



REPORT  
OF THE *AD HOC* COMMITTEE  
ON THE RESTRUCTURING  
OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SECTORS  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

OFFICIAL RECORDS: THIRTY - FIRST SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 34 (A/31/34)

**UNITED NATIONS**



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#### NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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## I. SUMMARY

1. The General Assembly, at its seventh special session adopted resolution 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 entitled "Development and international economic co-operation" whereby it decided, inter alia, to set in motion a number of measures as the basis and framework for the future work of the competent bodies and organizations of the United Nations system. In section VII of that resolution, the Assembly established the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System to prepare detailed action proposals, with a view to initiating the process of restructuring the United Nations system so as to make it more fully capable of dealing with problems of international co-operation and development in a comprehensive and effective manner and to make it more responsive to the requirements of the provisions of the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, as well as to those of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. The Ad Hoc Committee was required to start its work immediately, to inform the Assembly at its thirtieth session of the progress made and to submit its report to the Assembly at its thirty-first session through the Economic and Social Council at its resumed sixty-first session.

2. The first session of the Ad Hoc Committee, at which it concentrated on organizational matters, was held at United Nations Headquarters in November 1975. The Committee reported thereon to the Assembly at its thirtieth session. 1/

3. During 1976, the Ad Hoc Committee held three sessions at which it conducted both formal deliberations and informal consultations. At the second session, the Committee held a general debate and identified eight "problem areas" to which the Committee agreed to give priority consideration. A number of preliminary and informal proposals concerning those problem areas were submitted by delegations. On the basis of a discussion of such proposals, the Ad Hoc Committee, at its third session, agreed to invite its Chairman to prepare a consolidated text which would attempt to bring together all the proposals made and the views expressed by delegations in the Committee. The consolidated text prepared by the Chairman served as a basis for informal consultations held by members of the Committee at Geneva during the sixty-first session of the Economic and Social Council in July 1976 and at United Nations Headquarters during the fourth session of the Committee. Throughout that period, the Ad Hoc Committee was working towards an agreed set of interrelated guidelines and recommendations covering all the problem areas identified by the Committee on the basis of which detailed action proposals would be prepared, as required by Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII). Following intensive consultations covering five of the eight problem areas, the Committee invited the Chairman to prepare a revised version of the five relevant sections of the consolidated text.

4. The Ad Hoc Committee has worked under some difficulties throughout the year. The mandate vested in it by the General Assembly, embracing the economic and social

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1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 5 (A/10005 and Corr.1).

sectors of the United Nations system as a whole, is extremely complex and broad. The Ad Hoc Committee had hoped to complete its consultations on the three remaining problem areas by October 1976, but the pressure of other commitments, including the session of the Assembly itself, made it impossible to submit a complete report within the time-table agreed upon by the Committee. In deciding to submit the present report to the Assembly, the Committee noted that it had made considerable progress in the elaboration of the restructuring measures requested of it in General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII), but that all the measures envisaged in that resolution were interrelated and were intended by the Assembly to be pursued in a fully concerted fashion.

5. The Ad Hoc Committee accordingly recommends to the General Assembly that its mandate should be extended with a view to enabling the Committee to submit final recommendations and proposals to the Assembly at its thirty-second session through the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-third session.

6. Should the Assembly approve this recommendation, the Ad Hoc Committee will proceed with its work in accordance with the arrangements that have been agreed for that purpose (see sect. III below).

## II. WORK OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE

7. During 1976, the Ad Hoc Committee held three sessions: the second session, from 11 February to 4 March; the third session from 2 to 11 June; and the fourth session, from 23 September to 29 November.

### A. Second session

8. The Ad Hoc Committee held a general debate during its second session. In accordance with the decision taken by the Committee at its 6th meeting, on 21 November 1975, 2/ the executive heads of United Nations organizations and organs, including the regional commissions, programmes and specialized agencies, and of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), as well as senior officials of the Secretariat were invited to participate in the general debate. A total of 86 speakers participated and advanced views on the objectives and substance of the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system and on the priorities that they attached to the various questions within the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee. The Secretary-General subsequently submitted his personal observations on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system (A/AC.179/6).

9. In addition to the relevant documents mentioned in section VII of General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII), the Ad Hoc Committee had before it a bibliography of available United Nations documentation having a bearing on its work (A/AC.179/3 and Add.1). The attention of the Committee was also drawn to a number of issues which the Assembly, at its thirtieth session, had referred to the Committee for consideration (see sect. IV, para. 62, below).

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2/ Ibid., para. 11.

10. The Ad Hoc Committee, at its 7th meeting, on 11 February 1976, decided that it should be provided with summary records only for the consideration of the item entitled "Restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system" and that those summary records should constitute an integral part of its report in the form of addenda thereto. 3/

11. Following consultations based on ideas expressed in the general debate, the Ad Hoc Committee decided at its 29th meeting, on 4 March 1976, to concentrate its consideration of the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system on eight subject headings. This decision was formulated in the following terms:

"The Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System,

"Recalling the objectives and measures set forth in General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII) in which, inter alia, the Ad Hoc Committee was requested to initiate the process of restructuring the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system,

"Determined to work in such a manner as to make the United Nations system more fully capable of dealing with problems of international economic co-operation and development in a comprehensive and effective manner, in pursuance of General Assembly resolutions 3172 (XXVIII) of 17 December 1973 and 3343 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974, and to make it more responsive to the requirements of the provisions of the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order as well as to those of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States,

"Realizing the importance of improving the over-all effectiveness of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in fulfilling their respective responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations,

"Noting the important role played by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development under the terms of General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX) of 30 December 1964 and the request of the General Assembly that the Ad Hoc Committee should take into account the results of the forthcoming deliberations on institutional arrangements of the fourth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,

"Decides that the informal working group shall consider between the second and third sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System, the following problem areas:

"I. The General Assembly

Improving the over-all effectiveness of the General Assembly in fulfilling its role under the Charter

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3/ Ibid., Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 34 A (A/31/34/Add.1) and ibid., Supplement No. 34 B (A/31/34/Add.2).

"II. The Economic and Social Council

The role and functioning of the Economic and Social Council in fulfilling its responsibilities under the Charter

"III. Other United Nations forums for negotiations, including UNCTAD and other United Nations organs and programmes, the specialized agencies,\* the International Atomic Energy Agency and ad hoc world conferences

"IV. Structures for regional and interregional co-operation

"V. Operational activities of the United Nations system

Review of operational assistance programmes and voluntary funds and of evaluation procedures and machinery

"VI. Planning, programming, budgeting and evaluation

Harmonization and evaluation of medium-term plans and programmes carried out by the system

"VII. Interagency co-ordination

"VIII. Secretariat support services

Functions, organizational structures, information activities and personnel matters.

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\* It is the understanding of the Ad Hoc Committee that the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) is treated by the United Nations as a de facto specialized agency (see, inter alia, E/SR.1973)."

12. The Ad Hoc Committee, at its 29th meeting, on 4 March 1976, also decided that the informal working group set up at its first session should hold a series of meetings at United Nations Headquarters from 12 April 1976 and invited the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, to submit to the informal working group options and possible alternative courses of action in respect of the identified problem areas. The Committee also invited the Secretary-General to submit an organizational chart, based on existing legislative texts, showing the co-ordination responsibilities assigned to the various intergovernmental and secretariat bodies, including the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination.

13. The informal working group, during its meetings, received from delegations preliminary and informal views under each of the eight problem areas identified by the Ad Hoc Committee at its second session. The working group also had before it a paper prepared for the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination by a special interagency task force on options and possible courses of action in respect of the problem areas identified by the Committee (A/AC.179/L.8) and a document containing organizational charts of co-ordination responsibilities assigned to various intergovernmental and secretariat bodies (A/AC.179/L.7 and Add.1) submitted in accordance with the decision mentioned in paragraph 12 above.



## B. Third session

14. At its third session, the Ad Hoc Committee received an oral report from the Chairman on the progress made in the informal working group which met between 12 and 29 April 1976. The Committee had before it the results of the deliberations on institutional arrangements of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its fourth session (A/AC.179/8) and the results of the deliberations on institutional arrangements of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its fourth session (A/AC.179/9 and Add.1).

