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Further promotion and encouragement of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the question of the programme and methods of work of the Commission; alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Report prepared by the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 3, (c), (ii) of resolution 26 (XXXIV), of the Commission on Human Rights

CONTENTS

| | <u>Paras.</u> | <u>Pages</u> |
|---|---------------|--------------|
| Introduction | 1- 5 | 3 |
| I. Functional commissions | 6-39 | 3 |
| A. Population Commission | 6- 9 | 3 |
| B. Commission for Social Development | 10-13 | 4 |
| C. Subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Human Rights | 14-36 | 5 |
| 1. <u>Ad hoc</u> Committees and Working Groups | 15-25 | 5 |
| 2. Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities | 26-30 | 8 |
| 3. Subsidiary bodies of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities | 31-36 | 8 |
| D. Commission on the Status of Women | 37-39 | 9 |

CONTENTS (continued)

| | <u>Para.s.</u> | <u>Pages</u> |
|---|----------------|--------------|
| II. Standing committees of the Economic and Social Council | 40-56 | 10 |
| A. Committee on Science and Technology for Development | 40-43 | 10 |
| B. Commission on Transnational Corporations and its Intergovernmental Working Group on Code of Conduct for Transnational Corporations | 44-71 | 12 |
| C. Commission on Human Settlements | 48-53 | 13 |
| D. Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations | 54-56 | 15 |
| III. Expert bodies | 57-74 | 16 |
| A. Committee on Crime Prevention and Control | 57-62 | 16 |
| B. Committee for Development Planning | 63-69 | 17 |
| C. Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development | 70-74 | 18 |

INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted in accordance with paragraph (c), (ii) of resolution 26 (XXXIV) adopted on 8 March 1978 by the Commission on Human Rights, under which the Secretary-General was requested to prepare a report including information relating to the work programmes, schedules and terms of reference of United Nations bodies concerned with human rights, other than the Commission on Human Rights, over which the Economic and Social Council has jurisdiction. This report is being submitted, first, to an open-ended working group of the Commission which will meet for a week immediately before the thirty-fifth session of the Commission to undertake the necessary work relating to the over-all analysis asked by the General Assembly in its resolution 32/130, and report to the Commission with its conclusions and recommendations.
2. In submitting this report, the Secretary-General wishes to draw attention to resolution 32/197 adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-second session in which the Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations 1/ of the Ad Hoc Committee on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, which are set out in the annex to the resolution, and requested all organs, organizations and bodies within the United Nations system to implement these recommendations within their respective spheres of reference.
3. Section II of the conclusions and recommendations endorsed by General Assembly in resolution 32/197 provides, inter alia, that the Council should assure to the maximum extent possible direct responsibility for performing the functions of its subsidiary bodies and that these bodies would accordingly be discontinued or their terms of reference redefined and/or regrouped.
4. The choice of a broad criterion by Commission resolution 26 (XXXIV) - "United Nations bodies concerned with human rights" - might lead to some uncertainty regarding the selection of organs. An attempt has been made to limit the scope of this report to those bodies, under the jurisdiction of the Council, whose mandates are substantially related to various aspects of the work of the Commission on Human Rights.
5. In this regard, consideration has been given, inter alia, to the attention paid by the Commission to questions concerning the realization of economic, social and cultural rights and the human right to development. More extensive information regarding the subsidiary machinery of the Council may be found in document E/1978/10 of 27 January 1978. The present report follows the order of presentation of document E/1978/10.

I. FUNCTIONAL COMMISSIONS

A. Population Commission

6. The Population Commission was established by Council resolution 3 (III) of 3 October 1946 and its terms of reference were set out in resolution 150 (VII) of 10 August 1948 to "arrange for studies and advise the Council on:

1/ For the full texts of the General Assembly resolution 32/197 and the conclusions and recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations system, see Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 45 (A/32/45), pp.121-127.

- "(a) The size and structure of populations and the changes therein;
- "(b) The interplay of demographic factors and economic and social factors;
- "(c) Policies designed to influence the size and structure of populations and the changes therein;
- "(d) Any other demographic questions on which either the principal or the subsidiary organs of the United Nations or the specialized agencies may seek advice."

