58. The Secretary-General, in his review of the Secretariat support structure, should enhance the multidisciplinary research capabilities of the regional commissions in order to enable them to integrate better economic and social analysis at the regional level.
59. Subregional co-operation should be strengthened and should be integrated more effectively into the activities of each region, taking fully into account the priorities of Governments concerned. For that purpose, efforts should be made, inter alia, to strengthen subregional offices, bearing in mind the specific objectives for which these regional offices were established.
60. The Economic and Social Council should integrate better the work of the regional commissions into intergovernmental discussions and policy-making at the global level. For that purpose, the Council should consider discussing relevant inputs of the regional commissions under its substantive items and, as appropriate, draw the attention of other intergovernmental bodies to relevant parts of the reports of the regional commissions.
61. The Economic and Social Council should promote more effectively interregional co-operation among the regional commissions so as to enable them to take better advantage of each other's experiences.
62. In executing projects, the regional commissions should utilize to the maximum extent possible the existing technical and support capabilities of organizations of the system in their respective regions. The Economic and Social Council, in its policy review of operational activities for development, should examine and further clarify the role of the regional commissions as executing agencies for inter-sectoral, subregional, regional and interregional projects as well as sectoral, subregional, regional and interregional projects which do not fall within the purview of the sectoral responsibilities of specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies. For that purpose, the Council should ensure close co-operation between the regional commissions and the organizations of the United Nations system and avoid any overlaps which may exist. The relationship between the regional commissions and UNDP in particular should be further strengthened. The regional commissions should be actively involved in the preparation of UNDP's inter-country programming exercises.

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<sup>15/</sup> See also paras. 29 and 30 of the informal consolidated discussion paper of 21 April 1988.

63. Existing joint units between the regional commissions and other organizations of the system should continue and if necessary be further strengthened. Such a practice should also be extended to other appropriate organizations.
64. The possibility of integrating relevant United Nations regional offices into the regional commissions, particularly UNEP, should be further explored.
65. The working relationship between the regional commissions and the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination should be strengthened in order to allow the Committee, in carrying out its responsibilities as envisaged in General Assembly resolution 41/213, to take better into account the priorities and decisions of the regional commissions as reflected in their biennial work programmes and medium-term plans.
66. The Secretary-General should fully implement the decentralization of resources and administrative authority from headquarters to the regional commissions as envisaged in General Assembly resolution 32/197.
67. The regional commissions should continue to strengthen their working relationship with other regional bodies. For that purpose, joint meetings held between the regional commissions and such organizations should continue to be governed by the rules of procedure of the United Nations.
68. The Secretary-General should take urgent measures to reduce the high vacancy rates in the regional commissions in accordance with relevant General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council resolutions.

1. Economic Commission for Europe

69. The Economic Commission for Europe should implement all restructuring measures envisaged in its submission to the Special Commission (E/ECE/1150/Rev.1 - informal paper 14/Add.10).
70. While the ECE should continue to carry out its mandate in promoting economic co-operation among countries of the region, it should increase activities directed to supporting developing countries in other regions. Co-operation between the ECE and other regional commissions should be strengthened, particularly through appropriate joint projects.
71. The ECE should, with the assistance of the Secretary-General, examine the relevant parts of the United Nations regular budget, including conference services for its meetings, to determine whether certain activities and meetings of the Commission could henceforth be financed through extrabudgetary resources.
72. The participation of non-ECE member States in relevant meetings of the Commission should be encouraged.



## 2. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

73. ESCAP should implement its decision to reduce the number of its subsidiary bodies from nine to seven, which, on an experimental basis, should meet biennially for five working days.

74. In view of the size of the region, ESCAP should find practical arrangements to enhance subregional co-operation. As regards the Commission's activities in the Pacific, the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre should have greater autonomy and receive more resources.

75. The Commission should refrain to the extent possible from resorting to outside consultants for the preparation of its documentation. Greater use should be made of existing Secretariat personnel.

76. ESCAP should utilize more effectively the increasing extrabudgetary resources available to it and should ensure that activities thus financed are consistent with the national and regional priorities of the developing countries concerned.

## 3. Economic Commission for Africa

77. The Conference of African Ministers for Economic Development and Planning should continue to be held on an annual basis given the continuing economic crisis in Africa and the necessity to monitor it continuously. Such a practice could be reviewed by the Commission in 1992. All other intergovernmental meetings of the Commission should henceforth be held on a biennial basis.

78. Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs) should be appropriately strengthened. Where the necessary subregional groupings do not exist, the Economic Commission for Africa should encourage the formation of such groupings and provide them with technical backstopping.

79. The General Assembly in its consideration of the United Nations programme budget should accord relative priorities for the activities of ECA, particularly in the light of its mandate for the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development.

## 4. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

80. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean should further review its subsidiary machinery, bearing in mind the following:

(a) The sessional committees on water and human settlements should be abolished;

(b) The Committee on Trade should be reconvened;

(c) A committee on debt and monetary issues should be established.

81. The report of the Commission to the Council should reflect more substantively its deliberations, focusing on major regional policy issues considered by the Commission.

82. The Commission should expedite the setting-up of a joint unit with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and enhance its co-ordination with the United Nations Development Programme. UNDP should take better into account the macro-economic studies of ECLAC in preparing its country programmes in that region.

5. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

83. In accordance with the decision of the fourteenth session of ESCWA, the regular sessions of the Commission and the meetings of its Technical Committee should be held biennially.

84. ESCWA should make every effort to improve the implementation of its programme of work.

85. UNEP and UNIDO should resume and strengthen the arrangement of maintaining joint units with ESCWA.

B. Operational activities for development 16/

86. Operational activities carried out by organizations of the United Nations system and their review should aim at promoting the achievement of the following objectives:

(a) Promotion of the speedy economic and social progress of developing countries by enhancing their ability to buildup their productive capacity, better utilize their indigenous resources and develop the self-sustaining managerial, technical, institutional and research capabilities required in the development process within the socio-cultural context of each recipient country;

(b) External technical co-operation and assistance should be provided at their request and should be for the benefit of the developing countries in conformity with their national plans, objectives and priorities;

(c) The overall orientation of operational activities should reflect fully the overall strategies, policies and priorities established by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council;

(d) The achievement of optimal efficiency and the reduction of administrative costs with a consequent increase in the proportion of resources available to meet the assistance requirements of recipient countries;

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16/ See also para. 25 and footnotes 5 and 6.

(e) A real increase in the flow of resources for such activities on a predictable, continued and assured basis.

87. The Economic and Social Council should, as envisaged in General Assembly resolution 32/197, carry out effectively its responsibilities in ensuring greater policy cohesion and co-ordination of all operational activities of the system, at both the headquarters and field level. <sup>17/</sup> It should also ensure that the priorities of the General Assembly and the Council are fully taken into account by the intergovernmental and governing bodies of the system involved in operational activities, bearing in mind the need to achieve optimal intergovernmental and intersecretariat co-operation and collaboration.

88. Coherence among operational activities for development, technical co-operation and disaster relief activities and the activities of funds administered by UNDP and other funds should be ensured, with a view to programme harmonization, rationalization of efforts at the field level and the effective integration of such activities in overall development efforts.

#### 1. Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme

89. In light of the role of the Economic and Social Council in operational activities, the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) should ensure the effective implementation of the policy guidance and priorities established by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. To that end, every effort should be made to avoid overlapping and duplication in the discussions held on operational activities by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and in the high-level segment of the Governing Council, and among the issues on their agendas.

90. The work of the Governing Council should focus on ensuring the efficient and effective management, programming and utilization of the resources of UNDP and the funds administered by it, including the simplification and harmonization of programme and project procedures.

91. The UNDP country programming should be reviewed with a view to developing an appropriate and effective framework to ensure coherence in the programming of the operational activities of the United Nations system and their responsiveness to the priorities of the recipient countries.

92. The working methods, procedures, schedule, duration and membership of the Committee of the Whole and its Working Group should be reviewed and refined in order to support more effectively the work of the Governing Council, particularly

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<sup>17/</sup> It was emphasized that the review process should enable the United Nations system to deliver its assistance in an integrated and cost-effective manner at the field level.

in enhancing transparency in the UNDP management and in ensuring programme and project quality. 18/

93. The Governing Council should provide greater in-depth policy guidance and direction as well as administrative and management oversight to the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and the funds administered by UNDP. Adequate time should be allocated for the discussion of these matters. The funds should be managed in an integrated manner, ensuring complementarity and mutual support with each other and with the regular indicative planning figures programme.

94. The sessions of the Governing Council should be held at a time that permits its timely reporting to the Economic and Social Council, and the number of its meetings reduced, bearing in mind the usefulness of developing a system of thematic reporting aimed at improved co-ordination of programmes and activities.

## 2. Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund

95. Stronger common policy guidance by the Economic and Social Council, in particular with a view to the effective co-ordinated execution of operational activities would permit the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to direct its efforts towards the review of programme, financial and managerial activities.

96. The scheduling of the sessions of the Executive Board should be adjusted to avoid overlap with other major meetings; in this connection, the need for the timely review of the budget of UNICEF by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions should be taken into account.

97. The relationship between the administration of UNICEF and the Executive Board should be strengthened, especially with regard to financial and budgetary issues and with a view to ensuring optimal distribution of resources between operational and administrative costs.

## 3. High-level Meeting on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries

98. The High-level Committee, in view of its important mandate, was indispensable. As technical co-operation among developing countries was a system-wide issue, it could not be entrusted to any single governing body. 19/

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18/ It was also suggested that the Working Group of the Committee of the Whole should be abolished and its functions assumed directly by the UNDP Governing Council.

19/ The view was also expressed that the possibility of the UNDP Governing Council absorbing the operational aspects and the Council the co-ordinating aspects should be explored. See also footnote 3 of the informal consolidated paper of 21 April 1988.

99. There is a need to improve system-wide co-ordination and enhancement of TCDC activities. In that context, the catalytic role of the Economic and Social Council and the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme should be strengthened.

100. Field offices of UNDP should have better information in regard to established technical co-operation programmes in developing countries in order to be able to promote the use of TCDC modalities at the project level. Resident representatives should play a more active role in assisting recipient Governments with information on possible sources of TCDC in their selection of inputs and executing agencies.

101. UNDP should adopt an appropriately high level of priority for TCDC. For that purpose, increased resources should be allocated within UNDP for the promotion of TCDC, including the strengthening of the TCDC secretariat.

#### 4. Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes

102. There is a need to enhance co-ordination among the intergovernmental bodies of the system dealing with food, agriculture and development.

103. The Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes should address broad policy issues only once a year and improve its procedures for the consideration of projects.

104. The procedures for the election of members of the Committee should be reviewed.

105. The need to hold a separate pledging conference for the World Food Programme should also be reviewed.

#### 5. Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

106. The Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees should provide general guidelines to the Office of the High Commissioner on issues related to development activities, bearing in mind the humanitarian and non-political character of the work of the Office.

107. The Economic and Social Council should consider the activities of the UNHCR and the related activities of other organizations in an integrated manner. To this end, the format and scope of the annual report of the High Commissioner should be reviewed in order to facilitate its consideration by the Council.

108. Issues concerning refugees and returnees should be taken into account in the work of all development forums, especially the round-table meetings organized by UNDP, the consultative group meetings of the World Bank and other similar meetings, whenever the countries concerned host large numbers of refugees and returnees.

109. The duration of the meetings of the Executive Committee and its membership should be reviewed and measures should be taken to ensure the effective participation of observers in its work.

110. Steps should be taken to ensure the timely distribution of the documentation prepared for the sessions of the Executive Committee.

## V. OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES

### A. Statistical Commission

111. The Commission should play a more active role in reviewing, evaluating and co-ordinating the work of the United Nations in this area including the enhancing of its advisory functions to other relevant intergovernmental bodies.