15. At its third session the Ad Hoc Committee also had before it the relevant documentation referred to it by the Economic and Social Council. In this connexion, the General Assembly, in establishing the Ad Hoc Committee, had agreed in section VII of resolution 3362 (S-VII), that the Economic and Social Council should meanwhile continue the process of rationalization and reform that it had undertaken in accordance with Council resolution 1768 (LIV) of 18 May 1973 and Assembly resolution 3341 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974 and that it should take into full consideration those recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee that fell within the scope of those resolutions, at the latest at the Council's resumed sixty-first session. Accordingly, the Council, at its sixtieth session, considered an item on restructuring and adopted decision 153 (LX) of 14 May 1976 in which it decided, inter alia, (a) to take note of and transmit to the Ad Hoc Committee the documentation submitted under that item (E/5453/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Add.1; E/5476 and Add.1-3, Add.3/Corr.1 and Add.4-13; E/5524 and Add.1-4, Add.4/Corr.1 and Add.5; E/5633; E/5753, annex: E/5792; E/NGO/43; and E/NGO/45 and Add.1); (b) to consider at its resumed sixty-first session, in the context of its consideration of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee, the terms of the report on the rationalization of the work of the Council requested by the Assembly in resolution 3341 (XXIX); (c) to review at the earliest appropriate date in 1977, in the light of the conclusions and recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee and of the deliberations of the Assembly at its thirty-first session: (i) the agreements between the United Nations and the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency; and (ii) the terms of reference of its subsidiary machinery, including the mandate of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (annexed to Council resolution 2008 (LX) of 14 May 1976); (d) to review, at its organizational session for 1977, the rules of procedure of its functional commissions in order that they might conform to the revised rules of procedure of the Council (E/5715) and, to that end, to request the Secretariat to prepare a draft revised text of those rules. At the sixtieth session the Council also approved, in resolution 2008 (LX), a consolidation of the terms of reference for the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and decided that those terms of reference, including the composition, based on equitable geographical distribution, of that Committee should be reviewed by the Council in the light of the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee.

16. In the formal and informal meetings held during the third session of the Ad Hoc Committee, delegations continued to consider the eight problem areas identified at the second session and exchanged views on the informal proposals submitted by delegations. These included inter alia, three informal papers which are reproduced in annex III below. The Chairman was invited to prepare a consolidated text which would attempt to bring together all the proposals made and the views expressed by delegations. In making this request, the hope was expressed that the Chairman would indicate points of agreement as well as areas

of divergence and, for the purpose of coherent presentation, that he would exercise a measure of discretion in drafting the language of the various proposals. At that stage, the discussions and consultations on which the consolidated text was based were preliminary in nature and necessarily incomplete, as many delegations had not had a full opportunity to reflect on or consult their Governments on the various proposals. The Chairman's text and the explanatory note by the Chairman issued as an addendum to the text are contained in annex II below.

17. The Chairman's text had its genesis in the views expressed during the general debate and in the informal consultations held thereafter. The Ad Hoc Committee noted that the Rapporteur on his own responsibility had prepared a summary report on the informal consultations held during the third session (A/AC.179/11).

18. At its 31st meeting, on 11 June 1976, the Ad Hoc Committee decided to hold a fourth session at United Nations Headquarters from 23 September 1976 and that delegations should meet informally at Geneva in July 1976 during the sixty-first session of the Economic and Social Council to begin consideration of the Chairman's consolidated text.

19. At the informal meetings held at Geneva, there was a preliminary exchange of views on the Chairman's text. The Secretariat was requested to prepare a fact sheet on the operational activities carried out by the various organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, which was subsequently made available to the Ad Hoc Committee at the fourth session (A/AC.179/L.9 and Add.1 and 2).

#### C. Fourth session

20. At its fourth session, the attention of the Committee was drawn to Economic and Social Council resolution 2043 (LXI) of 5 August 1976, entitled "Strengthening of the regional commissions for regional and interregional co-operation", in which the Council requested the Ad Hoc Committee, without prejudice to the special needs and conditions of each region and to the outcome of the work of the Committee, to consider, inter alia, the following options:

(a) The designation of the regional commissions as team leaders with responsibilities for co-operation and co-ordination of intersectoral programmes at the regional level;

(b) The designation, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) of 11 December 1970 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1896 (LVII) of 1 August 1974, of the regional commissions as executing agencies of the United Nations Development Programme for future United Nations intersectoral subregional, regional and interregional projects and the inclusion of the commissions in the list of executing agencies for the implementation of such projects;

(c) The delegation in full to the regional commissions of the executing agency functions for existing intersectoral subregional and regional operational activities of the United Nations, in accordance with Council resolutions 1896 (LVII) and 1952 (LIX) of 23 July 1975;

(d) The organization by the executive secretaries of the regional commissions, on a regular basis, of meetings with a view to improving the

co-ordination of the economic and social activities of the United Nations system in their respective regions;

(e) Arrangements for ensuring that regional views are duly reflected in the debates in the Second Committee of the General Assembly.

21. At its fourth session, the Ad Hoc Committee undertook more extensive consultations on the Chairman's text. A substantial measure of agreement emerged on the points contained under many of the subject areas and there was, in particular, a close convergence of views on the various questions addressed under the subject headings relating to I. The General Assembly; II. The Economic and Social Council; III. Other United Nations forums for negotiations; IV. Structures for regional and interregional co-operation; and VI. Planning, programming, budgeting and evaluation.

22. The Ad Hoc Committee agreed that it should do its utmost to work out, by October 1976 at the latest, a comprehensive package of agreed guidelines and recommendations for submission to the General Assembly. Bearing in mind the enormous scope and complexity of the mandate vested in it by the Assembly, the Ad Hoc Committee made a sustained effort to complete its work before the thirty-first session of the Assembly. However, the pressure of other commitments and, in particular, the constraints imposed on the time and resources of delegations by the conflicting claims of other United Nations meetings, including the thirty-first session of the Assembly, precluded the complete achievement of that objective. In acknowledging those constraints, the Committee noted that while it had made considerable progress in the elaboration of the restructuring measures requested of it in section VII of General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII), all the measures envisaged in that resolution were interrelated and were intended by the Assembly to be pursued in a fully concerted fashion. For those reasons, it could not discuss the other three problem areas in the consultations during its fourth session. Those were: V. Operational activities of the United Nations system; VII. Interagency co-ordination; and VIII. Secretariat support services. The Chairman was then requested to prepare a revision to subject areas I, II, III, IV and VI of the consolidated text which would embody points of agreement and the views expressed by members at the fourth session and which would serve as the basis for further discussion on the above-mentioned areas, subject to the extension of the mandate of the Committee. The revised text prepared by the Chairman on these subject areas reads as follows:

"I. The General Assembly

"1. The effectiveness of the General Assembly in fulfilling its responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations as the supreme organ of the United Nations system in the economic and social fields should be increased by the following measures:

"(a) The Assembly should fully exercise its powers under the Charter to promote, inter alia, solutions to international economic, social and related problems and to that end to serve/function as the principal forum for negotiation and policy-making in respect of those problems;

"(b) The Assembly should concentrate on the establishment of over-all 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. It should assign to other forums within the United Nations system, as necessary, the responsibility for negotiating and submitting recommendations for action in specific areas;

"(c) The Assembly should review and evaluate developments in other forums within the United Nations system and establish appropriate guidelines for further action. As appropriate and necessary, it may perform the same functions in respect of other forums outside the United Nations system.

"2. The General Assembly should promote the provision of support and assistance to the developing countries, in the context of measures agreed upon by those countries, for the purpose of strengthening and enlarging their mutual economic co-operation.

"3. The General Assembly should convene carefully prepared special sessions, as and when such sessions are required, to deal with broad policy questions or groups of such questions calling for urgent and/or concentrated international attention.

"4. The General Assembly should rationalize its methods of work and procedures in the economic and social fields and, as a first step, should adopt the following measures:

"(a) The Assembly should organize its agenda and allocate the items thereon in such a way as to achieve a more balanced and efficient distribution of items between the Second and Third Committees, taking due account of the respective functions of those Committees, the nature of the items concerned, the substantive interrelationships between the items and the need to provide a sharper focus for the consideration of human rights and humanitarian questions. The Chairman of the Second and Third Committees should hold consultations with a view to assisting the General Committee in formulating appropriate recommendations to that end;

"(b) Each of these two Committees should fully utilize the possibility of grouping substantively-related items under one heading for purposes of consideration;

"(c) The general debate in the Second Committee at the beginning of each session should be replaced by separate debates on individual items or groups of items organized in the manner indicated in (b) above. Such debates may be held concurrently on more than one item or group of items and should be addressed as far as possible to proposals submitted under these items. The Committee should set agreed deadlines for the submission of such proposals. These measures should also be applied, to the extent that they are not already in force, to the Third Committee.

"5. The form, scope and nature of documentation submitted to the Second and Third Committees as well as to other United Nations bodies in the economic and social fields should be reviewed so as to ensure that reports concerning items on the agenda of these bodies are concise, action-oriented and in conformity with the relevant general and specific legislative directives.