7. The Council, at its 1948th meeting, on 6 May 1975, decided to request the Population Commission:

"(a) To examine on a biennial basis the results of the continuous process of monitoring the World Population Plan of Action ^{2/} in accordance with paragraph 107 of the Plan of Action, and to bring its findings to the attention of the Council;

"(b) To contribute, within its competence, advice for the comprehensive review and appraisal of the progress made towards achieving the goals and recommendations of the World Population Plan of Action and to report its findings to the Council." ^{3/}

8. The Population Commission holds one session every two years. Its twentieth session is to be held in New York from 29 January to 9 February 1979.

9. The attention of the Commission on Human Rights is further drawn to document E/CN.9/331 containing the biennial work programme (1978-1979) and to the medium-term plan (1978-1981) in the demographic field, submitted by the Secretary-General to the nineteenth session of the Population Commission (10-21 January 1977).

B. Commission for Social Development

10. Originally known as the Social Commission, the Commission was established by Council resolution 10 (II) of 21 June 1946. As a result of a comprehensive reappraisal of the role of the Commission, the Council, in resolution 1139 (XLI) of 29 July 1966, renamed the Commission in order to clarify its role as a preparatory and advisory body of the Council in the whole range of social development policy.

11. In accordance with the above-mentioned Council resolutions, the Commission shall:

"(a) Advise the Council on social policies of a general character and give particular attention to policies designed to promote social progress, to the establishment of social objectives and programme priorities and social research in areas affecting social and economic development;

^{2/} United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.XIII.3, chap. I.

^{3/} Council decision 87 (LVIII) of 6 May 1975.

"(b) Advise the Council on practical measures that may be needed in the social field, including questions of social welfare, community development, urbanization, housing and social defence;

"(c) To advise the Council on measures needed for the co-ordination of activities in the social field;

"(d) To advise the Council on such international agreements and conventions on any of these matters, as may be required, and on their execution;

"(e) To report to the Council on the extent to which the recommendations of the United Nations in the field of social policy are being carried out;

"(f) Advise the Council also on vital social problems in respect of which action or recommendations may be required either by the Council itself or by the General Assembly in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2035 (XX)."

12. The Commission for Social Development holds one session every two years. Its twenty-sixth session will be held in New York from 20 February to 9 March 1979.

13. The attention of the Commission on Human Rights is further drawn to the note submitted by the Secretary-General to the Commission for Social Development concerning the medium-term plan for 1978-1981 in this field (E/CN.5/538) and to the relevant debates at the twenty-fifth session of the Commission for Social Development. These debates are summarized in paragraphs 157 to 175 of the report of the Commission (E/5915). The Commission recommended that an Experts Working Group be established by the Secretary-General to submit recommendations on the effectiveness of social development activities and of their co-ordination in the United Nations system, as well as on the future role of the "social development" component in the United Nations with a view to stressing the importance of social progress in the preparation of a new development strategy.

C. Subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Human Rights

14. The following list includes only those subsidiary bodies which have been in operation for several years. It should be recalled that occasional working groups have also been set up at various sessions of the Commission, for instance, the working group to deal with the questions mentioned in Commission resolutions 18 (XXIV) and 26 (XXIV).

1. Ad Hoc Committees and Working Groups

(a) Ad Hoc Committee on Periodic Reports

15. The Ad Hoc Committee was established by Council resolution 1074 (XXXIX) of 28 July 1965.

16. The Ad Hoc Committee, which is a pre-sessional ad hoc committee of the Commission, is entrusted with the study and evaluation of the periodic reports and other information received under the terms of the above-mentioned resolution, and, in the light of the comments, observations and recommendations of the Commission on the Status of Women and of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, it submits to the Commission comments, conclusions and recommendations of an objective character.

(b) Ad hoc Working Group of Experts on Human Rights in Southern Africa

17. The Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on Human Rights in Southern Africa was established by resolution 2 (XXIII) of the Commission on Human Rights.