112. Co-ordination should be enhanced with respect to other United Nations bodies, such as the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Environment Programme; agencies such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund; other international organizations outside the United Nations system; and non-governmental organizations involved in statistical work on a global level.

113. The United Nations statistical data should be rationalized and standardized for enhancing its impact and usefulness for end-users. The Commission should review and undertake practical steps to enable better access by Governments to the United Nations statistical data. For that purpose, and where necessary, technical assistance to the developing countries should be enhanced.

114. The Working Group should be discontinued and its work assumed directly by the Commission.

### B. Population Commission

115. There is a need for greater focus in its programme of work on issues relating to population policies, particularly concerning the co-ordination of the activities of the United Nations system.

116. The present arrangements, whereby reports of the Secretary-General on the activities of UNFPA for consideration by the UNDP Governing Council are available to the Population Commission and for the reports of the Commission itself to be available to the Governing Council, should continue. In this regard, the Governing Council, while considering the programme activities of UNFPA, should take into account in a more effective manner the deliberations of the Population Commission and its recommendations on population questions. 20/

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20/ It was also suggested that the Commission should provide policy guidance for activities of the UNFPA.

117. The Secretary-General in his review of the Secretariat support structure in the area of population should take into account concerns regarding a better division of labour between the analytical, technical, funding and executing aspects of the various Secretariat units including the possibility of amalgamating technical units. 21/

### C. Commission on Human Rights

118. The Commission should update its mandate by including references to economic, social and cultural rights and the Declaration on the Right to Development of the General Assembly.

119. The definition of discrimination embodied in the present terms of reference of the Commission should be rendered more comprehensive and in line with the definition contained in article 1 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination by adding colour, descent or national or ethnic origin.

120. One of the important elements requiring consideration is that of the procedures under Economic and Social Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII) dealing with communications relating to violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The mandate of the Working Group on Communications could be revised to allow for direct participation of representatives of the States concerned. 22/

121. Efforts should be made to ensure that the meetings of human rights treaty bodies do not coincide with those of the Commission.

122. The time allocated to each item should be reviewed periodically. Some items of the Commission's agenda could be discussed every two or three years.

123. The Commission should be the focal point in the drafting of international standards in the field of human rights and due account should be taken of General Assembly resolution 41/120 on setting international standards in the field of human rights.

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21/ It was also suggested that various population activities should be consolidated into a single identifiable Secretariat unit responsible for research, data collection, analysis, funding, technical assistance, and project guidance and monitoring.

22/ Some other delegations stated that no change to the procedure envisaged in resolution 1503 (XLVIII) was necessary.

124. Efforts should be made to limit and improve the quality of the documentation of the Commission.

125. Limits should be set regarding the length of speeches at the Commission.

126. The role of the Bureau of the Commission should be strengthened. The Bureau should be more active in organizing the Commission's work.

127. The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities should make efforts to rationalize its work and should be guided by the Commission. The Sub-Commission, when examining items extensively discussed elsewhere in the United Nations system, should concentrate on those issues to which it can make a distinct contribution. There should be a clearer division of labour to emphasize the expert advisory role of the Sub-Commission and the policy role of the Commission.

128. The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities should assume the functions of its Working Group on Detention.

129. The work of the above-mentioned Sub-Commission should be open-ended.

130. The right to development should be a separate item of the Commission's agenda and should take into account developments in other forums.

131. Steps should be taken to achieve closer co-operation between the Centre, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs in the light of the complementarity of their respective research functions as well as other United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and regional human rights bodies.

132. There is need to increase the representation of underrepresented groups of States in senior and policy-formulating posts in the Centre for Human Rights, while safeguarding the principle of equitable geographical distribution in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.

133. Dissemination of public information on human rights questions should be strengthened in co-operation between the Centre for Human Rights and the Department of Public Information and through intensification of the Department of Public Information activities relating in particular to apartheid and the right to development.

#### D. Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

134. The reporting programme for States Parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights previously adopted by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 1988 (LX) should be amended. States Parties should be requested to submit a single report within two years of the Covenant's entry into force for the State Party concerned and thereafter at five-year intervals.



135. There was agreement in principle with the holding of a week-long pre-session meeting of a working group prior to each session, as recommended by the Committee.

136. More attention should be paid to the implementation of the right to self-determination.

137. The amount of documentation produced for the Committee should be reduced.

138. Co-operation between the Centre for Human Rights and the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs should be further enhanced in matters concerning the work of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

139. The Economic and Social Council should discharge its function fully under article 21 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

140. Co-ordination between the Economic and Social Council and the Committee on the one hand and the other organs of the United Nations, the regional commissions and the specialized agencies in particular, should be intensified.

#### E. Commission for Social Development

141. The Commission should consider adopting a thematic approach in its programme of work in order to effectively discharge responsibilities entrusted to it by the Council. Major themes should be identified well in advance, taking into account and including emerging social problems, particularly those of concern to developing countries, such as rural integration and literacy. 23/

142. Governments should, while nominating representatives to the Commission, take fully into account the need for expertise required.

143. The Secretary-General should ensure that the United Nations Office at Vienna is able to serve effectively as the centre for social policy and social development and that DIEC is enabled to ensure the effective integration of social issues in the deliberations on development, both at the Secretariat and at the intergovernmental level.

144. The Secretary-General should utilize the work of the ad hoc expert group in such a manner that it would contribute more directly to the work of the Commission.

#### F. Commission on the Status of Women

145. The Commission should effectively carry out its role as the central co-ordinating body on issues relating to women and to ensure that these issues are examined in the context of economic and social development. The capacity of

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23/ See also footnote 3 of the informal consolidated paper presented by the Chairman on 21 April 1988.

regional commissions should be better utilized through, inter alia, more effective regional input to the work of the Commission.

146. The global review of Forward-looking Strategies should be held in conjunction with the Economic and Social Council in-depth review once every six years.

147. In view of the multidisciplinary nature of issues relating to women, relevant organizations of the system are called upon to participate actively in the work of the Commission and to contribute to intersecretariat inputs.

#### G. Commission on Narcotic Drugs

148. The work programme of the Commission should be so adjusted to enable it to more effectively follow-up the results emanating from international drug conferences.

149. The Commission should adhere strictly to biennialization of its meetings and should refrain from requesting the convening of special sessions.

150. While recognizing the usefulness of the subsidiary bodies, the Commission should refrain from creating new bodies.

151. The Secretary-General, while reviewing the Secretariat support, should ensure the maximum complementarity of work between the Division and the International Narcotics Control Board secretariat.

#### H. Commission on Transnational Corporations

152. The Commission should serve as the main intergovernmental body, and the Centre on Transnational Corporations as the focal point in the system, responsible for co-ordinating all matters relating to transnational corporations, with a view to strengthening interrelationships in this area and avoiding overlaps and duplication. 23/

153. To improve co-ordination, organizations of the system should be invited to provide information in regard to work undertaken by them relating to transnationals for inclusion in a report to the Commission and the Economic and Social Council. Such a report should be prepared every two years and should highlight priority issues.

154. The programme of work of the Commission should be rationalized with a view to biennializing a considerable portion of its agenda. Items such as the code of conduct and the activities of transnational corporations in South Africa and Namibia, should be reviewed annually. The duration of the Commission's sessions should be adjusted accordingly.

155. The Special Session of the Commission on the Code of Conduct should continue its work but its meetings should be scheduled as appropriate to enable it to proceed with finalization of the Code.

156. Efforts should also be made to improve the impact and effectiveness of the joint units with the regional commissions.

157. Co-ordination and exchange of information with other intergovernmental organs regarding work programmes should be improved, especially between the Commission and the regional commissions and with intergovernmental bodies such as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

I. Commission on Human Settlements

158. The Commission should pay greater attention to operational activities undertaken by the Centre, particularly in regard to the promotion of low-cost housing, especially in the least developed countries of Africa.

159. Co-operation between the United Nations Development Programme and the Centre should be enhanced.

J. Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

160. The Secretary-General in his review should ensure effective Secretariat support for the Committee, including the question of effective co-operation among units with responsibility in this area. The question of location of the NGO unit, which provides support to the Committee, should be further examined.

K. Committee on Natural Resources

161. Options whereby the mandate of the Committee, which continues to remain valid, could be carried out more effectively should be explored. 23/

162. Programme of work and the function of the Committee should be rationally redefined in the broader context of that of other bodies. The possibility that the Committee would meet on an ad hoc basis should also be explored.

L. Committee on Negotiations with Intergovernmental Agencies

163. The Economic and Social Council should assume direct responsibility for the functions of this Committee.

M. Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

164. Relevant subject-matters relating to the work of the Committee should be reviewed, as appropriate, by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Committee on Transport of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

165. The Secretary-General should continue his efforts to promote better participation of developing countries in the work of the Committee and to ensure adequate Secretariat support.

N. Committee on Crime Prevention and Control

166. While maintaining a biennial cycle of meetings, the Bureau of the Committee should convene if necessary an informal inter-sessional meeting to prepare for the work of the Committee.

167. The five-year cycle for the meetings of the Crime Congress should be maintained but the number of regional preparatory meetings should be kept to a minimum.

168. The agenda for such Congresses should be more focused and should concentrate, inter alia, on the implementation of international standards.

169. Steps should be taken to establish better working relations with other relevant intergovernmental bodies, particularly the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on Human Rights.

O. Committee for Development Planning

170. The programme of work of the Committee should take fully into account the issues before the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

171. The Council could make specific suggestions in regard to the agenda of the Committee for Development Planning.

172. The Council should also benefit from the views of relevant organizations of the system on the recommendations of the Committee for Development Planning. The Secretary-General could explore the possibility of using existing inter-agency mechanism for such views to be provided to the Economic and Social Council.

173. The necessary expertise and independence of the members of the Committee for Development Planning should continue to be ensured.

174. On specific issues, the Committee should secure the active contribution of observers from relevant organizations.

175. The Economic and Social Council should make better use of the Committee report including its use as a background for the preparation of "agreed conclusions" of the President of the Council.

P. Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Co-operation  
in Tax Matters

176. This Ad Hoc Group should meet only as and when requested by the Council.

177. Its programme of work should take into account the agenda of the Council. For that purpose the agenda could include consideration of the impact of tax treaties on trade and development.

178. The practice of using consultants for the preparation of inputs should be kept to a minimum.

179. The Secretary-General in his review should give consideration to the location of its Secretariat taking into account that the primary concern of the Ad Hoc Group is related to legal matters.

Q. Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International  
Standards of Accounting and Reporting

180. All options to ensure expert level participation from developing countries, including meeting travel costs, should be explored.

181. The Working Group should meet biennially and continue to report to the Commission on Transnational Corporations and the Economic and Social Council.

182. Emphasis should be placed on considering methods for bringing to the attention of Governments concerned, particularly developing countries, agreed approaches and results of the work of the Working Group. For that purpose, interested Governments should designate a national institution to act as a focal point. The Centre should maintain an updated directory of such national institutions and provide them with information regarding the proceedings of the Working Group.

183. Efforts should continue to encourage the participation of other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the proceedings of the Working Group.

R. Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Working Group on the Problem of  
Corrupt Practices

184. The Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Working Group on the Problem of Corrupt Practices, which submitted its last report to the Commission on Transnational Corporations and the Economic and Social Council in 1978, should be abolished and an agenda item on the question of corrupt practices should be considered by the Commission on Transnational Corporations every two years.