## "II. The Economic and Social Council"\*

"1. In exercising its functions and powers under the Charter and in fulfilling its role as set out in the relevant General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions, the Council should concentrate on its responsibilities, under the authority of the Assembly:

"(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 system as a whole;

"(b) To monitor and evaluate the implementation of over-all strategies, policies and priorities established by the General Assembly in the economic, social and related fields and to ensure the harmonization and coherent operational implementation, on an integrated basis, of relevant policy decisions and recommendations emanating from United Nations conferences and other forums within the United Nations system;

"(c) To ensure the over-all co-ordination of the activities of the organizations of the United Nations system in the economic, social and related fields and, to that end, to articulate priorities, within the framework established by the General Assembly, for the system as a whole;

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

"2. In discharging these responsibilities, the Economic and Social Council should bear in mind the importance of assisting in preparing the work of the General Assembly so that the Assembly may give timely and effective attention to the substantive issues for discussion. Such preparation should include the drawing up, for consideration by the Assembly, of suggestions regarding the agenda, documentation and programme of work for the succeeding Assembly sessions, as well as of recommendations for action by the Assembly on substantive issues.

"3. Subject to review in the light of experience, the Economic and Social Council should organize its work on a biennial basis and provide for shorter but more frequent subject-oriented sessions spread throughout the year, except when the General Assembly is in session. Such sessions of the

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\*\* Further consideration has been deferred of the proposal for an additional paragraph as follows:

"The Council should seek to develop more effective consultative procedures which will facilitate the achievement of agreement between developing and developed countries; to that end it should experiment, without prejudging to make it institutionalized, in instances approved by both developing and developed countries, with the creation of small ad hoc consultative groups which would engage in detailed negotiations over a period of time on a few subjects of particular importance and complexity.'

Council should be scheduled to consider necessary action by the United Nations system in particular fields to review the results of technical work undertaken in specialized bodies, or to establish guidelines for such work. In other circumstances, such sessions could serve to emphasize the importance of discussion in the Council on particular subjects, including emerging issues meriting special or urgent international attention.

"4. In formulating its biennial programme of work, the Economic and Social Council should identify the issues which will require priority consideration, decide on the schedule and agenda for its subject-oriented sessions and determine the manner in which substantively-related issues on its agenda should be grouped together under one heading, for purposes of consideration. In the light of developments and emerging problems of international concern, the Council may, in modification of its programme, decide on special arrangements, including in particular the convening of special sessions, to deal with such emerging problems. The Council should decide, at its organizational session each year, which of the reports submitted through it to the General Assembly it would transmit without debate to that organ.

"5. The Economic and Social Council should hold periodic meetings, at such times as may be decided upon by its members at the ministerial or other high policy-making level, to review major issues in the world economic and social situation. Such meetings should be effectively prepared and should concentrate on important policy areas justifying high-level participation.

"6. The Economic and Social Council should take upon itself, to the maximum extent possible, the work of its subsidiary bodies. Decisions should be taken during 1977 regarding the subsidiary bodies to be thus superseded and, in consequence, abolished, and regarding the streamlining and consolidation of such other subsidiary bodies as it may be deemed desirable to retain.

"7. In the light of the preceding paragraph, all Members of the United Nations wishing to participate in the work of the Economic and Social Council should be enabled to do so to the fullest possible extent. The Council should continue to invite non-member States to participate in its deliberations on any matter of particular concern to them.

"8. The Bureau of the Economic and Social Council should play an active role in preparing the agenda of the Council and in organizing the Council's work.

"9. The Secretary-General and the executive heads of the organizations of the system should participate more actively in the Economic and Social Council's deliberations and should provide full assistance to the Council in accordance with the relevant general and specific legislative directives.

"10. The Economic and Social Council should review and strengthen its consultative relationships with the non-governmental organizations, taking fully into account the requirements of the provisions of the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order. The Council should also make recommendations for the rationalization and harmonization of the arrangements for consultations with the non-governmental organizations by the organizations of the United Nations system as a whole and in the context of ad hoc world conferences.

"III. Other United Nations forums for negotiations, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other United Nations organs and programmes, the specialized agencies,\* the International Atomic Energy Agency and ad hoc world conferences

"1. All United Nations organs, programmes, specialized agencies, including the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the International Atomic Energy Agency and ad hoc world conferences should act in conformity with the responsibilities of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council under the Charter of the United Nations, and should give full and prompt effect to their specific policy recommendations.

"2. In serving as forums for negotiations on international economic and social issues within their respective spheres of competence, all United Nations organs, programmes, agencies and ad hoc world conferences should be similarly guided by the over-all policy framework established by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, taking fully into account the needs and requirements of the developing countries.

"3. The General Assembly should endorse UNCTAD resolution 90 (IV)\*\* and respond positively to the recommendations contained in the resolution. Appropriate measures should accordingly be taken to enable UNCTAD effectively to play the major role indicated in that resolution, as an organ of the Assembly for deliberation, negotiation, review and implementation in the field of international trade and related areas of international economic co-operation, bearing in mind the need to maintain its close and co-operative relationship with the Assembly and to co-operate with the Economic and Social Council in carrying out the Council's responsibilities under the Charter.

"4. Where the problems to be considered and the objectives to be pursued call for special arrangements other than the holding of a special session of the General Assembly, ad hoc world conferences may be convened by the Assembly or the Economic and Social Council in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations. Such conferences should be addressed to specific issues of international economic and social development. Furthermore, they should be governed by the conditions established by the Assembly in regard to the pattern of conferences and should be carefully prepared and fully co-ordinated with all relevant activities under way or in prospect within the United Nations system.

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\* It is the understanding of the Ad Hoc Committee that the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) is treated by the United Nations as a de facto specialized agency (see, inter alia, E/SR.1973).

\*\* See A/AC.179/9/Add.1 for a summary of statements and observations made by delegations in connexion with the adoption of this resolution at the fourth session of UNCTAD.

"IV. Structures for regional and interregional co-operation\*

"1. The regional commissions should be enabled fully to play their role under the authority of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council as the main general economic and social development centres within the United Nations system for their respective regions, having due regard to the responsibilities of the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies in specific sectoral fields and the co-ordinating role of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in respect of technical co-operation activities.

"2. Taking into account the special needs and conditions of their respective regions, the regional commissions should exercise team leadership and responsibility for co-ordination and co-operation at the regional level. They may convene periodic meetings, as necessary, for the purpose of improving the co-ordination of the relevant economic and social activities of the United Nations system in their respective regions.

"3. The regional commissions should provide inputs for the global policy-making processes of the competent United Nations organs and should participate fully in the implementation of the relevant policy and programme decisions taken by these organs. They should be consulted on the definition of the objectives to be included in the United Nations medium-term plan covering fields of interest to them, taking into account the special needs and conditions of their respective regions.

"4. Subject to such guidance as may be provided by the Governments concerned, the organizations of the United Nations system should take vigorous steps to achieve a common definition of regions and subregions and the identical location of regional and subregional offices.

"5. Relations between regional commissions and the organizations of the United Nations system should be strengthened. Close co-operation with UNDP should be established and appropriate arrangements be made to enable the regional commissions to participate actively in operational activities carried out through the United Nations system, including the preparation of intercountry programmes, as may be required, in their respective regions. Without prejudice to the special needs and conditions of each region, and taking into account the plans and priorities of the Governments concerned, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council should take measures to enable them to function expeditiously as executing agencies for intersectoral subregional, regional and interregional projects.

"6. The regional commissions concerned should assist developing countries at the request of the Governments concerned in identifying projects and preparing programmes for the promotion of co-operation among those countries. Taking

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"\* Further consideration has been deferred of the proposal for an additional paragraph, as follows:

"Regional commissions should respectively ensure the full participation of all their members in the formulation and monitoring of development assistance programmes and projects of a regional character."



fully into account the relevant global policy decisions of the competent United Nations organs, the regional commissions concerned should intensify their efforts, with the assistance of the competent organizations of the United Nations system and at the request of the Governments concerned, to strengthen and enlarge economic co-operation among the developing countries at the subregional, regional and interregional levels.

"7. In order to promote more effective interregional co-operation, the regional commissions should strengthen and, as appropriate, expand existing arrangements for the continuous exchange between them of information and experience. Such arrangements may include the holding of periodic intersecretariat meetings, utilizing existing machinery as far as possible for that purpose.

"8. In order to enable them effectively to discharge the responsibilities indicated in the preceding paragraphs, a greater degree of authority should be delegated to the regional commissions and, to the same end, adequate budgetary and financial provision should be made for their activities.

"9. Taking into account the special needs and conditions of their respective regions and bearing in mind the objectives set forth above, the regional commissions should rationalize their structures, inter alia, by streamlining their subsidiary machinery.

#### "VI. Planning, programming, budgeting and evaluation"\*

"1. To enhance the effectiveness of the planning, programming, budgetary and evaluation processes within the United Nations system:

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"\* Further consideration has been deferred of the proposals for additional paragraphs as follows:

"(i) In order to enable it to provide effective assistance to the Economic and Social Council and to ensure closer co-operation with the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions should be designated as an expert advisory body to the Economic and Social Council as well as to the General Assembly;

"(ii) Intergovernmental bodies should enforce existing rules of procedure that require the presentation of an estimate of expenditure for resolutions with financial implications before their approval, or introduce such rules where they do not exist. These estimates should be made available in writing at least 24 hours before the resolution is considered by the intergovernmental bodies concerned. These statements of financial implications should, wherever possible, also indicate related programmes already contained in the relevant medium-term plan and the percentage increase in the expenditures of the Secretariat units directly concerned.'