18. The Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts, whose mandate has been successively enlarged and extended by Commission resolutions 2 (XXIV), 21 (XXV), 8 (XXVI), 7 (XXVII), 19 (XXIX), 7 (XXX), 5 (XXXI) and 6 (XXXIII), performs investigatory functions as regards the treatment of political prisoners and as regards other questions relating to human rights in southern Africa, and undertakes, as required, field missions for the purpose of receiving evidence and hearing testimony concerning developments in matters falling within its terms of reference. Since 1967 the Working Group has been carrying out concurrently investigations concerning the enjoyment of trade union rights and related questions in southern Africa and the African Territories then under Portuguese Administration in accordance with Council resolutions 1216 (XLII), 1302 (XLIV), 1412 (XLVI), 1509 (XLVIII), 1599 (L) and 1796 (LIV). In its resolution 5 (XXXI), the Commission on Human Rights decided that the Working Group should continue carefully to observe and survey further developments concerning the policy of apartheid and racial discrimination present in the situation prevailing in Namibia and Southern Rhodesia, to study the private geol and farm geol systems, the development of the separate homelands and its effects on the right of self-determination, as well as the farm labour system in the Republic of South Africa; to study the consequences of apartheid as regards the African family and to inquire into the particular difficulties of the student movements in South Africa and Namibia; and to submit a report on its findings to the Commission not later than at the Commission's thirty-third session (1977) and to present an interim report to the Commission at its thirty-second session (1976). The Council, in resolution 1939 (LVIII), approved the decision taken by the Commission on Human Rights to extend the mandate of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts, as proposed in resolution 5 (XXXI) of the Commission and within the terms of that resolution. The Council, in resolution 2082 (LVII), similarly approved the decision taken by the Commission on Human Rights to extend the mandate of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts. In the same resolution the Council also decided that the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts, "in conjunction with the Special Committee against Apartheid, should examine the treatment of prisoners in South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe, including the deaths of a number of detainees, as well as police brutality during peaceful demonstrations against apartheid in South Africa since the Soweto massacre of 16 June 1976, with a view to submitting a report".

19. By resolution 5 (XXXIV), the Commission on Human Rights, inter alia, requested the Group to continue to maintain close co-operation with the Special Committee against Apartheid in the investigation of gross violations of human rights in South Africa.

(c) Ad Hoc Working Group on the Situation of Human Rights in Chile

20. The Ad Hoc Working Group on the Situation of Human Rights in Chile was established by resolution 6 (XXXI) of the Commission on Human Rights, as approved by decision 80 (LVIII) of the Council.

21. The Ad Hoc Working Group was instructed by the Commission, in its resolution 8 (XXI), to inquire into the present situation of human rights in Chile on the basis of certain specified United Nations resolutions and of a visit to Chile and of oral and written evidence to be gathered from all relevant sources. The Commission requested the Ad Hoc Working Group to report the results of its inquiries to the Commission at its thirty-second session (1976) and to submit a progress report to the Secretary-General for inclusion in his report to the General Assembly at its thirtieth session (1975) under General Assembly resolution 3219 (XXIX).

22. The General Assembly, in its resolution 34/8 (XX), invited the Commission on Human Rights to extend the mandate of the Ad Hoc Working Group established under resolution 8 (XXI), as at present constituted, to enable it to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-first session (1976) and to the Commission at its thirty-third session (1977) on the situation of human rights in Chile and, in particular, any developments which occur to re-establish respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Council, in decision 145 (LX) of 12 May 1976, approved the decision of the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 3 (XXXII), in response to General Assembly resolution 3448 (XXX), to extend the mandate of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Situation of Human Rights in Chile within the terms of the Commission resolution. In its decision 233 (LXII) of 13 May 1977, the Council similarly approved the extension of the mandate of the Ad Hoc Working Group, in response to General Assembly resolution 31/124. In 1977 the Group's mandate was renewed by Commission resolution 9 (XXXIII) at the invitation of the General Assembly in resolution 31/124. In 1976 the Commission renewed the Group's mandate in resolution 12 (XXXIV) acting at the invitation of the General Assembly in resolution 32/118.

(d) Working Group to study situations which reveal a consistent pattern of gross violations of human rights

23. This Working Group was established by decision 2 (XXX) of 6 March 1974 of the Commission on Human Rights, as approved by decision 15 (LVI) of the Council. A similar Working Group was established in 1975, by decision 7 (XXXI) of the Commission, as approved by decision 79 (LVIII) of the Council. Again a Working Group was established in 1977, by decision 5 (XXXIII) of the Commission, as approved by decision 231 (LXII) of the Council.