S. Committee for Programme and Co-ordination

185. The Committee should improve implementation of its mandate, focusing on the essential programming and co-ordination role defined in its terms of reference contained in Council resolution 2008 (LX) of 14 May 1976, bearing in mind the implications of General Assembly resolution 41/213. 24/
186. The Committee for Programme and Co-ordination should harmonize its programme of work with that of the Council in order to assist the Council to fully carry out its co-ordination responsibility envisaged in the Charter.
187. The Committee should examine the process of preparation and content of the medium-term plan in order to ensure that the plan and its introduction constitute the most effective instrument for programme planning and co-ordination.
188. The Committee, in reviewing the draft medium-term plan and revisions thereto and in examining the proposed programme budget, should ensure implementation of the policy directives set by the Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.
189. The Committee for Programme and Co-ordination should, particularly within the context of its review of the medium-term plan and programme budget, continue to assist the Economic and Social Council in carrying out its system-wide co-ordination functions by, inter alia: (a) reviewing and appraising, with the assistance of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC), the implementation of legislative decisions with a view to determining the degree of co-ordinated effort undertaken throughout the system in certain priority fields identified by the Council; (b) identifying the areas in which co-ordination efforts should be strengthened; and (c) bringing to the attention of the Council decisions taken by the governing bodies of the United Nations system which might lead to duplication or divergent action with a view to their possible harmonization. To this end, the Committee should ensure the effective integration of the programming and co-ordination aspects of its work and adopt a thematic approach to its co-ordination responsibilities.
190. For the outcome of the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to be more beneficial to the Council, the agenda should be determined by the Council, reflecting its priorities and critical questions for the system in the economic, social and humanitarian fields. The duration of the joint meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination could be extended to two full days. In order to enhance the level of participation, the venue could be changed to New York, with the joint meetings scheduled close to those of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination or the the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination. The joint meetings of CPC and ACC

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24/ See also para. 24 of the informal consolidated paper presented by the Chairman on 21 April 1988.

should recommend concrete solutions to problems of inter-organizational co-ordination for the Council's consideration. 25/

191. In order to carry out its mandate in a more effective and efficient manner, the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination should strengthen its relationship and interaction with the Economic and Social Council, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), ACC and the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU). In particular, active collaboration should be established between the Bureaux of the Committee and ACABQ. Arrangements should also be made for periodic joint consultations between the Committee and JIU.

192. Member States should be represented in the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at a high level of expertise. Experts designated to serve on the Committee should have a high degree of experience and competence with regard to the programmes and activities of the United Nations system. Continuity of representation should also be ensured.

193. The Committee should continue reporting directly to the Council. Its report should highlight policy issues requiring action or decision by the Council.

194. The Committee for Programme and Co-ordination should meet in accordance with the pattern of meetings established for the Economic and Social Council, and at a time that permits its timely reporting to the Council and the Assembly and ensures its effective interaction with the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. As necessary, the Committee may meet twice each year up to maximum of seven weeks; the duration of sessions should be flexible and respond to requirements.

195. The Committee should systematically review follow-up and implementation of its conclusions and recommendations.

196. There should be improved complementarity of work programmes of the Economic and Social Council and the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination. While the Council should give guidance and set priorities in this regard, the Committee should use its instruments such as the medium-term plan, programme budget, cross-organizational programme analyses, ACC reports, and evaluation reviews to ensure consistency with directives set by the Council and the Assembly. On the other hand, the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination should recommend concrete measures that the Council could adopt to improve the interpretation of legislative mandates and harmonization of programmes on a system-wide basis.

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25/ It was also suggested that alternative arrangements to the CPC/ACC Joint Meetings should be explored, including the possibility of convening joint meetings between an enlarged bureau of the Economic and Social Council and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination.

197. Mechanisms and procedures exist for the results of the Committee's work to be brought to the attention of the relevant Main Committees of the Assembly and other intergovernmental bodies. To ensure that the committees' deliberations receive adequate attention, they should reflect a dynamic and rigorous approach to its responsibilities.

198. The Committee for Programme and Co-ordination should be supported by a substantive, identifiable and permanent secretariat.

T. Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development

199. The mandate is important and relevant, but its execution by the Intergovernmental Committee is not satisfactory. While certain reforms would be necessary, it is too early to consider the transfer of its function to other bodies or terminating it. It should be operated in a more rationalized manner and reviewed at the end of the decade review in 1989. 23/

200. The efforts of the Intergovernmental Committee to rationalize its work are appreciated, but these efforts should be continued. In this context, the present arrangements for documentation and a biennial two-week session is appropriate.

201. Co-ordination within the Secretariat support structure, especially its relations with the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation and the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, needs to be improved.

202. Co-ordination with other intergovernmental organs, including the Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development, should be rationalized and improved.

U. Advisory Committee for Science and Technology for Development

203. The number of ad hoc panels of the Advisory Committee should be rationalized.

V. Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy

204. The mandate is valid, but there should be an improvement in the Committee's ability to discharge its functions especially with a view to carrying out the Nairobi Programme of Action. 23/

205. The feasibility of establishing a small expert group to replace the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy should be examined.

206. The reporting procedure should be re-examined especially with regard to the role of the Economic and Social Council.



207. More efforts should be made to enhance public awareness of this issue. For that purpose, creation of appropriate projects or programmes such as an information centre, a data bank and an information network could be considered.

208. Selecting and concentrating a couple of themes and topics to be discussed in the Committee is welcomed, but in formulating the agenda, care should be taken to avoid repetition.

209. An appropriate and more visible secretariat is needed to reactivate and keep the momentum of the Nairobi Programme of Action.

210. Clearer focus and a greater degree of co-ordination should be necessary in the secretariat support structure; in this context the relationship between the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs and the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development should be redefined.

211. The Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation and the offices of resident co-ordinators should play a more active role in ensuring a coherent and effective implementation of the Nairobi Plan of Action.

W. Governing Council of the United Nations  
Environment Programme

212. Its special mandate to work with non-governmental organizations and special interest groups should be further stressed.

213. The United Nations Environment Programme should prepare a consolidated report on system-wide environmental activities to be submitted directly to the Economic and Social Council.

214. Efforts to further streamline its work programme and meeting schedules as well as to reduce documentation should be encouraged.

215. UNEP's role as a co-ordinator of environment-related activities should be clearly defined. There is a need to develop simple methods to evaluate individual programmes and projects as well as to improve UNEP's information service.

216. UNEP's concern for transboundary problems such as the ozone layer and air pollution should be heightened. In addition, regional seas programme, a global view of marine affairs and the action on international rivers are among the issues to which UNEP should pay more attention.

217. Guidance and monitoring of implementation of environmental issues with relation to development should also be a focal point of UNEP's work in the years to come.

218. In order to enhance the fund raising capabilities, some measures should be considered in the context of current system-wide financial restraint.

219. Co-ordination with regional commissions is desirable, but regional offices of UNEP should be independently maintained.

220. The working relationship with other bodies such as Habitat, UNDP and regional commissions should be strengthened. However, UNEP's co-ordination function in environmental issues with relation to other bodies should also be enhanced in order to avoid overlapping with other bodies. For that purpose, establishing administrative units in charge of co-ordination within the offices of executing agencies would be desirable.

221. Also in this context, the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination should give increased focus to environmental issues.

#### X. Group of Experts on Geographical Names

222. In addition to a triennialization of its meetings, the Group of Experts could meet either concurrently with the conferences or every two and a half years between each conference.

223. The Group of Experts should implement procedures for the review and evaluation called for in resolution 4 of the Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and report to the Economic and Social Council.

224. Documentation for the conferences should not be excessive.

225. The Economic and Social Council should request the Group of Experts to identify bodies currently or potentially involved with geographical names and determine their ability to pursue geographical names standardization.

226. Measures should be taken toward a fuller integration of the Group of Experts within the United Nations system. Better relations should also be achieved with regional commissions.

#### Y. World Food Council

227. The World Food Council in its present form of a ministerial body should be preserved. <sup>23/</sup> The presence of ministers is useful in mobilizing support for issues in the area of food. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Food Programme should reflect in their agendas the recommendations of the World Food Council.

228. The World Food Council meets annually but is subject to the biennial programme of the Economic and Social Council. WFC may consider the idea of biennializing its ministerial sessions and holding regional ministerial consultations in the off-years.

229. The co-ordinating role of WFC should be strengthened within its mandate and with due consideration of the overall responsibility of the Council for policy guidance and co-ordination (see footnote 3 of document of 21 April 1988).

Annex IV

CHAIRMAN'S TEXT DATED 4 MAY 1988 ON THE DRAFT CONCLUSIONS AND  
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SPECIAL COMMISSION (E/SCN.1/CRP.1)

INTRODUCTION

1. There is agreement among all members of the Special Commission that the main purpose of the exercise is to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the United Nations intergovernmental structure in the economic and social fields. There is also clear recognition of the need for reform and restructuring of the intergovernmental machinery and its Secretariat support structure to render them more effective and more responsive to the needs of Member States.
2. It is recognized that in order to strengthen the United Nations in the economic and social sectors as a whole it is important to strengthen the role of the General Assembly as the supreme body of the United Nations and the pivotal role of the Economic and Social Council, as envisaged in the Charter. A more effective Council would complement and strengthen the respective roles of the General Assembly and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), as well as their subsidiary machinery.
3. It is also recognized that the restructuring measures as outlined below cannot by themselves ensure the achievement of the main objective of reform unless accompanied by the necessary political will on the part of Member States to make better use of the United Nations as a viable forum for international co-operation.
4. The Special Commission has undertaken the in-depth study of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields entrusted to it by the Economic and Social Council. There is general agreement that the Council has so far been unable to carry out effectively the functions and responsibilities entrusted to it by the Charter and relevant General Assembly resolutions.
5. Reform of the United Nations is a continuing process. The present exercise should be seen in that context and should benefit from past experiences, including the implementation of the decisions adopted. Restructuring measures should be devised in such a manner as to ensure their full translation into practice. The General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council should establish a process of periodic review and evaluation of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields.

I. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

6. The effectiveness of the General Assembly in fulfilling its responsibilities under the Charter in the economic and social fields should be enhanced by the following measures:
  - (a) The Assembly, as the supreme organ of the United Nations system in the economic and social fields, should fully exercise its powers through the

establishment of overall strategies, policies and priorities for the system as a whole in respect of international co-operation, including operational activities, in the economic, social and related fields;

(b) The Assembly, as the principal forum for policy-making and for the harmonization of international action in respect of the economic, social and related fields, should provide policy guidance for the activities of the United Nations system in those fields.

7. The General Assembly should rationalize its method of work in the economic and social fields. To that end:

(a) The Assembly would focus each year on major policy issues to be identified by the Assembly in advance. The Economic and Social Council could appropriately assist in that process, as well as in its preparatory work;

(b) The agenda of the General Assembly in the economic and social fields should consist of the following items:

- (i) General debate (in the Second Committee);
- (ii) Items inscribed on its agenda as set out in subparagraph 7 (a) above;
- (iii) Relevant chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council;
- (iv) Reports of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly.

(c) Items considered and acted upon by the Economic and Social Council in a given year should not appear on the agenda of the General Assembly in the same year;

(d) The duration of the meetings of the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly would each be four weeks, on an experimental basis.

## II. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

8. In exercising its functions and powers under the Charter of the United Nations and as set out in relevant General Assembly and Council resolutions, in an effective manner, the Council, under the authority of the Assembly, should concentrate on carrying out the following responsibilities:

(a) To serve as the central forum for the substantive co-ordination of international economic and social issues of a global or interdisciplinary nature and for the formulation of policy recommendations thereon addressed to Member States and to the United Nations system as a whole;

(b) To ensure the overall co-ordination of all activities of the United Nations system in the economic, social and related fields and, to that end, the implementation of priorities established by the General Assembly for the system as a whole;

(c) To monitor and evaluate the implementation of overall strategies, policies and priorities established by the General Assembly in the economic, social and related fields and decisions adopted thereon, and to ensure the harmonization and coherent practical operational implementation, on an integrated basis, of relevant policy decisions and recommendations emanating from the United Nations conferences and other forums within the United Nations system after their approval by the General Assembly and/or the Economic and Social Council;

(d) To make recommendations to the General Assembly for the preparation of the medium-term plan and its introduction, as well as the outline of the draft programme budget, particularly in regard to the priorities to be reflected therein;

(e) To recommend to the General Assembly overall priorities and policy guidance on operational activities for development. For that purpose, the Third (Programme and Co-ordination) Committee of the Council would henceforth devote its deliberations to operational activities for development;

(f) To consider and take action on issues emanating from its subsidiary bodies in the economic, social and related fields and, as appropriate, bring to the attention of the Assembly matters that require its policy guidance. In that way, the Council would be able to carry out its filtering role effectively.