"At regular intervals Member States should be informed of the accumulative estimates of the financial implications of pending draft resolutions and decisions.'

"Before budgetary requests are submitted to the competent intergovernmental bodies, existing resources should be carefully reviewed in order to establish if resources or personnel can be redeployed from outdated or only marginally effective programmes.'

"(a) The competent intergovernmental bodies charged with programming and budgeting should develop thematic approaches with a view to ensuring the implementation, by the Secretariat units concerned, of the over-all priorities established by the General Assembly;

"(b) The Committee for Programme and Co-ordination should fully discharge its responsibilities, in accordance with its terms of reference as the main subsidiary organ of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly for planning, programming and co-ordination. In discharging those responsibilities, it should also assist the Council and the Assembly in supervising, reviewing and carrying out, as appropriate, evaluation exercises in respect of the activities of the United Nations, particularly those having system-wide implications. Furthermore, it should consider and make recommendations regarding the establishment and harmonization of medium-term plans and programmes, including the concepts on which they are based;

"(c) The Committee for Programme and Co-ordination should make such further improvements in its programme and methods of work as would facilitate the full discharge of the above-mentioned responsibilities. The Economic and Social Council may, in the light of experience, consider making such modifications of the terms of reference of the Committee as may be called for;

"(d) Measures should be taken to improve the effectiveness of internal evaluation procedures in respect of programme implementation. Appropriate methods should also be developed in order to assist the competent intergovernmental bodies, with the assistance as required of the Joint Inspection Unit, in carrying out their responsibilities for external evaluation;

"(e) The organizations of the United Nations system should intensify their efforts to develop harmonized budget presentations and a common methodology of programme classification and description of content. They should synchronize their programme budget cycles and provide full and compatible information on extrabudgetary resources in their programme budgets;

"(f) These organizations should work out without further delay solutions to the timing and technical problems which are impeding the effective application of the existing procedures for prior consultation on work programmes in order that the competent governing bodies may be enabled to take full account of the results thereof before approving such programmes. In the same context, vigorous steps should be taken towards joint programming in related programme areas;

"(g) These organizations should intensify their work on the elaboration of medium-term plans, including the problems of methodology, procedure and the harmonization of plan cycles. In addition, the procedures for prior consultation should be applied to these plans with a view to establishing an increasing measure of joint planning in areas of mutual concern and eventually to system-wide medium-term planning;

"(h) Measures should be taken to facilitate representation by States members of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at a high level of expertise and to ensure the continuity of such representation. To this end,

favourable consideration should be given to the payment by the United Nations of the travel and per diem expenses of one representative of each State member of the Committee;

"(i) In exercising its responsibilities as defined by the relevant General Assembly resolutions, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions should be guided by the priorities of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. To ensure more equitable representation, particularly for the interests of the developing countries, the size of the Advisory Committee should be increased to at least 16;

"(j) There should be close co-operation between the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and they should hold joint meetings whenever necessary."

### III. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

23. Bearing in mind the enormous scope and complexity of the mandate vested in it by the General Assembly, the Ad Hoc Committee made a sustained effort to complete its work before the thirty-first session of the Assembly. To that end, members agreed that, building upon the consensus that had begun to emerge on many of the issues already identified, the Committee should do its utmost to work out a comprehensive package of agreed guidelines and recommendations for submission to the Assembly. However, the pressure of other commitments and, in particular, the constraints imposed on the time and resources of delegations by the conflicting claims of other United Nations meetings, including the thirty-first session of the Assembly, precluded the achievement of that objective. In acknowledging those constraints, the Committee noted that while it had made considerable progress in the elaboration of the restructuring measures requested of it in section VII of Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII), all the measures envisaged in that resolution were interrelated and were intended by the Assembly to be pursued in a fully concerted fashion.

24. In the circumstances, the Ad Hoc Committee reached the conclusion that it would submit a report covering its work up to the end of October 1976.

25. The Ad Hoc Committee recommends to the General Assembly that its mandate should be extended with a view to enabling it to submit final recommendations, in accordance with Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII), to the Assembly at its thirty-second session, through the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-third regular session.

26. Should the Assembly approve an extension of its mandate, the Ad Hoc Committee agreed, in regard to its work in 1977, to proceed as follows:

(a) The basis for its future work should be the text to be found in annex I and sections V, VII and VIII of the Chairman's original text contained in annex II;

(b) In the event of the Economic and Social Council being requested by the General Assembly to continue its work of rationalization and reform in accordance with Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII), section VII, paragraph 2, the Committee would look forward to learning the further results of that process;

(c) The Committee would welcome any contributions which the Secretary-General and the executive heads of the organizations of the United Nations system might wish to make to its work, including information on developments relevant to the mandate of the Committee;

(d) The present composition of the Bureau of the Committee should be maintained.

27. The Ad Hoc Committee extends its sincere appreciation to the Secretary-General for the arrangements made for the servicing of the Committee.

#### IV. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

##### A. Terms of reference

28. The terms of reference of the Ad Hoc Committee are set out in paragraph 1 of section VII of General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII), which reads as follows:

#### "VII. RESTRUCTURING OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SECTORS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

"1. With a view to initiating the process of restructuring the United Nations system so as to make it more fully capable of dealing with problems of international economic co-operation and development in a comprehensive and effective manner, in pursuance of General Assembly resolutions 3172 (XXVIII) of 17 December 1973 and 3343 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974, and to make it more responsive to the requirements of the provisions of the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order as well as those of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, an Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System, which shall be a committee of the whole of the General Assembly open to the participation of all States,\* is hereby established to prepare detailed action proposals. The Ad Hoc Committee should start its work immediately and inform the General Assembly at its thirtieth session on the progress made, and submit its report to the Assembly at its thirty-first session, through the Economic and Social Council at its resumed session. The Ad Hoc Committee should take into account in its work, inter alia, the relevant proposals and documentation submitted in preparation for the seventh special session of the General Assembly pursuant to Assembly resolution 3343 (XXIX) and other relevant decisions, including the report of the Group of Experts on the Structure of the United Nations System, entitled A New United Nations Structure for Global Economic Co-operation,\*\* the records of the relevant deliberations of the Economic and Social Council, the Trade and Development Board, the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme and the seventh special session of the General Assembly, as well as the results of the forthcoming deliberations on institutional arrangements of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its fourth session and of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its fourth session. All United Nations organs, including the regional commissions, as well as the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency, are invited to participate at the executive level in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee and to respond to requests that the Committee may make to them for information, data or views.

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\* It is the understanding of the General Assembly that the 'all States' formula will be applied in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly.

\*\* United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.II.A.7."

29. The General Assembly, at its thirtieth session, referred to the Ad Hoc Committee for its consideration a number of issues, as follows:

(a) Review of the intergovernmental and expert machinery dealing with the formulation, review and approval of programmes and budgets

In section III, paragraph 4, of resolution 3392 (XXX) of 20 November 1975, the General Assembly requested the Ad Hoc Committee "to examine the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions within the context of possible modifications in the structure and functioning of the United Nations, including, inter alia, the mandate and composition of the Advisory Committee".

In section IV, paragraph 1, of the same resolution, the General Assembly referred, inter alia, the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on medium-term planning in the United Nations system (A/9646), the relevant comments of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (A/9646/Add.1) and the observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/10081) thereon, as well as the report of the Working Group on United Nations Programme and Budget Machinery (A/10117 and Corr.1) to the Ad Hoc Committee to be taken into account in its deliberations, together with the relevant comments made thereon in the Assembly at its thirtieth session (see A/C.5/SR.1713 to 1715 and 1719).

(b) Administrative and budgetary co-ordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency

At its 2440th plenary meeting, on 15 December 1975, the General Assembly, recalling paragraph 2 of resolution 2924 B (XXVII) of 24 November 1972, 4/ requested the Secretary-General:

" ...

"(c) To bring up to date the report of the Secretary-General concerning bodies and organs established for purposes of administrative and budgetary control, investigation and co-ordination, issued in 1970 [on administrative and budgetary co-ordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency] (A/7938), taking account of changes that have occurred and of the evolution of the responsibilities of the various bodies and organs enumerated therein since the date of its publication;

"(d) To transmit the updated version of that report as soon as possible to the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System." 5/

4/ In para. 2 of resolution 2924 B (XXVII), the General Assembly decided "to review, at its thirty-first session, the machinery of the United Nations and of its system for administrative and budgetary control, investigation and co-ordination, and for this purpose requests the views of the Secretary-General as chief administrative officer of the United Nations and as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, the relevant views of the governing bodies of the specialized agencies, the Economic and Social Council, the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Joint Inspection Unit, as well as the comments and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions".