24. The Working Group established in 1974 was entrusted with the task of examining the documents transmitted by the confidential resolution of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities submitted to the Commission at its thirtieth session (1974) under Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII), together with the observations of the Governments concerned, as well as any further report that the Sub-Commission may submit under that resolution. The Working Group set up in 1977 was to examine such particular situations as might be referred to it by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities at its thirtieth session under Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII) and those situations which the Commission had decided to keep under review.

25. By decision 4 (XXXIV), the Commission decided, subject to the approval of the Council, to set up such a working group to meet immediately before its thirty-fifth session.

2. Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities

26. The Sub-Commission was established by the Commission on Human Rights under the authority of Council resolution 9 (II) of 21 June 1946. Its terms of reference were set out by the Commission at its first session (E/259, 11 February 1947) and at its fifth session (E/1371, June 1949).

27. The functions of the Sub-Commission are:

"(a) To undertake studies, particularly in the light of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and to make recommendations to the Commission on Human Rights concerning the prevention of discrimination of any kind relating to human rights and fundamental freedoms and the protection of racial, national, religious and linguistic minorities; and

"(b) To perform any other functions which may be entrusted to it by the Economic and Social Council or the Commission on Human Rights."

28. The Sub-Commission was subsequently entrusted with certain functions by various resolutions of successive bodies, including Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII) of the Economic and Social Council on communications relating to violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

29. The Sub-Commission holds one session a year. It will hold its thirty-second session from 20 August to 7 September 1979 in Geneva.

30. The five-year programme of work (1976-1980) adopted by the Sub-Commission at its 739th meeting, on 10 September 1975, ^{4/} distinguished between continuing tasks - such as the implementation of Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII), the annual review of developments on the human rights of detained persons, and consideration of the question of slavery - and the preparation of studies.

3. Subsidiary bodies of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities

(a) Working Group on Communications

31. The Working Group was established by resolution 2 (XLIV) of 16 August 1971 of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities in pursuance of Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII).

32. It was established as one of the organs entrusted with the implementation of the procedures for dealing with communications relating to violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms established by the Council. The Working Group is a

^{4/} For further details, see E/CN.4/1180, chapter VI and annex II.

pre-sessional body of the Sub-Commission which meets once a year immediately before the session of the Sub-Commission to consider all communications received under Council resolution 7201 (XXVII) in a view to bring to the attention of the Sub-Commission the communications which appear to reveal a consistent pattern of gross and reliably attested violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms within the terms of reference of the Sub-Commission.

33. The Working Group holds one session a year. It will meet in Geneva from 6 to 17 August 1979.

(1) Working Group on Slavery

34. The Working Group on Slavery was established by resolution 11 (XXVII) of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities in pursuance of Council Decisions 16 (LVJ) and 17 (LVI).

35. The Working Group, which meets for not more than three working days prior to each session of the Sub-Commission, reviews developments in the field of slavery and the slave trade in all their practices and manifestations, including the slavery-like practices of apartheid and colonialism, the traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others as they are defined in the Slavery Convention of 1926, the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery of 1956, and the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others of 1949.

36. The Working Group holds one session every year. It will hold its fifth session from 15 to 17 August 1979.

D. Commission on the Status of Women

37. The Commission was established by Council resolution 11 (II) of 21 June 1946 to "prepare recommendations and reports to the Council on promoting women's rights in political, economic, civil, social and educational fields. The Commission shall also make recommendations to the Council on urgent problems requiring immediate attention in the field of women's rights with the object of implementing the principle that men and women shall have equal rights, and to develop proposals to give effect to such recommendations".

38. The Commission holds one session every two years. It will hold its twenty-eighth session in 1980.

39. The medium-term plan for 1978-1981 contains three Sub-programmes of the Promotion of Equality of Men and Women Branch (Sub-programme 4: integration of women in development; Sub-programme 5: international instruments relating to the status of women; and Sub-programme 6: Women and Peace). 5/

5/ For further details, see E/5915, chapter XI, paras. 157-175.

II. STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

A. Committee on Science and Technology for Development

40. The Committee was established by Council resolution 1621 B (LI) of 30 July 1971 "to provide guidance and make recommendations on matters relating to the application of science and technology to development". Its mandate was set out in resolution 1715 (LIII) of 28 July 1972 which provided that "the Committee's functions shall consist of the following:

"(a) Promoting international co-operation in the field of science and technology, including education, training and exchange of experience and information;

"(b) Reviewing and analysing, on a continuing basis, the policy aspects of science and technology for development, with a view to:

(i) Identifying restrictive factors affecting indigenous scientific and technological development and recommending policies as appropriate on their removal;

(ii) Promoting policies geared to the establishment of a viable and adequate scientific and technological infrastructure capable of generating a self-supporting process of economic and social development;

(iii) Encouraging the development of science and technology in the developing countries themselves;

"(c) Encouraging the formulation of over-all scientific and technological policies and the development of scientific and technological processes which are compatible with the endowments of the developing countries and their national development plans and priorities;

"(d) Suggesting, in accordance with national development plans and priorities, scientific and technological policies to promote development with such objectives as the maximization of productivity in developing countries, the promotion of their industrialization, the reduction of their dependency on imports of capital equipment, the stimulation of their exports and the improvement of their balance-of-payments position;

"(e) Assisting the Economic and Social Council to help the appropriate intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system to plan programmes and activities within the sphere of their respective competence in the field of science and technology for development;

"(f) Assisting and evaluating policies designed to employ existing scientific and technological methods and processes to accelerate the rate of economic and social progress, both quantitatively and qualitatively, of the developing countries;

"(g) Keeping under review, taking into account as appropriate the views of expert bodies concerned, new developments in science and technology, evaluating their implications and making recommendations to the Council on practical measures to maximize their contribution to development;

- "(h) Studying and suggesting:
- (i) Ways and means of integrating scientific and technological planning and activities related to development;
 - (ii) Measures required to make foreign scientific and technological participation fully compatible with the national plans and priorities of the host countries;
- "(i) Stimulating, encouraging and suggesting scientific and technological research and application required to cope with new or changing problems in the field of development;
- "(j) Identifying those multisectoral and multidisciplinary problems in the field of science and technology for development which are not at present being dealt with in the United Nations system, and recommending measures, as appropriate, for dealing with them;
- "(k) Suggesting measures required to generate the internal and external resources necessary to implement the policies and programmes recommended by the Committee;
- "(l) Making recommendations to the appropriate bodies in the United Nations system on the mobilization of public opinion, especially with regard to the world scientific community, in favour of policies and programmes recommended by the Committee and by other United Nations organs working in this field;
- "(m) Maintaining liaison with other organizations doing relevant work in the field of science and technology for development;
- "(n) Assisting the Economic and Social Council in co-ordinating the activities within the United Nations system in the field of science and technology for development, with a view to ensuring the utmost efficiency and co-operation and avoiding duplication;
- "(o) Making recommendations, through the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, to the United Nations Development Programme on the policy questions arising in the field of science and technology, including projects which could be financed by the Programme out of funds allocated for global projects;
- "(p) Assessing and making appropriate recommendations on the conclusions of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development, and giving the Advisory Committee such guidance as may be necessary for the implementation of the functions of the Committee on Science and Technology for Development;"

41. The Committee was requested in the same resolution "to assist in the process of review and appraisal of the progress in the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade in the field of science and technology for development".

42. The General Assembly, in resolution 31/184 of 21 December 1976, decided that the Committee on Science and Technology for Development shall act as the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development. In resolution 32/115 of 15 December 1977, the General Assembly decided that the Preparatory Committee is open to the participation of all States as full members.

43. The United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development will be held in Vienna, from 20 to 31 August 1979.

B. Commission on Transnational Corporations and its Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct for Transnational Corporations

1. Commission on Transnational Corporations

44. The Commission was established by Council resolution 1913 (LVII) of 5 December 1974 which also contains its terms of reference:

"The Commission on Transnational Corporations will assist the Economic and Social Council in fulfilling its responsibilities in the field of transnational corporations by:

(a) Acting as the forum within the United Nations system for the comprehensive and in-depth consideration of issues relating to transnational corporations;

(b) Promoting the exchange of views among Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, trade unions, business, consumers and other relevant groups through the arrangements, inter alia, of hearings and interviews;

(c) Providing guidance to the Information and Research Centre on Transnational Corporations, referred to in paragraph 4 [of the resolution], on the rendering of advisory services to interested Governments and promoting programmes of technical co-operation;

(d) Conducting inquiries on the activities of transnational corporations, making studies, preparing reports and organizing panels for facilitating discussions among relevant groups;

(e) Undertaking work which may assist the Economic and Social Council in evolving a set of recommendations which, taken together, would represent the basis for a code of conduct dealing with transnational corporations;

(f) Undertaking work which may assist the Economic and Social Council in considering possible arrangements or agreements on specific aspects relating to transnational corporations with a view to studying the feasibility of formulating a general agreement and, on the basis of a decision of the Council, to consolidating them into a general agreement at a future date;

(g) Recommending to the Economic and Social Council the priorities and the programmes of work on transnational corporations to be carried out by the Information and Research Centre on Transnational Corporations."

2. Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct for Transnational Corporations

45. The Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct for Transnational Corporations was established by the Commission on Transnational Corporations at its second session.

46. The Intergovernmental Working Group, which was to meet intersessionally with the participation of at least four members of the Commission on Transnational Corporations from each regional group was requested by the Commission to prepare an annotated outline of a code of conduct to be submitted to the Commission. It was further requested to take into account, in carrying out its work, "the related work being undertaken by the United Nations bodies, in particular the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, regarding transfer of technology, restrictive business practices, etc., and the International Labour Organisation, regarding employment questions. It should also bear in mind the related work undertaken by the non-aligned countries, the Organization of American States, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the European Economic Community and other forums". 6/

47. The Intergovernmental Working Group will meet from 12 to 23 March 1979 in New York.

C. Commission on Human Settlements

48. The Council, at its organizational session for 1978, in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977, transformed its Committee on Housing, Building and Planning, which had been set up by Council resolution 903 C (XXXIV) of 2 August 1962, into the Commission on Human Settlements.

49. General Assembly resolution 32/162 provides that the Commission on Human Settlements should discharge, inter alia, the responsibilities ... exercised by the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning.

[In accordance with Council resolution 903 C (XXXIV) of 2 August 1962, these responsibilities are:

"(a) Examination of reports concerning technical assistance activities in the field of housing, related community facilities and physical planning;

"(b) Recommendations to the Economic and Social Council for appropriate co-ordination of these programmes among the various United Nations bodies, including the regional economic commissions, and with other international agencies;

"(c) Recommendations to Governments, through the Council, on appropriate priorities and programme emphasis in the field of housing and related community facilities and physical planning;

"(d) Promotion of research and of the exchange and dissemination of experience and information in these fields, with especial reference to the needs of under-developed countries;

"(e) Development of proposals for consideration by appropriate United Nations bodies and others, on such matters as financing of home construction and ownership, provision of land for homes and community facilities at reasonable cost, designs suitable for low-cost housing in different climates and cultures, improved building materials and their better use, and ways of promoting acceptance and adoption of efficient organizational and building techniques;

"(f) Development of means and methods for the increased utilization of the regional economic commissions in this field."]

6/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 5 (E/5782), chap. I, para. 17.

50. General Assembly resolution 32/162 also provides that the Commission will have the following main objectives:

- (a) To assist countries and regions in increasing and improving their own efforts to solve human settlements problems;
- (b) To promote greater international co-operation in order to increase the availability of resources of developing countries and regions;
- (c) To promote the integral concept of human settlements and a comprehensive approach to human settlements problems in all countries;
- (d) To strengthen co-operation and co-participation in this domain among all countries and regions.

51. General Assembly resolution 32/162 further decided that the Commission will:

- (a) Develop and promote policy objectives, priorities and guidelines regarding existing and planned programmes of work in the field of human settlements, as formulated in the recommendations of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements and subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly;
- (b) Follow closely the activities of the United Nations system and other international organizations in the field of human settlements and to propose, when appropriate, ways and means by which the over-all policy objectives and goals in the field of human settlements within the United Nations system might best be achieved;
- (c) Study, in the context of the Conference's recommendations for national action, new issues, problems and especially solutions in the field of human settlements, particularly those of a regional or international character;
- (d) Give over-all policy guidance and carry out supervision of the operations of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation;
- (e) Review and approve periodically the utilization of funds at its disposal for carrying out human settlements activities at the global, regional and subregional levels;
- (f) Provide over-all direction to the secretariat of Habitat, Centre for Human Settlements;
- (g) Review and provide guidance on the programme of the United Nations Audio-Visual Information Centre on Human Settlements established by virtue of General Assembly resolution 31/115 of 16 December 1976.

52. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/162, the report of the Commission on Human Settlements will be submitted to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council.