9. The Council should organize its programme of work along the following lines:

(a) To achieve improved harmonization and rationalization of the work programme of the Assembly and the Council, as well as their subsidiary bodies in the economic, social and related sectors, the Council should henceforth hold one regular session each year in July/August for a period of four to five weeks to be convened in alternate years in New York and Geneva. A high-level segment of this regular session (in the plenary) could be convened for one week to undertake an in-depth review of selected programme areas. The Council, in considering its programme of work, would decide on the appropriate date for this high-level segment;

(b) In the context of its biennial programme of work, the Council would convene an organizational session each year in February in New York. The Council would also convene subject-oriented sessions as appropriate. The Council would set the periodicity of its sessions and organize its programme of work in the light of its new structure and responsibilities;

(c) The programme of work of the Council should reflect a more stringent biennialization of its agenda both in the economic and social sectors. In harmony with the cycle of the medium-term plan of the United Nations, the Council should carry out an in-depth review of each programme area once every six years. Such reviews should be an integral part of the biennial programme of work of the Council and should be undertaken in the context of relevant substantive items;

(d) Meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Council in the economic and social fields should be scheduled in the early months of the year in order to enable the Council to consider their reports in good time. Meetings of those bodies should be appropriately biennialized;

(e) The Council should adopt an issue-oriented approach in its consideration and discussions of questions of a multidisciplinary nature, taking fully into account the need for an integrated approach to their economic and social dimensions.

10. The work of the Assembly and the Council would be facilitated by an improved system of reports. The Council should, as appropriate, have before it a consolidated report under each of its agenda items.

11. The Council should submit a substantive report to the Assembly highlighting actions taken by the Council, as well as the main issues and recommendations for appropriate action by the Assembly.

12. The report of the Council to the General Assembly would henceforth consist of the following chapters:

(a) State of the world economic and social situation;

(b) Decisions adopted by the Council on various substantive items as recommendations to the General Assembly (to be submitted to the plenary of the General Assembly for appropriate action);

(c) Issues in the economic field requiring the attention of the General Assembly (Second Committee);

(d) Issues in the social field requiring the attention of the General Assembly (Third Committee);

(e) Issues in the area of operational activities for development requiring the attention of the General Assembly (Second Committee);

(f) Issues that require consideration and action by the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly.

13. Some of the issues that are currently considered by a subsidiary body of the Council which would be subsumed might be considered at a subjected-oriented session of the Council. In such a case, the corresponding item would not appear on the agenda of the regular session of the Council in the same year.

14. The composition and role of the Bureau of the Council should be considered by the Council once the new arrangements enter into force.

15. Executive heads of the organizations of the United Nations system or their senior representatives should participate more actively in the deliberations and informal discussion of the Council and should provide all assistance to the Council in accordance with the general and specific directives.

16. In accordance with article 64 of the Charter of the United Nations, the Council should obtain regular reports from the specialized agencies on the steps taken by them to give effect to the relevant recommendations of the General Assembly and the Council in the economic and social fields.

17. The Council would consist of all States Members of the United Nations.

18. Concerning documentation:

(a) Documents prepared by the secretariat of the Economic and Social Council should be substantive and analytical, of a global or interdisciplinary nature and should cover both policy and co-ordination aspects;

(b) A world economic and social survey would henceforth be produced annually to serve as a background document for the relevant discussions of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. The new survey would replace the present World Economic Survey;

(c) Documentation for consideration by the General Assembly or the Economic and Social Council should be rationalized;

(d) The Economic and Social Council should undertake a periodic evaluation and appraisal of the quality and content of reports prepared for it;

(e) Reports submitted to the Economic and Social Council should be of a standard format to facilitate reading and consideration by all delegations.

### III. SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

19. The intergovernmental responsibilities of the following subsidiary bodies would be assumed directly by the Council:

(a) Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development;

(b) Committee on Negotiations with Intergovernmental Agencies;

(c) High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries;

(d) Committee on Natural Resources;

(e) Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy.

20. The Council would convene, as and when required, meetings of experts to advise it on:

(a) New and renewable sources of energy;

(b) Energy;

(c) Mineral resources;

(d) Water;

- (e) Public administration and finance;
- (f) Geographical names.

21. The functions of the Working Group of the Committee of the Whole of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) would be assumed by the Committee of the Whole.

22. The functions of the Intergovernmental Working Group on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting would be assumed by the Commission on Transnational Corporations.

23. Accordingly, the following intergovernmental/expert bodies would be discontinued:

- (a) Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development;
- (b) Committee on Negotiations with Intergovernmental Agencies;
- (c) High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries;
- (d) Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Working Group on the Problem of Corrupt Practices;
- (e) Committee on Natural Resources;
- (f) Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy;
- (g) Working Group of the Committee of the Whole of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme;
- (h) Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance;
- (i) United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names;
- (j) Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting.

24. The Council should, in the future, carry out periodic reviews of the functions and functioning of subsidiary bodies in the economic and social sectors in conjunction with its in-depth review of related programme areas. Such reviews would be undertaken on the basis of an agreed set of criteria.



#### IV. OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

25. Overall priorities and policy guidance should be established by the General Assembly based on the recommendations drawn up by the Economic and Social Council.
26. The Council should, inter alia, deal with policy and co-ordination issues on an annual basis. It should focus each year on a limited number of priority issues which require co-ordination or harmonization of action among relevant organizations of the system.
27. In addition, the Council should undertake every three years a comprehensive policy review. The conclusions and recommendations of those triennial reviews would be reported to the General Assembly.
28. The Council, in the other two years of each triennium, should monitor the implementation of the priorities and policies established by the General Assembly and make recommendations for their full implementation.
29. The governing bodies and agencies concerned would continue to exercise their responsibilities for programme policy decisions regarding the formulation, appraisal, approval, monitoring and evaluation of programmes and projects.

#### V. REGIONAL COMMISSIONS

30. In accordance with the global development strategy and policies adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council should place greater emphasis on the consideration of the reports of the regional commissions with a view to effectively integrating the regional inputs into the global discussion of substantive issues. The Council should also review and co-ordinate on a global basis interregional co-operation among the regional commissions. Regional commissions should draw the attention of the Council to questions having global implications or of relevance to other regions.
31. The relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 32/197 should be fully implemented in order to allow the regional commissions to exercise fully and effectively their role, under the authority of the Economic and Social Council, as the main economic and social development centres within the United Nations system for their respective regions.
32. Subregional co-operation should be strengthened and should be integrated more effectively into the activities of each region, taking fully into account the priorities of Governments concerned. For that purpose, efforts should be made, inter alia, to strengthen subregional offices, bearing in mind the specific objectives for which those regional offices were established.
33. The Secretary-General should take urgent measures to reduce the high vacancy rates in the regional commissions.

## VI. SECRETARIAT SUPPORT

34. In the light of the above, the present secretariat support structure in the economic and social sectors would need to be modified. For that purpose, the Secretary-General should be requested to prepare proposals for the restructuring of the Secretariat in the economic and social fields for consideration by the General Assembly at its forty-third session, taking into account the following:

(a) The need for a separate and identifiable secretariat for the Economic and Social Council;

(b) The new Economic and Social Council secretariat should provide both substantive and technical support to the Council. Such secretariat should be adequately staffed at both the Professional and General Service levels, in strict observance of the principle of equitable geographical representation. A multidisciplinary capability should be established in that secretariat in order to assist the Council in discharging its functions effectively;

(c) Efforts should be made to achieve greater complementarity between secretariats in Vienna, Geneva and New York, as well as the regional commissions;

(d) The Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation should be strengthened and adequately staffed in order to enable the Director-General to effectively carry out his responsibilities, particularly in the areas of co-ordination and operational activities for development.

## VII. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

35. The views and proposals of the Trade and Development Board on its functions and responsibilities, as set out in informal paper No. TDB/1154 of 23 November 1987 adopted at the resumed thirty-fourth session of the Trade and Development Board, should be endorsed.

36. The substantive debate in the Trade and Development Board on the interrelated issues would take place at the second part (spring) of its regular session with a corresponding change in the agenda of its first part (autumn) to focus on trade issues.

## VIII. GENERAL

37. Ratification of the amendment to the Charter of the United Nations by the requisite majority, including all permanent members of the Security Council, would have to take place before all the above recommendations come into effect.

38. The Special Commission could recommend that the Economic and Social Council request the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-third session on the modalities for the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations, including suggestions regarding transitional arrangements, for the consideration of the Assembly.

Annex V

CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTORY REMARKS ON HIS TEXT ON THE DRAFT  
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

At its 32nd meeting, on 29 April 1988, the Special Commission requested the Chairman to prepare a Chairman's text to facilitate the process of negotiation in the Special Commission.

I explained then that, despite the absence of a sufficient common ground which would help me produce a compromise text, I was willing to bend to the desire of the Commission. I made it clear that much would have to be left to the judgement of the Chairman of what he believed could be the elements of a package which is reasonable and implementable.

Since then, I have been consulting with various groups and delegations. I wish to put on record my sincere thanks and appreciation to all those delegations whom I have consulted, in particular those delegations who came back to me with specific ideas and comments which, to the maximum extent possible, I have tried to incorporate in the text.

The text before you is a modest attempt to produce a text which could serve as a basis of negotiations. Together with my colleagues in the mission, I have made maximum effort to prepare a balanced text. It may be incomplete. By definition, a compromise text cannot accommodate all the concerns of this or that group or delegation. So, each and every one will find one or two elements who accommodate his or her concern. However, several concerns may not have been fully accommodated.

I also wish to express my sincere thanks to the Secretariat for the useful comments on technical aspects in the text.

Coming now to the text, I may begin by stating that it is to be understood that all proposals contained in the text regarding the functioning of the United Nations intergovernmental structure are without prejudice to the provisions of the Charter or the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

Section 1 of the text diagnoses the ailment and reflects the agreement thereon. It also states that the Commission has undertaken the in-depth study entrusted to it. More important still, it makes clear the fact that reform is a continuing process. What we have done in the Special Commission is one link in a chain. I therefore suggest that a process of periodic review and evaluation of the United Nations intergovernmental structure be established.

On the body of the text itself, I wish to make the following explanatory remarks.

The General Assembly

Paragraph 6 reiterates functions and responsibilities of the General Assembly, as contained in the Charter and in relevant General Assembly resolutions. It only

spells out measures aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of the General Assembly. So, the intention is not to introduce new functions, nor is it intended to cite an exhaustive list of the responsibilities of the General Assembly.

I hope paragraph 6 will be looked at in the context of this explanation.

Paragraph 7 deals with the method of work, organization and agenda of the General Assembly, aimed at enabling it to perform its responsibilities in a rationalized and more effective manner.

The agenda and duration of the Second and Third Committees are still controversial issues. In a compromise text, I had to exercise my personal judgement in what could be reasonable agenda and duration.

### The Economic and Social Council

Since the bulk of the restructuring process centres on the Council and its subsidiary bodies, this section is the most detailed. Paragraph 9 elaborates the responsibilities of the Council, not the present Council, but an enhanced and a more effective Council with universal membership.

Again, those functions are drawn from the Charter, from relevant General Assembly and Council resolutions and from the new responsibilities to be entrusted to the Council as expressed by various groups and delegations. Paragraph 9 deals with the programme of work of the new Economic and Social Council. Here again, there are wide-ranging and sometimes divergent views on the agenda and the duration of the new Council. I have tried to list a number of organizational issues and some ideas about the organization of work of the new Council in a manner that would ensure a reasonable duration and pragmatic agenda.