5/ The updated version of the report of the Secretary-General (A/31/75 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and Add.2) was made available to the Ad Hoc Committee. In this respect, see also Economic and Social Council resolution 2039 (LXI) of 5 August 1976.

(c) World Conference of the International Women's Year

In paragraph 13 of resolution 3520 (XXX) of 15 December 1975, the General Assembly expressed the hope that the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System, which would consider the report of the Group of Experts on the Structure of the United Nations System, 6/ would take full account of the need to implement the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year and related resolutions of the World Conference of the International Women's Year as well as the requirements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, and appealed to the Ad Hoc Committee to ensure that the machinery designed to deal with questions relating to women should be strengthened, taking into account, in particular, the role of the Commission on the Status of Women and the procedures established for system-wide review and appraisal of the World Plan of Action.

B. Officers

30. At its 1st, 6th and 8th meetings, the Ad Hoc Committee elected, by acclamation, the following officers:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. Kenneth K. S. Dadzie	(Ghana)
<u>Vice-Chairmen:</u>	Mr. Antoni Czarkowski	(Poland)
	Mr. Farrokh Parsi	(Iran)
	Mr. Luis Gonzales Arias	(Paraguay)
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. Douglas Sturkey	(Australia)

C. Membership and attendance

31. In accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII), membership in the Ad Hoc Committee is open to all States. Representatives of the following 122 States participated in the work of the Committee during 1976:

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6/ A New United Nations Structure for Global Economic Co-operation (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.II.A.7).

Afghanistan	Guatemala	Pakistan
Albania	Guinea	Paraguay
Algeria	Guinea-Bissau	Peru
Argentina	Guyana	Philippines
Australia	Holy See	Poland
Austria	Honduras	Portugal
Bahamas	Hungary	Qatar
Bahrain	Iceland	Republic of Korea
Bangladesh	India	Romania
Barbados	Indonesia	Rwanda
Belgium	Iran	Saudi Arabia
Benin	Iraq	Sierra Leone
Bhutan	Ireland	Singapore
Bolivia	Israel	Spain
Botswana	Italy	Sri Lanka
Brazil	Ivory Coast	Sudan
Bulgaria	Jamaica	Swaziland
Burma	Japan	Sweden
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	Jordan	Switzerland
Canada	Kenya	Syrian Arab Republic
Chad	Kuwait	Thailand
Chile	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Togo
Colombia	Lebanon	Trinidad and Tobago
Cuba	Liberia	Tunisia
Cyprus	Libyan Arab Republic	Turkey
Czechoslovakia	Madagascar	Uganda
Democratic Kampuchea	Malaysia	Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic
Democratic Yemen	Mali	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Denmark	Malta	United Arab Emirates
Dominican Republic	Mauritania	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Ecuador	Mauritius	United Republic of Tanzania
Egypt	Mexico	United States of America
El Salvador	Mongolia	Upper Volta
Ethiopia	Morocco	Uruguay
Fiji	Mozambique	Venezuela
Finland	Nepal	Yugoslavia
France	Netherlands	Zaire
German Democratic Republic	New Zealand	Zambia
Germany, Federal Republic of	Nicaragua	
Ghana	Niger	
Greece	Nigeria	
	Norway	
	Oman	

32. Representatives of the following specialized agencies also attended meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee in 1976, under the terms of the invitation addressed to them:



International Labour Organisation  
 Food and Agriculture Organization  
 of the United Nations  
 United Nations Educational,  
 Scientific and Cultural  
 Organization  
 International Civil Aviation  
 Organization

World Health Organization  
 World Bank  
 International Monetary Fund  
 United Postal Union  
 International Telecommunication Union  
 World Meteorological Organization  
 Inter-Governmental Maritime  
 Consultative Organization  
 World Intellectual Property Organization

33. The International Atomic Energy Agency and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade were also represented.

34. The Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, the European Economic Community and the Islamic Conference were also represented.

D. Documentation

35. During its work in 1976, in addition to the relevant documents mentioned in section VII of General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII), the Ad Hoc Committee had before it the following documents:

<u>Document</u>	<u>Session</u>	<u>Subject-matter</u>
A/AC.179/2	Second	Agenda for the session
A/AC.179/3 and Add.1	Second	Bibliography prepared by the Secretariat of available United Nations documentation having a bearing on the work of the Committee
A/AC.179/4	Second	Record of decisions of the Committee at its second session
A/AC.179/5	-	Relations of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade with the United Nations; note by the Secretariat
A/AC.179/6	-	Note by the Secretary-General containing some of his personal observations on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system
A/AC.179/7	Third	Agenda for the session
A/AC.179/8	Third	Extract from the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its fourth session in respect of institutional arrangements

<u>Document</u>	<u>Session</u>	<u>Subject-matter</u>
A/AC.179/9 and Add.1	Third	Results of the deliberations on institutional arrangements of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its fourth session
A/AC.179/10	Fourth	Agenda for the session
A/AC.179/11	-	A summary report prepared by the Rapporteur on his own responsibility on the informal consultations held during the third session of the <u>Ad Hoc Committee</u>
A/AC.179/L.6	-	Index of the references (in the summary records of the first and second sessions of the <u>Ad Hoc Committee</u> ) to the problem areas identified by the Committee; note by the Secretariat
A/AC.179/L.7 and Add.1	-	Organizational charts prepared by the Secretariat of co-ordination responsibilities
A/AC.179/L.8	-	Options and possible courses of action in respect of the problem areas identified by the Committee, prepared for the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination by a special interagency task force
A/AC.179/L.9 and Add.1-2	Fourth	Fact sheet on the operational activities of the United Nations system; note by the Secretariat

#### E. Adoption of the report

36. At its 33rd meeting, on 29 November 1976, the Ad Hoc Committee adopted the present report to the General Assembly.

## ANNEX I

Revised version of the consolidated text prepared by the Chairman and referred to in paragraphs 22 and 26 (a) of the report

### I. The General Assembly

1. The effectiveness of the General Assembly in fulfilling its responsibilities under the Charter as the supreme organ of the United Nations system in the economic and social fields should be increased by the following measures:

(a) The Assembly should fully exercise its powers under the Charter to promote, inter alia, solutions to international economic, social and related problems and, to that end, to serve/function as the principal forum for negotiation and policy-making in respect of those problems;

(b) The Assembly should concentrate on the establishment of over-all 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. It should assign to other forums within the United Nations system, as necessary, the responsibility for negotiating and submitting recommendations for action in specific areas;

(c) The Assembly should review and evaluate developments in other forums within the United Nations system and establish appropriate guidelines for further action. As appropriate and necessary, it may perform the same functions in respect of other forums outside the United Nations system.

2. The General Assembly should promote the provision of support and assistance to the developing countries, in the context of measures agreed upon by those countries, for the purpose of strengthening and enlarging their mutual economic co-operation.

3. The General Assembly should convene carefully-prepared special sessions, as and when such sessions are required, to deal with broad policy questions or groups of such questions calling for urgent and/or concentrated international attention.

4. The General Assembly should rationalize its methods of work and procedures in the economic and social fields and, as a first step, should adopt the following measures:

(a) The Assembly should organize its agenda and allocate the items thereon in such a way as to achieve a more balanced and efficient distribution of items between the Second and Third Committees, taking due account of the respective functions of those Committees, the nature of the items concerned, the substantive interrelationships between the items and the need to provide a sharper focus for the consideration of human rights and humanitarian questions. The Chairmen of the Second and Third Committees should hold consultations with a view to assisting the General Committee in formulating appropriate recommendations to that end;

(b) Each of these two Committees should fully utilize the possibility of grouping substantively-related items under one heading for purposes of consideration;

(c) The general debate in the Second Committee at the beginning of each session should be replaced by separate debates on individual items or groups of items organized in the manner indicated in (b) above. Such debates may be held concurrently on more than one item or group of items and should be addressed as far as possible to proposals submitted under these items. The Committee should set agreed deadlines for the submission of such proposals. These measures should also be applied, to the extent that they are not already in force, to the Third Committee.

5. The form, scope and nature of documentation submitted to the Second and Third Committees as well as to other United Nations bodies in the economic and social fields should be reviewed so as to ensure that reports concerning items on the agenda of these bodies are concise, action-oriented and in conformity with the relevant general and specific legislative directives.