53. The Commission holds one session every two years. It will hold its second session from 26 March to 5 April 1979 in Nairobi.

D. Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

54. The Committee was established by Council resolution 3 (II) of 21 June 1946. Its original terms of reference were set out in Council resolution 238 B (X) of 27 February 1950, which was superseded by resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 25 June 1968. The present terms of reference of the Committee are now set out in the rules of procedure of the Council (E/5715) adopted by the Council in resolution 1949 (LVIII) of 8 May 1975.

55. In accordance with rules 30, 32, 33 and 34 of the rules of procedure of the Council, the terms of reference of the Committee are as follows:

"The Committee shall carry out the functions assigned to it by the Council in connexion with the arrangements for consultations with non-governmental organizations adopted by the Council in accordance with Article 71 of the Charter."

"The Committee shall elect its own officers."

"When considering applications for granting consultative status to non-governmental organizations, the Committee shall be guided by the rules of procedure of the Council. Non-governmental organizations applying for consultative status shall have an opportunity to submit written statements or be heard by the Committee, at the request of the latter, by means of an oral statement made by a duly authorized representative."

"The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations may consult, in connexion with sessions of the Council or at such other times as it may decide, with organizations in categories I and II on matters within their competence, other than items on the agenda of the Council, on which the Council or the Committee or the organization requests consultation. The Committee shall report to the Council on such consultations."

"The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations may consult, in connexion with any particular session of the Council, with organizations in categories I and II on matters within the competence of the organizations concerning specific items already on the provisional agenda of the Council on which the Council or the Committee or the organization requests consultation, and shall make recommendations as to which organizations, subject to the provisions of paragraph 1 of rule 34, should be heard by the Council or the appropriate committee and regarding which subjects they should be heard. Organizations desiring such consultations shall apply in writing so that the request may reach the Secretary-General as soon as possible after the issue of the provisional agenda for the session, and in any case not later than five days after the adoption of the agenda. The Committee shall report to the Council on such consultations."

"The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations shall make recommendations to the Council as to which organizations in category I should be heard by the Council or by its sessional committees and on which items they should be heard. Such organizations shall be entitled to make one statement on each such item to the Council or the appropriate sessional committee, subject to the approval of the Council or of the sessional committee concerned. In the absence of the subsidiary body of the Council with jurisdiction in a major field of interest to the Council and to an organization in category II, the Committee may recommend that an organization in category II be heard by the Council on the subject in its field of interest."

"Whenever the Council discusses the substance of an item proposed by a non-governmental organization in category I and included in the agenda of the Council, such an organization shall be entitled to present orally to the Council or a sessional committee of the Council, as appropriate, an introductory statement of an expository nature. Such an organization may be invited by the President of the Council or the Chairman of the committee, with the consent of the relevant body, to make, in the course of the discussion of the item before the Council or before the Committee, an additional statement for purposes of clarification."

56. The Committee holds one session every two years. It will hold its next session from 26 February to 2 March 1979 in New York.

III. EXPERT BODIES

A. Committee on Crime Prevention and Control

57. The Committee was first established as an Ad Hoc Advisory Committee of Experts by General Assembly resolution 415 (V) of 1 December 1950. The Committee was renamed Committee on Crime Prevention and Control by Council resolution 1534 (L) of 21 May 1971. ^{7/} The Committee's terms of reference were set out in the above-mentioned resolutions.

58. The purpose of the Committee is to advise the Secretary-General and the Commission for Social Development in devising and formulating programmes for study on an international basis and policies for international action in the field of the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders and also to advise on the co-ordination of the work of the United Nations consultative groups.

59. The Council, in resolution 1584 (L), decided that the Committee "should report to the Commission for Social Development and, as appropriate on particular aspects, to the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs".

60. In resolution 3021 (XXVII) of 18 December 1972, the General Assembly instructed the Committee "to submit a report to the General Assembly at its thirty-first session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the methods and ways likely to be most effective in preventing crime and improving the treatment of offenders, including recommendations on the measures most appropriate in such areas as law enforcement, judicial procedures and correctional practices".

61. In paragraph 1 of resolution 32/60, the General Assembly requested the Economic and Social Council to consider the question of crime prevention and control with a view to further co-ordination of the activities of United Nations bodies in this field, in particular the preparation every five years of a United Nations congress on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, the publication of the International Review of Criminal Policy and the provision of technical assistance to interested Member States, at their request. In paragraph 2 of the same resolution, the General Assembly entrusted the Committee with the function of preparing the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders by submitting appropriate proposals to the Economic and Social Council.