I also tried to present some practical ideas on the form and content of the kind of report which the Council may submit to the General Assembly, with concrete suggestions on the possible allocation of its chapters to the plenary and the relevant main Committees of the General Assembly.

Paragraphs 10, 11 and 12 are devoted to the reporting procedure and the reports to and from the Council.

Paragraph 13 deals with the idea of subject-oriented sessions and their agenda.

Paragraph 14 is the subject of various views and proposals as it concerns the role of the Bureau of the new Council. Several useful ideas have been advanced, but I have preferred to leave the decision on the composition and role of the Bureau to the Council itself.

Paragraph 15 contains an invitation to the executive heads of the specialized agencies to participate more actively in the work of the Council. It is my hope that the new Council will be able to attract them to regain their confidence in it and to contribute positively to its deliberations. Paragraph 16 is also related to the specialized agencies and it reiterates article 64 of the Charter, according to

which the Council can request regular reports from the agencies reflecting the measures taken by them to translate General Assembly and Economic and Social Council recommendations into concrete action.

Paragraph 17 is a natural consequence of the radical reforms suggested earlier in the text. A new Economic and Social Council, which will perform a filtering role of the social and economic issues and which will assume the responsibility of some of its subsidiary bodies should, in a democratic organization, encompass all actors in the international arena. Hence the universal membership of the Council.

Paragraph 18 deals with documentation: how to rationalize it and how to render it more useful and more intelligible in order to facilitate the work of the Council.

Paragraphs 19 to 24 are devoted to the subsidiary bodies. The list suggested may be incomplete, but I had to rely on many of the views already expressed. However, in the absence of specific suggestions from some groups on this issue, I had to exercise some personal judgement. Still, I believe this issue may need further consultations between various groups and delegations.

Section 5 of the text (paras. 25 to 29) attempts to incorporate most of the views expressed on operational activities for development and their governing bodies.

Section 6 (paras. 30 to 33) cites some general recommendations related to regional commissions. Since this is one of the issues on which there is not much controversy, the Commission may wish to expand it. There are naturally certain recommendations that may apply to specific regional commissions, and I will advise interested delegations to contact the Secretariat and pronounce themselves on such points.

Section 7 deals with the Secretariat support and lists some guidelines that the Secretary-General could take into account when preparing proposals for the restructuring of the Secretariat in the economic and social fields, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-third regular session.

Section 8 refers to the views and proposals agreed upon by members of the Trade and Development Board on the rationalization of its work.

Paragraph 36 suggests a swap in the agenda of the two parts of the regular session of the Trade and Development Board to enable it to conduct its debate on the interrelated issues in spring with a view to ensuring better co-ordination and complementarity between the Trade and Development Board, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

Section 9 deals with the modalities for the implementation of the proposed recommendations. As the proposed recommendations as a package would entail an amendment to article 61 of the Charter related to the composition of the Council, ratification in accordance with the provisions of article 108 will have to take place before the elements of the package are implemented. However, good faith and determination to strengthen the efficiency of our organization may create an

atmosphere conducive to constructive dialogue on the modalities for the implementation of the recommendations, including the possibility of envisaging transitional arrangements. That is why the Special Commission may find it appropriate to recommend to the Council to request the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-third session on such modalities, including suggestions on draft programmes of work of the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly and of the Council, the draft calendar of meetings of subsidiary bodies of the Council, draft organization of work, etc.

Whatever recommendations we may approve in the Special Commission, they will need to be translated into applicable arrangements. The General Assembly, on the basis of data to be submitted to it, could elaborate on the modalities and the calendar for implementation of the Commission's recommendations.

With less than three days left before the Commission to complete its work, the need for the spirit of compromise and the sincere determination to conclude our mission successfully is more dire than ever.

I would strongly encourage the spokesmen of various groups and delegations to intensify their informal contacts between and among themselves in a dedicated effort to hammer out any remaining divergences of views.

I shall be available to listen, consult and intervene when I am invited to do so. I hope that before we meet tomorrow afternoon, groups and delegations will have reached an understanding on all outstanding issues. I wish you all the best of luck.

Annex VI

CONCLUDING STATEMENTS MADE ON 11 MAY 1988 BY DELEGATIONS  
OR ON BEHALF OF GROUPS OF DELEGATIONS

Statement by the representative of Tunisia,  
on behalf of the Group of 77

As the Special Commission of the Economic and Social Council concludes its work, I would like to express, on behalf of the Group of 77, our deep gratitude for the selflessness, foresight and courage you have unflinchingly displayed throughout the 15 long months of the Commission's near-constant work. Allow me also to thank the distinguished officers who assisted you in carrying out your mandate. The members of your delegation deserve our full appreciation for their high level of competence and enthusiasm. Let us not overlook all the members of the Secretariat, whose devotion has been equalled only by their efficiency, and to whom we express our heartfelt thanks.

The task the Economic and Social Council entrusted to you when it elected you Chairman of the Commission in February 1987 is surely one of the most complex and sensitive ever undertaken in the United Nations. In 1977, the General Assembly adopted a non-exhaustive, global package of reforms in its resolution 32/197. At that time, however, the United Nations, particularly in the economic and social sectors, was characterized by an unprecedented dynamism which had its basis in a consensus objective, the establishment of the new international economic order.

Despite such favourable circumstances, it must be acknowledged that the implementation of the measures recommended has been somewhat lacking. While this has undoubtedly pointed up the need for a further reform, it has also constituted one of the obstacles to the formulation of measures that can actually be implemented. It taking stock of these 15 months of intense labour, which have allowed us to conduct a true in-depth study and draw certain conclusions from it, we are compelled to recall how the Special Commission came into being.

The Commission's origins date back to the fortieth regular session of the General Assembly, which marked the fortieth anniversary of the creation of the United Nations at San Francisco. All Member States will recall the fortieth session as a dark period of deep concern at the failure of certain parties to honour their obligations under the Charter, resulting in what has come to be known as "the financial crisis".

Thus the Group of 18 was established. Its report, which reflected an extremely tenuous agreement, went on to become a General Assembly resolution, the famous resolution 41/213, whose particularly delicate balance was successfully maintained largely by the faith of the majority of Member States and their commitment to the United Nations as well as by their confidence in the other component of the 1986 consensus and the emerging process of reform. I refer here to the pledge by the parties concerned to work together to solve the financial crisis, particularly through the payment of amounts owed the United Nations in the

form of contributions from Member States to the regular budget of the Organization. It was thus on the basis of General Assembly resolution 41/213, and subsequently of General Assembly resolution 42/211, the terms of which were not universally respected, that the Economic and Social Council passed on this onerous legacy to a new body, the Special Commission, with the adoption of Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/112.

This brief recapitulation of events leading up to the creation of the Special Commission helps illustrate the magnitude of the efforts and sacrifices made by the Group of 77, i.e. by the developing countries, for whom United Nations activities in the economic and social sectors are of major importance. In fact, despite the existence of a severe political and financial crisis, the Group of 77 has consistently demonstrated its sincere commitment to undertaking a process of meaningful, radical reform with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations and its impact throughout the United Nations system in the economic and social and related sectors.

Looking beyond the contradictions inherent in the reform process itself, the developing countries have endeavoured to give new impetus to the Special Commission, taking the initiative in April 1987 in the form of a written proposal concerning the General Assembly, and, subsequently, on 1 September 1987, when they submitted a package of proposals aimed at improving the functioning of the Economic and Social Council so that it might discharge its mandate fully and completely in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

A great many of our developed-country partners found it quite difficult to depart from their original agenda, which involved a few superficial, small-scale reforms aimed essentially at reducing the Organization's operating costs. Obviously, such an approach was intended to do no more than make substantial cuts in the regular budget of the Organization, thereby justifying the withholding by certain Member States of a portion of their contributions. Actually, this took us farther from the agreed objective of strengthening the structure of the United Nations machinery in the economic and social fields and improving its functioning. In any event, many delegations from industrialized countries stated at that time that the goal of any reform should not be a reduction of operating costs.

At last, the Special Commission's deliberations, at the urging of the Group of 77, were directed towards the concept of genuine reform. All intergovernmental bodies, from the organs established under the Charter to the subsidiary bodies, were studied in detail by the Group of 77 as well as by other delegations in September 1987 and, subsequently, in January, February and March 1988. The conclusions reached by the various participants in these deliberations were marked by a high degree of homogeneity and revealed the existence of a common point of view in certain areas.

Consistent with this analysis, reached jointly by the States represented on the Special Commission, the developing countries formulated a package of recommendations contained for the most part in a document of the Group of 77 dated 5 April 1988, entitled "Some preliminary ideas on reform proposals". This document should be annexed to the Special Commission's final report.



The Group of 77, which has devoted itself earnestly and in a constructive spirit throughout the Special Commission's existence to the identification of the best ways and means of improving the structure and functioning of the United Nations machinery in the economic and social fields, has formulated in its document of 5 April 1988 balanced detailed proposals which reflect a practical emphasis and a concern for efficiency. These proposals centre around the following key ideas.

Any genuine reform that is to be more than a mere patch job or an ad hoc reduction of bodies must necessarily include:

(a) A strengthening of the weak link in the United Nations machinery, namely the Economic and Social Council and its secretariat, and the improvement of its functioning so that it may fully play the role ascribed to it by the Charter;

(b) Expansion of the Economic and Social Council so that it becomes truly representative, thereby ensuring its credibility and effectiveness. This strengthening measure might lead the General Assembly, whose prerogatives and role as chief decision-making body and co-ordinator of international efforts in the economic and social fields cannot undergo any modification whatsoever, to consider making adjustments in the agenda and duration of sessions of its Second and Third Committees. This measure might also lead to consideration of the question of subsidiary bodies, some of whose statutes might be revised, albeit in the light of clearly identified and agreed criteria.

It will be seen then that all the elements proposed are coherent; they can be explained and justified through their interrelationship. There are no extravagant proposals or proposals that are not reflected in the package. Obviously, the Group of 77 has not opted for a superficial improvement of the United Nations machinery that might involve displacing the weakness of one organ established under the Charter to another or transferring prerogatives from one to another.

For the delegations of many industrialized countries, however, the studies and conclusions formulated during the Special Commission's debates have been distorted so that they focus on objectives that are incompatible with the collective desire for reform and with the letter and philosophy of the United Nations Charter, implying a fundamental modification of the Charter and at the same time criticizing one of the proposals of the Group of 77, the expansion of the Economic and Social Council.

These objectives are the following:

(a) To prevent the General Assembly from discharging its role and functions by limiting the duration of sessions of the Second and Third Committees to the holding of a general debate. The negotiating and deliberating functions of the Assembly would thus be suppressed;

(b) To limit the length of deliberations of an Economic and Social Council that would be revamped but rendered incapable of dealing with the questions submitted to it in an exhaustive and decisive manner, including its role as central co-ordinator of the United Nations system in the economic and social fields;

(c) To eliminate all activities of the Organization dealing with questions of vital interest to the international community, particularly the developing countries, by abolishing the subsidiary bodies responsible for science and technology, natural resources (including energy), new and renewable sources of energy, food and agriculture, social development and technical co-operation among developing countries.

What then would a reform undertaken on the basis of such proposals have accomplished? The atrophy of the United Nations, the marginalization of international economic co-operation and a worsening of the impediments to the economic and social development of the developing countries. Where, under these conditions, would the standing commitment of all countries to work relentlessly for peace and world security fit in? We need look no further to understand why the Special Commission was unable to draft joint recommendations.