## II. The Economic and Social Council a/

1. In exercising its functions and powers under the Charter and in fulfilling its role as set out in the relevant General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions, the Council should concentrate on its responsibilities, under the authority of the Assembly:

(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 system as a whole;

(b) To monitor and evaluate the implementation of over-all strategies, policies and priorities established by the General Assembly in the economic, social and related fields and to ensure the harmonization and coherent operational implementation, on an integrated basis, of relevant policy decisions and recommendations emanating from United Nations conferences and other forums within the United Nations system;

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

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a/ Further consideration has been deferred of the proposal for an additional paragraph as follows:

"The Council should seek to develop more effective consultative procedures which will facilitate the achievement of agreement between developing and developed countries; to that end, it should experiment, without prejudging to make it institutionalized, in instances approved by both developing and developed countries, with the creation of small ad hoc consultative groups which would engage in detailed negotiations over a period of time on a few subjects of particular importance and complexity."

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

2. In discharging these responsibilities, the Economic and Social Council should bear in mind the importance of assisting in preparing the work of the General Assembly so that the Assembly may give timely and effective attention to the substantive issues for discussion. Such preparation should include the drawing up, for consideration by the Assembly, of suggestions regarding the agenda, documentation and programme of work for the succeeding Assembly sessions, as well as of recommendations for action by the Assembly on substantive issues.

3. Subject to review in the light of experience, the Economic and Social Council should organize its work on a biennial basis and provide for shorter but more frequent subject-oriented sessions spread throughout the year, except when the General Assembly is in session. Such sessions of the Council should be scheduled to consider necessary action by the United Nations system in particular fields to review the results of technical work undertaken in specialized bodies, or to establish guidelines for such work. In other circumstances, such sessions could serve to emphasize the importance of discussion in the Council on particular subjects, including emerging issues meriting special or urgent international attention.

4. In formulating its biennial programme of work, the Economic and Social Council should identify the issues which will require priority consideration, decide on the schedule and agenda for its subject-oriented sessions and determine the manner in which substantively-related issues on its agenda should be grouped together under one heading, for purposes of consideration. In the light of developments and emerging problems of international concern, the Council may, in modification of its programme, decide on special arrangements, including in particular the convening of special sessions, to deal with such emerging problems. The Council should decide, at its organizational session each year, which of the reports submitted through it to the General Assembly it would transmit without debate to that organ.

5. The Economic and Social Council should hold periodic meetings, at such times as may be decided upon by its members at the ministerial or other high policy-making level, to review major issues in the world economic and social situation. Such meetings should be effectively prepared and should concentrate on important policy areas justifying high-level participation.

6. The Economic and Social Council should take upon itself, to the maximum extent possible, the work of its subsidiary bodies. Decisions should be taken during 1977 regarding the subsidiary bodies to be thus superseded and, in consequence, abolished, and regarding the streamlining and consolidation of such other subsidiary bodies as it may be deemed desirable to retain.

7. In the light of the preceding paragraph, all Members of the United Nations wishing to participate in the work of the Economic and Social Council should be enabled to do so to the fullest possible extent. The Council should continue to invite non-member States to participate in its deliberations on any matter of particular concern to them.

8. The Bureau of the Economic and Social Council should play an active role in preparing the agenda of the Council and in organizing the Council's work.

9. The Secretary-General and the executive heads of the organizations of the system should participate more actively in the Economic and Social Council's deliberations and should provide full assistance to the Council in accordance with the relevant general and specific legislative directives.

10. The Economic and Social Council should review and strengthen its consultative relationships with the non-governmental organizations, taking fully into account the requirements of the provisions of the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order. The Council should also make recommendations for the rationalization and harmonization of the arrangements for consultations with the non-governmental organizations by the organizations of the United Nations system as a whole and in the context of ad hoc world conferences.

III. Other United Nations forums for negotiations, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other United Nations organs and programmes, the specialized agencies, b/ the International Atomic Energy Agency and ad hoc world conferences

1. All United Nations organs, programmes, specialized agencies, including the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the International Atomic Energy Agency and ad hoc world conferences should act in conformity with the responsibilities of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council under the Charter of the United Nations and should give full and prompt effect to their specific policy recommendations.

2. In serving as forums for negotiations on international economic and social issues within their respective spheres of competence, all United Nations organs, programmes, agencies and ad hoc world conferences should be similarly guided by the over-all policy framework established by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, taking fully into account the needs and requirements of the developing countries.

3. The General Assembly should endorse UNCTAD resolution 90 (IV) c/ and respond positively to the recommendations contained in the resolution. Appropriate measures should accordingly be taken to enable UNCTAD effectively to play the major role indicated in that resolution, as an organ of the Assembly for deliberation, negotiation, review and implementation in the field of international trade and related areas of international economic co-operation, bearing in mind the need to maintain its close and co-operative relationship with the Assembly and to co-operate with the Economic and Social Council in carrying out the Council's responsibilities under the Charter.

4. Where the problems to be considered and the objectives to be pursued call for special arrangements other than the holding of a special session of the General Assembly, ad hoc world conferences may be convened by the Assembly or the Economic

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b/ It is the understanding of the Ad Hoc Committee that the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) is treated by the United Nations as a de facto specialized agency (see, inter alia, E/SR.1973).

c/ See A/AC.179/9/Add.1 for a summary of statements and observations made by delegations in connexion with the adoption of this resolution at the fourth session of UNCTAD.

and Social Council in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations. Such conferences should be addressed to specific issues of international economic and social development. Furthermore, they should be governed by the conditions established by the Assembly in regard to the pattern of conferences and should be carefully prepared and fully co-ordinated with all relevant activities under way or in prospect within the United Nations system.

#### IV. Structures for regional and interregional co-operation d/

1. The regional commissions should be enabled fully to play their role under the authority of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council as the main general economic and social development centres within the United Nations system for their respective regions, having due regard to the responsibilities of the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies in specific sectoral fields and the co-ordinating role of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in respect of technical co-operation activities.
2. Taking into account the special needs and conditions of their respective regions, they should exercise team leadership and responsibility for co-ordination and co-operation at the regional level. They may convene periodic meetings, as necessary, for the purpose of improving the co-ordination of the relevant economic and social activities of the United Nations system in their respective regions.
3. The regional commissions should provide inputs for the global policy-making processes of the competent United Nations organs and should participate fully in the implementation of the relevant policy and programme decisions taken by these organs. They should be consulted on the definition of the objectives to be included in the United Nations medium-term plan covering fields of interest to them, taking into account the special needs and conditions of their respective regions.
4. Subject to such guidance as may be provided by the Governments concerned, the organizations of the United Nations system should take vigorous steps to achieve a common definition of regions and subregions and the identical location of regional and subregional offices.
5. Relations between regional commissions and the organizations of the United Nations system should be strengthened. Close co-operation with UNDP should be established and appropriate arrangements be made to enable the regional commissions to participate actively in operational activities carried out through the United Nations system, including the preparation of intercountry programmes, as may be required, in their respective regions. Without prejudice to the special needs and conditions of each region, and taking into account the plans and priorities of the Governments concerned, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council should take measures to enable them to function expeditiously as executing agencies for intersectoral subregional, regional and interregional projects.

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d/ Further consideration has been deferred of the proposal for an additional paragraph as follows:

'Regional commissions should respectively ensure the full participation of all their members in the formulation and monitoring of development assistance programmes and projects of a regional character.'

6. The regional commissions concerned should assist developing countries at the request of the Governments concerned in identifying projects and preparing programmes for the promotion of co-operation among those countries. Taking fully into account the relevant global policy decisions of the competent United Nations organs, the regional commissions concerned should intensify their efforts, with the assistance of the competent organizations of the United Nations system and at the request of the Governments concerned, to strengthen and enlarge economic co-operation among the developing countries at the subregional, regional and interregional levels.

7. In order to promote more effective interregional co-operation, the regional commissions should strengthen and, as appropriate, expand existing arrangements for the continuous exchange between them of information and experience. Such arrangements may include the holding of periodic intersecretariat meetings, utilizing existing machinery as far as possible for that purpose.

8. In order to enable them effectively to discharge the responsibilities indicated in the preceding paragraphs, a greater degree of authority should be delegated to the regional commissions and, to the same end, adequate budgetary and financial provision should be made for their activities.

9. Taking into account the special needs and conditions of their respective regions and bearing in mind the objectives set forth above, the regional commissions should rationalize their structures, inter alia, by streamlining their subsidiary machinery.

#### VI. Planning, programming, budgeting and evaluation e/

1. To enhance the effectiveness of the planning, programming, budgetary and evaluation processes within the United Nations system:

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e/ Further consideration has been deferred of the proposals for additional paragraphs as follows:

"(i) In order to enable it to provide effective assistance to the Economic and Social Council and to ensure closer co-operation with the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions should be designated as an expert advisory body to the Economic and Social Council as well as to the General Assembly;

"(ii) Intergovernmental bodies should enforce existing rules of procedure that require the presentation of an estimate of expenditure for resolutions with financial implications before their approval, or introduce such rules where they do not exist. These estimates should be made available in writing at least 24 hours before the resolution is considered by the intergovernmental bodies concerned. These statements of financial implications should, wherever possible, also indicate related programmes already contained in the relevant medium-term plan and the percentage increase in the expenditures of the Secretariat units directly concerned.