62. The Committee holds two sessions every year.

^{7/} The United Nations Legal Office concluded on 7 October 1971 that "under the terms of Council resolution 1534 (L), the Committee is a subsidiary organ of the Council ...". See United Nations Juridical Yearbook, 1971 (United Nations Publications, Sales No. E.77.V.1) - 201

B. Committee for Development Planning

63. The Council, in resolution 1035 (XXXVII) of 15 August 1964, requested the Secretary-General "to consider, as the work of United Nations bodies on economic planning and projections progressed, the establishment of a group of experts in planning theory and practice to work as a consultative body within the United Nations". The Committee was established and given its terms of reference by Council resolution 1079 (XXXIX) of 23 July 1965.

"The functions of the Committee shall be:

"(a) To consider and evaluate the programmes and activities of the organs of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies relating to economic planning and projections and to propose measures for their improvement for consideration by the Council;

"(b) To consider and evaluate, inter alia, the progress made, within the framework of the activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, in the transfer of knowledge to developing countries and in the training of personnel of those countries in economic planning and projection;

"(c) To analyse, with the help of the organs of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies, the major trends of planning and programming in the world, the principal problems and the solutions they are receiving, and in particular the progress made in that connexion relevant to the development of the less-developed regions;

"(d) To study individual questions in the field of economic planning and programming referred to it by the Council, by the Secretary-General or by the executive heads of the specialized agencies;

"(e) To make any suggestions it may consider useful concerning the scope of its terms of reference;

"(f) To make a provisional report to the forty-first session of the Council."

64. The Council, in resolution 1625 (LI) of 30 July 1971, also assigned the Committee "the task of preparing comments and recommendations that could help the Council in discharging its responsibility to the General Assembly relating to biennial over-all appraisals of progress in implementing the International Development Strategy".

65. The Committee holds one session a year. It will hold its fifteenth session from 26 March to 6 April 1979 in New York.

66. In order to enable the Committee to carry out its task efficiently, the Council decided, in resolution 1625 (LI) of 30 July 1971, to permit the Committee to continue its existing practice of holding meetings of its working groups.

67. The Committee has at present three working groups (Working Groups I, II and III). Besides helping the Committee to carry out the functions assigned to it in Council resolutions 1079 (XXXIX) and 1625 (LI), these working groups also assist the Committee in the task of over-all appraisal of the progress in implementing the International Development Strategy assigned to the Committee by General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV) of 19 November 1970.

68. These working groups meet at the request of the Committee to carry out specific tasks.

69. Each of these three Working Groups hold one session a year. The dates of these meetings for 1979 are to be determined. Working Groups I and III will meet in New York in 1979 and Working Group II will meet in Geneva in 1979.

C. Advisory Committee on the Application of Science
and Technology to Development

70. The Advisory Committee was established and given its terms of reference by Council resolution 930 (XXXVI) of 1 August 1963.

71. The functions of the Advisory Committee are as follows:

"(a) To keep under review progress in the application of science and technology and propose to the Council practical measures for such application for the benefit of the less developed areas;

"(b) To review, in close co-operation with the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, the scientific and technological programmes and activities of the United Nations and related agencies and propose to the Council measures for their improvement, including the establishment of priorities and the elimination of duplication;

"(c) To consider specific questions referred to it by the Council, or by the Secretary-General, or by the executive heads of the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency;

"(d) To study and to advise the Council as to the need for making changes of organization or other arrangements which would advance the application of science and technology for the benefit of developing countries."

72. In resolution 1621 B (LI) of 30 July 1971, the Council decided that the Advisory Committee "should furnish expertise to the Committee on Science and Technology for Development, in addition to its terms of reference, and that it might receive such instructions from that Committee as would be necessary to provide it with scientific, technical and innovative advice and ideas in this field".

73. The Council, in resolution 1715 (LIII) of 28 July 1972, decided that "in the future the Advisory Committee's reports will be referred to the Committee on Science and Technology for Development".

74. The Advisory Committee holds one session every two years. It will hold its next session in Geneva, from 22 January to 2 February 1979.