Here we wish to commend the initiative you took in providing the Special Commission's informal working group with a Chairman's text, dated 4 May 1988. Despite the considerable problems it is raising, the Group of 77, it will be recalled, was the only group to declare itself fully prepared to accept that text as a basis for negotiation. Yet this acceptance, far from unanimous, is apparently not enough to have this document considered as anything more than an informal proposal from the Chairman, to be tucked away in our delegation's files.

In the view of the Group of 77, and we would like to reiterate this, the Special Commission has in fact discharged a large part of its mandate, and we may view this closing meeting as setting a new tone in the history of the United Nations, which makes us optimistic about the future. The spirit of reform remains solidly intact, and the developing countries reaffirm their commitment to improving the structure and functioning of the United Nations intergovernmental machinery and to collaborating as closely as possible with the Secretary-General with a view to strengthening the Secretariat support structures and protecting the status of the international civil service while respecting the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

The Special Commission has concluded its work by stating unanimously that the Economic and Social Council continues to be the Organization's central problem in the economic and social and related sectors. We are thus confident that together with our partners, the industrialized countries, we shall in the near future overcome this problem and make it possible for the Council to work as effectively as we desire, particularly as it plays its central role of co-ordinating the activities of the United Nations system in the economic, social and related fields. We should also resolve to improve its performance in the review of and follow-up to the operational activities for development of the United Nations system.

Let us first achieve these objectives so that we can then be in a position to assess the impact of such a reform of the Council on the Organization as a whole and on the specialized agencies. But above all, let us hope that the firm political commitment that inspires all developing countries will ultimately be demonstrated by all. Therein lies the true problem; once it is solved, we will be able to build rather than dismantle, to contribute towards a joint solution of the serious problems facing the world economic system, and to do all we can to find real and effective solutions to the development crisis of the developing countries.

Statement by the representative of the Federal Republic  
of Germany, on behalf of the States Members of the  
European Community

Speaking on behalf of the States Members of the European Community, let me first of all say that we share your sense of regret that, after months of serious work done by all of us in the Special Commission, you have come to the conclusion that at this moment the time does not seem to be ripe for an agreement on a far-reaching reform of the United Nations in the economic and social fields. We appreciate the difficulties of the task assigned to the Special Commission and to you in particular and would therefore like to thank you for your commitment and your untiring efforts to guide us to a positive outcome of our deliberations. Our thanks also go to the members of the Bureau and to the Secretariat for their valuable support during our work. We feel that under your able leadership the Special Commission has fulfilled a good part of its mandate, which is to carry out an in-depth study of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields. This is true in particular for the first three months of 1988. Our discussions, which have revealed many areas of agreement not only with regard to an analysis of present structures and practices, can serve as a useful basis for further work.

The States members of the European Community have from the very beginning participated actively in the deliberations of the Special Commission and remain committed to the objectives of a meaningful reform. We have expressed our views on the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council under consideration in the Commission and have made concrete proposals for an overall framework for a restructuring of the United Nations in this area. Together with the proposals put forward by other groups and delegations, they reflect the serious efforts made by all of us to identify measures that would enable the United Nations to better fulfil its functions, as defined in the Charter, in the economic and social fields. We appreciate your intention to include our paper dated 31 March 1988 in the report to be submitted by the Special Commission to the second regular session of the Council in July 1988. Our proposals, like those of others, remain available for the future.

As far as further procedures are concerned, we share your view that it is up to the Council and the forty-third session of the General Assembly to take the necessary action. The States Members of the European Community remain committed to a meaningful reform which on the basis of General Assembly resolution 41/213 should be in the interest of all Member States. We continue to be committed to strengthening the United Nations in accordance with the Charter as an indispensable instrument for international co-operation in the economic and social fields. We are ready at any time to continue discussions and to do our share to bring the reform efforts to a successful conclusion.

Statement by the representative of China

We are now in a situation where the "clock has come to a stop". And for this we feel extremely regretful.

Having said that, Mr. Chairman, I cannot neglect my duty to thank you for your efforts in seeking a solution to the complex question before us. My thanks also go to the groups and countries as well as the Secretariat who have contributed enormously in our joint endeavour.

The Special Commission has been in session, on and off, over the past two years. We are of the hope that we would eventually be able to find appropriate ways to strengthen the United Nations system in the economic and social fields through the restructuring of the intergovernmental organs and subsidiary bodies by increasing their effectiveness and efficiency. We do hope that a basis for a possible consensus leading to a meaningful reform package could be found. However, we are certainly not in favour of the concept of the so-called "back to back" formula, i.e. the simultaneous or concurrent holding of the regular session of the Economic and Social Council and that of the General Assembly. We are also strongly sceptical about the feasibility for the Council to subsume a number of very important subsidiary bodies, such as the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development.

As to our future work, Mr. Chairman, we are at your disposal. Our attitude is a positive, flexible and realistic one. We respect the decision the Bureau has made. Should the arrangements be agreeable to all sides, we stand ready to make our own contributions. We will make clear what are agreeable or not agreeable to us in frankness.

Statement by the representative of the United States of America

Above all, I would like to state our gratitude to the Chairman, the Bureau and Secretariat for their sustained guidance and support. I would also like to express my delegation's appreciation to all the other delegates who participated. We thank them deeply for their contributions and for listening so patiently to the many presentations given in these past weeks and months.

We are saddened that the Commission could not accomplish more after so great an investment of time, commitment and work. In this regard we urge that what was achieved will not be lost. Valuable common positions and practical proposals were developed. There was meaningful progress and it should be preserved and implemented.

We further suggest that mechanisms be found to keep up the momentum towards improving the United Nations system. We can and should build upon this just completed exercise, taking further steps to heighten efficiency and credibility. This benefits everyone. One approach might be to assign small task forces to concentrate on specific areas of activity. Examples could be consolidation of publications, streamlining of subsidiary bodies, more effective structuring of meetings.

On a personal note, I wish to express my gratitude for the opportunity to work with those who gave so much of themselves in the project. I came to know many colleagues well, and this was most rewarding to me. May our friendship and understanding continue and not fade. And may we all look to the future positively.

Statement by the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, on behalf of Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

The delegations of the socialist countries, on whose behalf I have the honour to speak, would like first of all to join those speakers who highly commended your personal contribution and that of the other members of the Bureau to the work of the Special Commission. We should also like to note the efforts of the Secretariat in carrying out the work of the Special Commission. Our delegations have attached great importance from the outset to the Special Commission's work and have taken an active and constructive part in that work at all stages. The position of the principle taken by our delegations with regard to the goals and tasks of reforming the work of the United Nations in the economic and social fields is set forth in detail in our position paper of 11 April 1988. The concrete proposals contained therein remain in force, and we hope they will be included in the Special Commission's report. Our efforts as a whole were directed towards achieving those results which would in fact help to reinforce the work of the United Nations system in the economic and social fields and to bring it into line with the present day realities of the interdependence of States and the interrelationship of world social and economic questions. In our view, it is extremely important at the present stage to impart a greater sense of purpose to that work and to enhance its practical benefits for all Member States.

We consider that the way to achieve that goal lies in greater political will on the part of all Member States and compliance by them with the obligations they have assumed under the Charter of the United Nations, including their financial obligations.

The work of the Special Committee has also underlined the need for improved co-ordination of the activities of the United Nations system in the economic and social fields with a view to the maximum utilization of its potential in the effective search for mutually acceptable, practical solutions to the current problems. This goal may also be furthered by rationalization of the structure of United Nations organs in the economic and social fields.

During the year and a half covering the Special Commission's work, our delegations have in fact indicated their readiness, in the spirit of mutual understanding and co-operation, to consider any constructive proposals by any groups of countries and individual delegations regarding reform of the economic and social activities of the United Nations.

In our opinion, the Special Commission could undertake an in-depth, comprehensive analysis of the work of the United Nations in the economic and social fields, expose the many problems and difficulties existing therein and enhance the common understanding of ways to improve that work.

Unfortunately, at the present stage the members of the Special Commission have been unable to find a unified approach to all the problems and to overcome the residual divergence of views. We feel, however, that on the whole useful work has been accomplished, and a worthwhile fund of ideas has been accumulated which should be kept for future use.

Our delegations, as in the past, are committed to the objective of enhancing the effectiveness of the Organization's activities in the economic and social sectors in the interests of all States, and are ready to continue working towards that goal in ways acceptable to all Member States.



Statement by the representative of Canada

My delegation joins others in supporting your introductory statement and its recommendations. The in-depth study which the Special Commission has been engaged in, going on 16 months, has been of major value to all participants. Many of us started out with only a hazy understanding of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary machinery. Now most of us, including the secretariat, I dare say, have learned a great deal about United Nations intergovernmental bodies in the social and economic field, including the specialized agencies and regional commissions. This groundwork was essential before anything else could be done. This, in itself, is no mean achievement and we have above all to thank you, Mr. Chairman, and the Secretariat for it.

Indeed we have gone further. We have identified certain key elements of possible convergence as well as major differences still separating us. If we have fallen short of agreement, it is due to such facts as the essential conditions of timing, the complexity of the process itself and that sufficient understanding and mutual confidence were not yet adequately advanced. In the meantime, Canada's informal reform proposal of 18 April remains on the table.

My delegation agrees with your approach, Mr. Chairman, both in terms of procedure and substance. It provides the Economic and Social Council with an opportunity to review the results achieved thus far to decide on a future course of action. Like others, my delegation stands ready to pursue reform efforts within a framework which has yet to be determined, with the aim of working towards a consensus on an effective and fair restructuring of the Council and its sub-machinery. It is important not to lose the momentum we have gained and to redouble our efforts in the near future to achieve a meeting of the minds.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I would like to place on record the deep appreciation of my delegation for your tireless and enlightened guidance in directing our work over the last several months. Without you, the Special Commission would certainly not have come as far as it has.

Statement by the representative of Norway

The Special Commission has had a twofold mandate:

(a) To undertake an in-depth study of the intergovernmental structure and its secretariat support services in the economic and social fields of the United Nations;

(b) To present recommendations aimed at enhancing the effectiveness and the efficiency of the United Nations in these fields.

It is the view of my delegation that the Commission has succeeded in fulfilling the first part of this mandate. It cannot be claimed, however, that the Commission has fulfilled the second part of its mandate, despite more than 15 months of hard work. My delegation deeply regrets that beyond the general agreement on the need for, and even the framework for a possible comprehensive reform, no consensus could be reached with regard to specific measures. We have a feeling that a somewhat higher degree of flexibility on the part of the delegations would have facilitated a more concrete end result.

It is our intention, Mr. Chairman, to assess more in detail the work of the Special Commission when this issue is being dealt with at the second regular session of the Economic and Social Council in July. We will on that occasion also revert to another important issue, which is the future follow-up of our efforts in the Special Commission through the last months. But let me on this occasion congratulate you, Mr. Ambassador, on the manner in which you have discharged your extremely difficult task. You certainly contributed to the work of the Commission in a consensus-seeking spirit which is highly appreciated.

Statement by the representative of Japan

My delegation would like to express its appreciation to you, Mr. Chairman, other members of the Bureau and the Secretariat for the efforts they have rendered over the past nearly a year and a half.

We knew that our task was a difficult one, perhaps one of the most important attempts in the history of the United Nations, particularly in view of the fact that most of the past attempts to reform the intergovernmental structure in the economic and social fields were unable to achieve their envisaged objectives.

Frankly speaking, my delegation is disappointed that our efforts and endeavours did not lead the Commission to a successful conclusion within the scheduled time. However, we note that we could learn many things about the United Nations system through our analytical work on the intergovernmental bodies and their subsidiary organs, and that we could enhance our mutual understanding on a variety of issues. In the course of this work, some progress has been made to narrow down the difference of views among delegations on some specific issues. Although our work is not completed, what we have done so far in our exercise is a valuable asset, and we should keep such asset in stock for our future work.