"At regular intervals Member States should be informed of the accumulative estimates of the financial implications of pending draft resolutions and decisions.

"Before budgetary requests are submitted to the competent intergovernmental bodies, existing resources should be carefully reviewed in order to establish if resources or personnel can be redeployed from outdated or only marginally effective programmes."



(a) The competent intergovernmental bodies charged with programming and budgeting should develop thematic approaches with a view to ensuring the implementation, by the Secretariat units concerned, of the over-all priorities established by the General Assembly;

(b) The Committee for Programme and Co-ordination should fully discharge its responsibilities, in accordance with its terms of reference as the main subsidiary organ of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly for planning, programming and co-ordination. In discharging those responsibilities, it should also assist the Council and the Assembly in supervising, reviewing and carrying out, as appropriate, evaluation exercises in respect of the activities of the United Nations, particularly those having system-wide implications. Furthermore, it should consider and make recommendations regarding the establishment and harmonization of medium-term plans and programmes, including the concepts on which they are based;

(c) The Committee for Programme and Co-ordination should make such further improvements in its programme and methods of work as would facilitate the full discharge of the above-mentioned responsibilities. The Economic and Social Council may, in the light of experience, consider making such modifications of the terms of reference of the Committee as may be called for;

(d) Measures should be taken to improve the effectiveness of internal evaluation procedures in respect of programme implementation. Appropriate methods should also be developed in order to assist the competent intergovernmental bodies, with the assistance as required of the Joint Inspection Unit, in carrying out their responsibilities for external evaluation;

(e) The organizations of the United Nations system should intensify their efforts to develop harmonized budget presentations and a common methodology of programme classification and description of content. They should synchronize their programme budget cycles and provide full and compatible information on extrabudgetary resources in their programme budgets;

(f) These organizations should work out without further delay solutions to the timing and technical problems which are impeding the effective application of the existing procedures for prior consultation on work programmes in order that the competent governing bodies may be enabled to take full account of the results thereof before approving such programmes. In the same context, vigorous steps should be taken towards joint programming in related programme areas;

(g) These organizations should intensify their work on the elaboration of medium-term plans, including the problems of methodology, procedure and the harmonization of plan cycles. In addition, the procedures for prior consultation should be applied to these plans with a view to establishing an increasing measure of joint planning in areas of mutual concern and eventually to system-wide medium-term planning;

(h) Measures should be taken to facilitate representation by States members of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at a high level of expertise and to ensure the continuity of such representation. To this end, favourable consideration should be given to the payment by the United Nations of the travel and per diem expenses of one representative of each State member of the Committee;

(i) In exercising its responsibilities as defined by the relevant General Assembly resolutions, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions should be guided by the priorities of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. To ensure more equitable representation, particularly for the interests of the developing countries, the size of the Advisory Committee should be increased to at least 16;

(j) There should be close co-operation between the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and they should hold joint meetings whenever necessary.

## ANNEX II

### A. Consolidated text of informal proposals (written and oral) prepared by the Chairman at the request of delegations

#### I. The General Assembly

1. The effectiveness of the General Assembly, in fulfilling its responsibilities under the Charter, should be increased by the following measures:

(a) As the supreme organ and negotiating forum of the United Nations system the Assembly should fully exercise its powers under the Charter to promote solutions to international economic, social and related problems;

(b) The Assembly should concentrate on the elaboration of over-all 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. It should assign to other forums, as necessary, the responsibility for negotiating and submitting recommendations for action in specific areas;

(c) The Assembly should review and evaluate developments in other forums and establish appropriate guidelines for further action;

(d) As occasion may require, the Assembly should convene carefully prepared special sessions to deal with problems or groups of problems relating to policy areas requiring urgent and/or concentrated international attention;

(e) The Assembly should promote the provision of support and assistance to the developing countries in strengthening and enlarging their mutual co-operation at the subregional, regional and interregional levels.

2. The General Assembly should rationalize its methods of work and procedures in the economic and social fields, and as a first step, should adopt the following measures:

(a) The Assembly should request the Secretary-General in drawing up the provisional agenda in respect of items which might be allocated to the Second and Third Committees, to achieve, to the fullest extent possible, substantive amalgamations of related items;

(b) The Assembly should organize its agenda and allocate the items thereon in such a way so as to achieve a more balanced and efficient distribution of items between the Second and Third Committees, taking due account of the nature of the items and the respective functions and workloads of these Committees;

(c) Only one general debate should be held in the Second Committee at the beginning of each session covering all the items of the agenda, at which the executive heads of United Nations organs and programmes which submit reports to the Assembly may also participate to introduce their respective reports; members

of the Committee may, however, make statements of a general character during its consideration of proposals submitted under individual items. The Committee should at the beginning of each session set agreed deadlines for the submission of proposals under each item;

(d) The Assembly should request the Secretary-General to take urgent steps to review the form, scope and nature of documentation submitted to the Second and Third Committees so as to ensure that reports concerning items on their agenda are concise and action-oriented.

## II. The Economic and Social Council

1. In exercising its functions and powers under the Charter and in fulfilling its role as set out in the relevant General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions, the Council should concentrate on its responsibilities, under the authority of the General Assembly:

(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 system as a whole;

(b) To monitor and evaluate the implementation of over-all strategies, policies and priorities formulated by the General Assembly in the economic, social and related fields and to ensure the harmonization and coherent operational implementation, on an integrated basis, of relevant policy decisions and recommendations emanating from United Nations conferences and other forums within the United Nations system;

(c) To ensure the over-all co-ordination of the activities of the organizations of the United Nations system in the economic, social and related fields and for the articulation of priorities, within the framework established by the Assembly, for the system as a whole;

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

2. In discharging these responsibilities, the Economic and Social Council should bear in mind the importance of assisting in preparing the work of the General Assembly. Such preparations should include the drawing up of recommendations for consideration by the Assembly and the identification of questions on which major issues remain open for consideration.

3. Subject to review in the light of experience, the Economic and Social Council should organize its work on a biennial basis and provide for shorter but more frequent subject-oriented sessions spread throughout the year, except when the General Assembly is in session. Such sessions of the Council should be scheduled either to consider necessary action by the United Nations system in a particular field, or to prepare or review the results of technical work undertaken in specialist bodies. In other circumstances, such sessions could serve to emphasize the importance of discussion in the Council on particular subjects, including emerging issues meriting special or urgent international attention.

4. In formulating its biennial programme of work, the Economic and Social Council should identify the issues which will require priority consideration, decide on the schedule and agenda for its subject-oriented sessions and determine the manner in which related substantive issues on its agenda shall be amalgamated. In the light of developments and emerging problems of international concern, the Council may, at any time, introduce modifications in its programme and decide on special arrangements, including the convening of special sessions, to deal with such emerging issues. The Council should decide each year which of the reports submitted to the General Assembly through it will be transmitted to the Assembly without debate, unless the Council subsequently decides otherwise.

5. The Economic and Social Council should in principle hold an annual debate at the ministerial or other high political level to review major issues in the world economic and social situation. Such debate should be effectively prepared and concentrated on important policy areas justifying high-level participation.

6. All Members of the United Nations wishing to participate in the work of the Economic and Social Council should be enabled to do so to the fullest possible extent; the membership of the sessional committees of the Council shall be open to all Member States, and all substantive items on the agenda of a session of the Council shall be allocated to the sessional committees for consideration.

7. [/The Economic and Social Council should assume direct responsibility for the work of the following of its subsidiary bodies which will be accordingly discontinued (the list to be inserted).]

Alternative text:

[/The Economic and Social Council should assume, to the maximum possible extent, direct responsibility for the work of its subsidiary bodies, which would accordingly cease to exist. It should take the necessary decisions to this end as soon as possible, in the light of the experience gained in the reorganization of its work as recommended above. In this context, the Council should streamline and consolidate the structure of any subsidiary bodies the retention of which it considers desirable.]

8. The Bureau of the Economic and Social Council should play an active role in preparing and facilitating the tasks of the Council. The Secretary-General and the executive heads of the organizations of the system should participate more actively in the Council's deliberations.

9. [/The Economic and Social Council should review and strengthen its consultative relationships with the non-governmental organizations, taking into full account the need for the establishment of a new international economic order. The Council should also consider ways and means of enabling the non-governmental organizations in consultative status to make an effective contribution to the work of the General Assembly. The Council should also make recommendations for the rationalization and harmonization of the arrangements for consultations with, and participation by, the non-governmental organizations in the organizations of the United Nations system as a whole and in ad hoc world conferences.]