As my delegation has repeatedly said in our exercise of restructuring, Japan, in principle, is against the universalization of the Economic and Social Council, because we are not convinced of the wisdom of introducing universalization into the Council. We have serious doubts about the possible consequences which would be brought about by the universalization of the Council. If the Council is universalized without clear division of labour between the General Assembly and the Council, it would unavoidably lead to duplication of work between the Assembly and the Council and would make the United Nations system more complicated and unworkable. We firmly believe that most of the measures for strengthening the efficiency and effectiveness of the function of the intergovernmental structure can be realized without the universalization of the Council.

With regard to the question of how we should proceed from now, I should like to point out, first, that we should not lose sight of our fundamental objective of our work entrusted to us by General Assembly resolution 41/213 based on the Group of 18 report. We should not continue our exercise just for the sake of reform, neither should we accept unsatisfactory reforms based upon inadequate compromise, which would certainly turn out to be unrealistic and unworkable solutions.

After a long, assiduous work in the Commission, this is the time for us to reflect upon our past endeavours and achievements so far made from a wider perspective. We could resume our work in a more efficient and effective manner during the summer session of the Council. My delegation would like to express its readiness and willingness to participate actively in the continuing exercise.

Although the Special Commission was unable to achieve its objective, my delegation would like to express its own fundamental view with regard to the restructuring exercise, without prejudging the final outcome of our continuous endeavour.

The reform of the United Nations is a continuing process. The efforts which we have made in this Commission are the first step towards attaining the future fundamental objectives of making the intergovernmental structure more responsive to the needs of the international community. Our present and future exercise should be seen in that context. Fundamental reforms should continue to be deliberated and carried out in the longer-term perspective.

Statement by the representative of Australia

We join others in thanking you sincerely for your tireless efforts as Chairman. You have guided our discussions with the tact, intelligence and restraint which we have come to expect from you and indeed depend on. You were well supported by your capable Bureau and Secretariat.

Unfortunately, despite your efforts and those of delegations, agreement on major issues has eluded us. Delegations have lacked an overriding sense of urgency and concern for the efficiency of the whole multilateral system. We would note, however, that delegations are now better informed and we would hope that they are perhaps better able to be flexible in the future in consequence.

We will not take time now to again go over what the Commission has spent many months discussing. We will reflect on developments within the Commission over the past 15 months and on the level of agreement which we did reach, or almost reached, on some questions. We will be working hard to use the knowledge we have gained to secure tangible gains from the process later this year at the second regular session of the Council in Geneva and at all other opportunities which present themselves.

Statement by the representative of Austria

We have come to the end of our substantive work in the Special Commission. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you personally, your colleagues in the Bureau, the Secretariat members and all those who have assisted you and us in the Commission. You have guided us through this exercise with distinction, sensitivity, tact, intelligence and patience; and patience we needed indeed.

The task entrusted to us on the basis of recommendation 8 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts proved to be a difficult one, maybe more difficult than we thought at the beginning of the exercise some 15 months ago.

Reading through recommendation 8 and the respective Economic and Social Council resolution, we can affirm to have undertaken the careful and in-depth study of the intergovernmental structure in the economic and social fields. The vast documentation prepared for our meetings testifies to this assertion.

The exercise in itself was a useful one - we have educated ourselves, studied previous reform attempts, familiarized ourselves with the highly complex subsidiary machinery which we have created over the years, we have identified many lacunae, we have come to realize that the overly complex structure of the intergovernmental machinery at the United Nations suffers from a lack of cohesion which renders co-ordination difficult.

We now realize that the cumbersome organizational and structural set-up in the economic and social fields needs to be reflected upon with a view to render the intergovernmental machinery and the respective Secretariat structure more responsive to the needs of Member States in the outgoing twentieth century. We also seem to have agreed that we need to make the system simpler in order to make it more responsive, that the respective roles and interrelationships of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, but also the Trade and Development Board, the main bodies of deliberation and negotiation in the economic and social fields, need to be clearly defined and their working arrangements so organized as to allow Member States to come to a clearer understanding of global world problems with a view to finding adequate solutions. We also have identified some areas in which organizational streamlining is needed.

I believe that I can say that we all agree that reform of the United Nations in the economic and social fields is necessary, that it is a continuous process and that this reform process ought to be continued. The fact that we have not been able to produce a report or set of recommendations that command the consensus among all participants indicates that we, the Member States, are not quite clear about the role the United Nations ought to play in the economic and social fields within the system of international relations. In this context, I want to draw the attention of this Committee to the fact that my delegation has invariably stressed the importance to increase and strengthen the role of the United Nations in the social sector.

My delegation believes that we have taken a very useful and important further step of problem identification and analysis. More work, more research, more

thinking, more reflection on past and present experiences will have to be done in the months and years to come to create that vision of Member States and thus the political will to engage in a real reform process, which will be necessary if the United Nations and its main charter body in the economic and social fields are to fulfil their original important mandates.

When this will happen, hopefully in the near future, then the work of your and our Commission, Mr. Chairman, will prove to be useful indeed.

Statement by the representative of Sweden

The Special Commission has had a very complicated task. The Swedish delegation has therefore appreciated the able way in which you have presided over our deliberations and your efforts to put forward proposals aiming at a solution of the outstanding problems during the last few weeks. Our thanks also go to the other members of the Bureau who have assisted you and to the Secretariat for its support.

The work in the economic and social fields takes up a considerable part of the activities of the United Nations. Sweden attaches great importance to this work, which should be carried out in such a way that maximum benefits are derived from our combined efforts. Therefore we have looked at the exercise that the Special Commission had to undertake as an opportunity to adapt the structure of the United Nations in the economic and social fields to present realities, priority tasks and challenges.

The Swedish delegation of course regrets that the Special Commission has not been able to reach a common understanding on reforms that should be undertaken. We believe, however, that the Special Commission - after a hesitant start - has carried out a useful analytical work and has identified areas where reforms should be considered. Constructive ideas and proposals have been put forward from many quarters and could be used for further considerations.

We must now look at what can be done in the future on the basis of the work of the Special Commission. At the Economic and Social Council meeting in July we must consider how the work of the Special Commission can be continued in one way or another.

The Swedish delegation is of the view that the work of the United Nations in the economic and social fields is of such an importance that reforms are called for to increase the value and impact of this work. Therefore Sweden still hopes that it will be possible to strengthen the work of the United Nations in the economic and social fields through substantial reforms that can meet with general support. We are open and flexible with respect to how this could be achieved.



Annex VII

CHAIRMAN'S CONCLUDING STATEMENT MADE ON 11 MAY 1988

I wish now to make my closing statement which contains my personal assessment of the work of the Special Commission as well as my assessment of the outcome.

At the beginning of the exercise, the residual fear, suspicion, mistrust and lingering resentment spilling over from the forty-first regular session of the General Assembly and the spectre of the financial crisis tarnished the atmosphere in the Special Commission. Then a period of genuine interest in the in-depth study evolved and delegations and Member States got involved in an intellectual and challenging process of scrutinizing a much proliferated and intricate intergovernmental structure. It was certainly a useful, informative and educating process for everyone. We cannot belittle the reservoir of information that is now available to the Member States and to the Secretariat in an intelligible and retrievable form on all components of the United Nations intergovernmental structure in the economic and social fields for the first time in years.

The final stage, that of formulating the recommendations of the Special Commission on the basis of the findings of the in-depth study, ran into serious difficulties for several reasons, among which I may cite the following:

(a) Political considerations;

(b) A sense of frustration, triggered by a series of setbacks, foremost among which is the financial uncertainty besetting the United Nations. Such setbacks and uncertainties cannot be overlooked and they have certainly had a negative impact on the prospects of, let alone the interest in, genuine reform;

(c) Difficulties within several groupings and delegations to agree on a solid position regarding the substantive recommendations and the modalities for their implementation. It was not the failure to identify the divergences and the issues to be addressed which obstructed such an undertaking. Rather, it was the fear that some elements of a package could compromise vested interests;

(d) Vested interests have not been limited to the political dimensions. They have transgressed those bounds into the realm of preferences. This was demonstrated when negotiations started on the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council and the attempt to rationalize them through their absorption by the new Council, their elimination or their conversion into expert groups;

(e) One of the main stumbling-blocks which impeded an agreement on a set of recommendations was the inability to make a clear-cut, logical and implementable division of labour between the General Assembly and a universalized Economic and Social Council.

Within this spectrum, trends ranged from converting the Council into an economic and social general assembly, even if such an arrangement detracted from

the powers and responsibilities of the General Assembly as enshrined in the Charter, to having a strengthened and hopefully more effective Council with universal membership, without being specific on the impact that such an arrangement should have on the method and organization of work of the General Assembly. A third trend opted for introducing minor changes by trimming down a few intergovernmental bodies while adhering to the saying that "Whatever is, is right". Had a genuine willingness to reach a compromise existed, it would have enabled the Special Commission to bridge the gap between the various positions. There was a necessary prerequisite that everyone should rise above narrow interests and engage in dialogue on the merit of each element of a package of measures.

The United Nations has, is and will always be what its Member States want it to be or to do. The political will on the part of all Member States is a sine qua non for an efficient and effective United Nations. If the Special Commission has been unable to approve a set of recommendations, it is the lack of agreement on the part of Member States on what they expect the United Nations to do.

On balance, the work of the Special Commission, in my assessment, has been very useful. The Special Commission has managed to conduct the in-depth study entrusted to it. It has diagnosed the symptoms but it was unable to agree on the remedy for the above-mentioned reasons. On the positive side, I could cite some of the areas on which there is a convergence of views among the members of the Commission:

(a) Review of the functioning of the United Nations should be seen as a continuing process aimed at bringing about appropriate reforms to enhance the capacity of the Organization to meet the changing needs of its members. Resolution 32/197 was thus the beginning of a process. However, we have to take into account the developments that have taken place since then and the prospects for the future so that any restructuring could respond to those changing needs. Many delegations duly recognized the fact that the work of the Special Commission was part of a political compromise reflected in General Assembly resolution 41/213 and that recommendations 2 and 8 were two out of 72 recommendations adopted by the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations;

(b) The common interests of all countries in the effective and efficient functioning of the United Nations in the economic and social fields;

(c) There is a reaffirmation of the principle that the General Assembly should function as the principal forum for policy-making and for the establishment of overall strategies, policies and priorities of the system as a whole in respect of international co-operation in the economic, social and related fields, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter;

(d) There is a reaffirmation that the Council should monitor and evaluate the implementation of overall strategies, policies and priorities established by the General Assembly in the economic, social and related fields. Another major task of the Council, which has to be strengthened, is to ensure the overall co-ordination of the activities of the United Nations system in the economic, social and related fields;

(e) In order to enable the Council of fully and effectively carrying out its Charter responsibilities, particularly in the field of co-ordination, Governments should harmonize their positions in the various governing bodies of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system;

(f) The strengthening of the Council and its functioning is of crucial importance to the effective functioning of the United Nations system in the economic and social fields. It was the common feeling that the Council is the weakest link in the chain and that the enhancement of its effectiveness is a major objective;

(g) A strengthened and effective Economic and Social Council should be seen as complementing and strengthening the respective roles of the General Assembly and its subsidiary bodies;

(h) Measures to strengthen the Council must include specific steps which would enhance its authority and credibility, improve its role in policy overview and co-ordination in order, inter alia, to improve harmonization of actions and promote an integrated approach in the social and economic fields and improve the interrelationships and the modalities for dialogue among major intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system in the economic and social areas, particularly in the context of operational activities;

(i) The Council should recommend to the General Assembly overall priorities and policy guidance on operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

(j) Continued effort should be made to biennialize the agendas and work programmes of the Council and of the Second and the Third Committees of the Assembly with a view to ensuring the necessary complementarity between the General Assembly and the Council;

(k) The recognition of the need to rationalize the subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly and the Council on the basis of agreed criteria;

(l) Executive heads of the organizations of the United Nations system or their senior representatives should participate more actively in the deliberations and informal discussion of the Economic and Social Council and should provide all assistance to the Council;

(m) In accordance with Article 64 of the Charter, the Council should obtain regular reports from the specialized agencies on the steps taken by them to give effect to relevant recommendations of the General Assembly and the Council in the economic and social fields;

(n) In accordance with the global development strategy and policies adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council should put greater emphasis on the consideration of the reports of the regional commissions with a view to effectively integrating the regional inputs into the global discussion of substantive issues. The Council should also review and co-ordinate, on a global

basis, interregional co-operation among the regional commissions. Regional commissions should draw the attention of the Council to questions with global implications or which are of relevance to other regions;

(o) Relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 32/197 should be fully implemented in order to allow the regional commissions to exercise fully and effectively their role, under the authority of the Economic and Social Council, as the main economic and social development centres within the United Nations system for their respective regions;

(p) The Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation should be strengthened and adequately staffed in order to enable the Director-General to effectively carry out his responsibilities, particularly in the areas of co-ordination and operational activities for development;

(q) Secretariat departments and divisions in the economic and social fields should be strengthened and/or modified in such a way as to provide adequate substantive and technical support commensurate with the functions of the respective organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations in the economic and social fields.

In conclusion, I wish to express my sentiments of sincere appreciation to the members of the Bureau who have been of particular assistance to me when I needed them most and to members of the Special Commission who have contributed earnestly in the efforts to reach agreement. I would like on behalf of all members of the Special Commission to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to the Secretary-General who, in accordance with the Economic and Social Council's decision 1987/112, has provided conference services, facilities and other necessary support on a preferential basis to the Special Commission to enable it to operate with sufficient frequency to fulfil its mandate in the limited time available. I also wish to thank the Director-General and members of his office who have spared no effort to provide the Special Commission with very useful information and documentation. My thanks also go to the Division of Economic and Social Council affairs which assisted the Commission substantially by providing conference services and facilities in a timely manner. I also wish, on your behalf, to thank the interpreters, the conference officers and the sound engineers for their invaluable support. Last but not least, I wish to express our heartfelt thanks to the members and the secretariats of all the subsidiary intergovernmental bodies which have communicated their views and proposals in writing or through their representatives who came in person and responded to the various queries made by members of the Special Commission.

In my opening statement to the first session of the Special Commission on 2 March 1987, I stated that "there is widespread recognition today by members of the United Nations of the need for measures to improve the efficiency of the United Nations with a view to strengthening its effectiveness in dealing with the various issues on its agenda. It is also recognized that as a result of the evolution and development of the principles and scope of international economic co-operation, the interdependence of States, the interrelatedness of issues and the resulting need

for an integrated approach, the United Nations as a universal forum for deliberations and negotiation had to cope with the changing circumstances and the new challenges as they emerged. Consequently, the agenda of the United Nations has grown continuously, with a concomitant growth in the intergovernmental machinery in the economic and social fields. A parallel growth in the United Nations Secretariat support structures to service the intergovernmental machinery resulted. The volume of documentation has also increased considerably, sometimes exceeding the average or even the super-human capacity for absorption, particularly for smaller delegations which have to cover the meetings of several committees or bodies with a limited staff. So, the general objective of this exercise is to increase the efficiency and enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields with a view to achieving the ultimate objective of improving the quality of human life world wide. I have to plead with all members of the Commission to undertake the task entrusted to them in a positive spirit and with a common understanding that improvement of the delivery of the intergovernmental machinery and its secretariat support services should be the focus of the exercise, without any attempt to politicize issues. Without a clear consensus on this basic point, we may go astray and deviate from the genuine and objective target of reform."

My conviction and assessment 14 months ago are as valid today as they were then. The findings of the in-depth study conducted by the Special Commission do confirm these premises. Reform has to remain a common commitment by all States Members of the United Nations. The Economic and Social Council may consider it appropriate to transmit the report of the Special Commission, together with the Council's appropriate recommendation that the General Assembly may deem it befitting, at its forty-third regular session, to pursue the endeavour made by the Special Commission with a view to elaborating action-oriented decisions aimed at improving the effectiveness of the United Nations intergovernmental structure in the economic and social fields through building on the points of convergence which evolved as a result of the in-depth study conducted by the Special Commission.

Annex VIII

LIST OF INFORMAL WORKING PAPERS BEFORE THE SPECIAL COMMISSION

<u>Informal working paper number</u>	<u>Title or description</u>
1 a/	Agenda of the subsidiary machinery of the Economic and Social Council and the related organs and programmes of the United Nations
2	Organigrams of the subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly in the economic and social fields and of the subsidiary machinery of the Economic and Social Council
3	Additional information, including any revisions, to the terms of reference of the subsidiary machinery of the Economic and Social Council and the related organs and programmes of the United Nations, as contained in document E/1983/INF.4
4	Documentation for the Special Commission: draft format
5	Secretariat support services for the main intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations in the economic and social sectors
6	Resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council relating to the functioning of the intergovernmental machinery in the economic and social sectors since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977
7	List of available United Nations studies on the functioning and restructuring of the intergovernmental bodies in the economic and social sectors, as well as legislative decisions in that regard
8	Frequency and duration of meetings of intergovernmental bodies in the economic and social sectors  Sample analyses of substantive areas:
9	Special economic assistance programmes
9/Add.1	Crime prevention and control

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Informal working  
paper number

Title or description

9/Add.2	Science and technology for development
9/Add.3	Human settlements
9/Add.4	Population
9/Add.5	Narcotic drugs
9/Add.6	Food and agriculture
9/Add.7	Disaster relief assistance
9/Add.8	Advancement of women, including the integration of women in development
9/Add.9	Economic and technical co-operation among developing countries
9/Add.10	Public administration and finance
9/Add.11	Social development
9/Add.12	Protection of and assistance to refugees and displaced persons
9/Add.13	Transnational corporations
9/Add.14	Training and research
9/Add.15	Statistics
9/Add.16	International trade
9/Add.17	Non-governmental organizations
9/Add.18	Human rights
9/Add.19	Energy
9/Add.20	Operational activities for development
9/Add.21	Environment
9/Add.22	Drought and desertification
9/Add.23	Money and finance

10                      Summary data on intergovernmental bodies in the economic and social sectors

Informal working  
paper number

Title or description

11	Detailed information on intergovernmental bodies in the economic and social sectors
11/Add.1	Economic Commission for Africa and its subsidiary machinery
11/Add.2	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and its subsidiary machinery
11/Add.3	Commission on Human Rights and its subsidiary machinery
11/Add.4	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and its subsidiary machinery
11/Add.5	Economic Commission for Europe and its subsidiary machinery
11/Add.6	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and its subsidiary machinery
12	Coverage of selected issues on the agendas of intergovernmental bodies: 1984-1987
13	Relevant deliberations of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Organization
14	Views and proposals of the subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly in the economic and social sectors and of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council:  Statistical Commission  Commission for Social Development  Commission on the Status of Women  Economic Commission for Europe  Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific  Economic Commission for Africa  Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia



Informal working  
paper number

Title or description

	Committee for Programme and Co-ordination
	Committee on Natural Resources
	Commission on Transnational Corporations (and the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting)
	Commission on Human Settlements
	Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
	Governing Council of United Nations Development Programme
14/Add.1	Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme
	High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries
	World Food Council
	Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development
14/Add.2	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
14/Add.3	Executive Board of United Nations Children's Fund
14/Add.4	United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
14/Add.5	Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
14/Add.6	Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
14/Add.7	Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes
14/Add.8	Population Commission
14/Add.9	<u>Ad Hoc</u> Group of Experts on International Co-operation in Tax Matters
14/Add.10	Supplementary report of the Economic Commission for Europe

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Informal working  
paper numberTitle or description

14/Add.11 and Corr.1	Council of the United Nations University
14/Add.12	Committee for Development Planning
14/Add.13	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
14/Add.14	Commission on Narcotic Drugs
14/Add.15	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
14/Add.16	Commission on Human Rights
14/Add.17	Commission on the Status of Women
14/Add.18	Committee on Crime Prevention and Control
14/Add.19	Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy
15	Survey and analysis of evaluations of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields
16 <u>b/</u>	Secretariat support structure, including organizational charts
17 <u>c/</u>	Follow-up action to the recommendations contained in resolution 32/197 relating to the functioning of the intergovernmental machinery of the United Nations
18	Cross-referencing of documents before the Special Commission in regard to intergovernmental subsidiary bodies in the social and economic sectors of the United Nations under review

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b/ Subsequently issued as document E/SCN.1/3.

c/ Subsequently issued as document E/SCN.1/2.

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Annex IX

LIST OF SYNOPTIC SUMMARIES OF VIEWS EXPRESSED ON THE FUNCTIONING  
OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL MACHINERY AND SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN THE  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FIELDS

1.	General Assembly and Economic and Social Council	Special Commission synoptic text	ST No. 1
2.	Commission on Transnational Corporations	ditto	ST No. 2
3.	Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting	ditto	ST No. 3
4.	<u>Ad Hoc</u> Intergovernmental Working Group on the Problems of Corrupt Practices	ditto	ST No. 4
5.	Statistical Commission	ditto	ST No. 5
6.	United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names	ditto	ST No. 6
7.	Committee for Development Planning	ditto	ST No. 7
8.	Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance	ditto	ST No. 8
9.	<u>Ad Hoc</u> Group of Experts on International Co-operation in Tax Matters	ditto	ST No. 9
10.	Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods	ditto	ST No. 10
11.	Committee for Programme and Co-ordination	ditto	ST No. 11
12.	Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations	ditto	ST No. 12
13.	Committee on Negotiations with Intergovernmental Agencies	ditto	ST No. 13
14.	Trade and Development Board	ditto	ST No. 14

15. Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund	Special Commission synoptic text	ST No. 15
16. Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes	ditto	ST No. 16
17. Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	ditto	ST No. 17
18. Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme	ditto	ST No. 18
19. High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries	ditto	ST No. 19
20. Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme	ditto	ST No. 20
21. Commission on Human Settlements	ditto	ST No. 21
22. Population Commission	ditto	ST No. 22
23. Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development, and Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development	ditto	ST No. 23
24. Economic and Social Council Overview	ditto	ST No. 24A
ditto	ditto	ST No. 24B
25. Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy	ditto	ST No. 25
26. Committee on Natural Resources	ditto	ST No. 26
27. World Food Council	ditto	ST No. 27
28. Operational activities	ditto	ST No. 28
29. Regional Commissions: Overview	ditto	ST No. 29
30. Economic Commission for Europe	ditto	ST No. 30
31. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	ditto	ST No. 31

32.	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	Special Commission synoptic text	ST No. 32
33.	Economic Commission for Africa	ditto	ST No. 33
34.	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	ditto	ST No. 34
35.	Commission for Social Development	ditto	ST No. 35
36.	Commission on the Status of Women	ditto	ST No. 36
37.	Commission on Narcotic Drugs	ditto	ST No. 37
38.	Committee on Crime Prevention and Control	ditto	ST No. 38
39.	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	ditto	ST No. 39
40.	Commission on Human Rights	ditto	ST No. 40

Annex X

STATEMENT MADE BY THE DELEGATION OF MEXICO ON 23 MAY 1988

I have express instructions from my Government to reiterate its opposition to the inclusion in the report of the Special Commission (document E/SCN.1/L.1) of annexes III and IV consisting of texts by the Chairman of the Commission, dated 21 April and 23 May (annex III) and 4 May (annex IV). While it is clear that these texts have not been adopted, they contain views whose articulation alone calls into question the very existence of our Organization and the authority of the General Assembly and, in our judgement, they threaten the vital interests of the developing countries and do not help to strengthen multilateralism in the economic and social fields.

We believe that the above-mentioned texts will severely hamper consultations on the report in the Economic and Social Council.

I request, Mr. Chairman, that this statement be included in its entirety in the final report.

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