III. Other United Nations forums for negotiations, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other United Nations organs and programmes, the specialized agencies, a/ International Atomic Energy Agency and ad hoc world conferences

A. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

1. The General Assembly should endorse UNCTAD resolution 90 (IV) and in particular should respond positively to the recommendations contained in paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 5 of section A thereof.

2. UNCTAD should fully play the major role indicated in the above-mentioned resolution as an organ of the General Assembly for deliberation, negotiation, review and implementation in the field of international trade and related areas of international economic co-operation, bearing in mind the need to maintain its close and co-operative relationship with the General Assembly and to co-operate with the Economic and Social Council in carrying out its responsibilities under the Charter. In order to enable UNCTAD better to fulfil this role, appropriate steps, as outlined in part B of the resolution, should be taken to improve its effectiveness.

B. Other United Nations organs and programmes, specialized agencies (including GATT), IAEA and ad hoc world conferences

1. In serving as forums for negotiations on international economic and social issues within their respective spheres of competence, all United Nations organs, programmes, agencies and ad hoc world conferences should be guided by the over-all policy framework established by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, taking full account of the needs and requirements of the developing countries.

2. The above-mentioned organizations should act in conformity with the responsibilities of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council under the Charter and should fully respond to implement the specific policy recommendations addressed to them by these principal organs.

3. As occasions may require, ad hoc world conferences should be convened on specific issues of international economic and social development by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. They should be planned in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2609 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, paragraphs 11 and 12, and should be carefully prepared and fully co-ordinated with all relevant activities envisaged or under way within the United Nations system.

IV. Structures for regional and interregional co-operation

1. The regional commissions should be enabled fully to play their role as the main general economic and social development centres within the United Nations system for their respective regions. They should exercise team leadership and responsibility for co-ordination and co-operation at the regional level with the active support of UNDP and other regional offices.

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a/ It is the understanding of the Committee that GATT is treated by the United Nations as a de facto specialized agency (see, inter alia, E/SR.1973).

2. The regional commissions should provide inputs for the global policy-making functions performed by the competent United Nations organs and should fully participate in the implementation of the relevant policy decisions taken by these organs.

3. The organizations of the United Nations system should take vigorous steps towards a common definition of regions and subregions and the common location of regional and subregional offices and subregions taking into account the guidance and advice of the Governments and regional intergovernmental organizations concerned.

4. Relations between regional commissions and the organizations of the United Nations system should be strengthened. Close co-operation with UNDP should be established and appropriate arrangements be made to enable the regional commissions to participate actively in operational activities carried out through the United Nations system, including the preparation of intercountry programmes, as may be required, in their respective regions. In addition they should be enabled expeditiously to function as executing agencies for regional, subregional and interregional projects financed by UNDP.

5. Regional commissions should respectively assure the full participation of all their members in the formulation and monitoring of development assistance programmes and projects.

6. The regional commissions concerned, taking due account of the requirements of their respective regions, should assist in the identification of projects and the preparation of programmes for promoting co-operation among the developing countries. Increased efforts should be devoted by the regional commissions, with the assistance of UNDP and other organizations of the United Nations system, for the strengthening and enlargement of economic co-operation among the developing countries at the interregional, regional and subregional levels.

7. Subject to the responsibility of the General Assembly a greater degree of authority and responsibility should be delegated to the regional commissions, including a corresponding redeployment of resources and flexibility in administrative, budgetary and financial matters. Further, the regional commissions should rationalize their structures particularly through the consolidation or abolition of subsidiary bodies.

8. In order to promote more effective interregional co-operation and co-ordination, the regional commissions should make arrangements for the continuous exchange between them of information and experience, including periodic meetings of substantive officials.

#### V. Operational activities of the United Nations system

1. The operational activities of the United Nations system should be restructured as to ensure:

(a) An increased flow of resources for such activities;

(b) The full reflection of the policy strategies and priorities of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in the allocation of available resources;

(c) Optimum efficiency and reduction of costs.

2. To achieve these objectives, a gradual consolidation of existing funds should be undertaken while safeguarding, as appropriate, a separate identity for the main sectors of development assistance.

3. As a first step, the management of existing funds for operational activities, except UNICEF, UNEP and the World Food Programme, should be consolidated under a single administrative structure under the authority of the Secretary-General. Their operations should similarly be governed by a single intergovernmental body which should report to the Economic and Social Council.

4. As indicated in section II above, the Council should conduct every two years an over-all review of operational activities throughout the system on the basis of a report to be prepared by the consolidated administration mentioned above, which report shall also cover the activities of those funds the management of which has not as yet been consolidated.

5. In the context of progress towards a consolidation of funds, there should in future be held only one annual United Nations Pledging Conference at which Governments would announce their contributions for the various purposes of the operational activities. In the same context, the following measures should be pursued on the basis of appropriate studies:

(a) Creation of a mechanism for the evaluation of operational activities;

(b) Establishment of a common procurement system, a unified personnel system and harmonized budget and project cycles;

(c) Utilization of the UNDP country-programming system, as a term of reference for the co-ordination of operational medium-term plans and programmes financed by other organizations of the United Nations system out of their own resources.

6. The operational activities and staff of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, including those of the Office of Technical Co-operation, should be integrated into the consolidated administrative structure mentioned above, except for those services and staff which can be appropriately redeployed to the regional commissions or to the United Nations programmes and agencies having relating responsibilities.

## VI. Planning, programming, budgeting and evaluation

To enhance the effectiveness of the planning, programming, budgeting and evaluation functions within the United Nations system:

(a) The competent intergovernmental bodies charged with programming and budgeting should develop, for implementation by the Secretariat units concerned, thematic approaches to the setting of priorities within the over-all framework established by the General Assembly;

(b) The Economic and Social Council, through the Committee on Programme and Co-ordination in accordance with its revised terms of reference, should participate in the various stages of the conception and realization of programmes;



(c) The organizations of the United Nations system should proceed expeditiously with the development of harmonized programme budget presentations and a common methodology of programme classification and description of content. They should also synchronize their programme budget cycles, and provide full and compatible information on extrabudgetary resources in their programme budgets;

(d) These organizations should work out without delay solutions to the timing and other problems which are impeding the effective application of the existing procedures for prior consultations on work programmes, in order that governing bodies may be enabled to take full account of the results thereof before approving such programmes. In the same context, vigorous steps should be taken towards joint programming in related programme areas;

(e) These organizations should intensify their work on the elaboration of medium-term plans, including the problems of methodology, procedure and the harmonization of plan cycles. In addition, the procedures for prior consultations should be applied to these plans with a view to an increasing measure of joint planning in areas of mutual concern and eventually to system-wide medium-term planning;

(f) In discharging the responsibilities set out in its consolidated terms of reference, the Committee on Programme and Co-ordination should consider and make recommendations with respect to the establishment and harmonization of medium-term plans and programmes, including the concepts on which they are based. The Committee on Programme and Co-ordination should also serve as the intergovernmental focal point, under the authority of the Council and the General Assembly for the over-all review of evaluation reports on the activities of the United Nations system;

(g) Recognizing the need to encourage Member States to be represented in the Committee at a high level of expertise and to ensure the continuity of their representation, the United Nations should bear the travel and per diem expenses of one representative from each Member State of the Committee;

(h) Internal evaluation procedures in respect of programme implementation should be made more effective and appropriate external evaluation arrangements should be set in motion to assist the competent intergovernmental bodies in carrying out their responsibilities for external evaluation;

(i) In exercising its role and functions as defined by relevant General Assembly resolutions, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions should be guided by the priorities of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. To assure more adequate representation to developing countries, the size of the Advisory Committee should be increased to 16 by the addition of one member each from Asia, Africa and Latin America;

(j) There should be close co-operation between the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and they should hold joint meetings whenever necessary.

## VII. Interagency co-ordination

1. Interagency co-ordination at the Secretariat level should be aimed not merely at the elimination of overlapping and duplication of activities but principally at

integrating inputs from the United Nations system at the planning and programming stages and at promoting concerted action at the implementation stage. It must be an integral part of the substantive support to be provided to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council for the performance of their global policy-making and co-ordination functions. To this end interagency co-ordination should include the following tasks:

(a) The carrying out of the necessary preparatory work for the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, by integrating the relevant contributions from the organizations of the United Nations system, together with options and possible alternative courses of action for consideration;

(b) Ensuring the proper implementation by the organization of the United Nations system of policy guidelines and directives emanating from those organs;

(c) Ensuring that programme activities are efficiently planned and implemented through the full utilization and effective integration of the programme inputs and expertise available within the system.

2. While allowing in exceptional cases, for such ad hoc intersecretariat mechanisms for specific consultative purposes, the machinery for interagency co-ordination in respect of both research and analysis and operational activities should centre on the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination under the leadership of the Secretary-General and with the personal participation of the executive heads of the organizations. While co-ordination in respect of administrative and financial questions should continue to be one of its functions, the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination should give the highest priority to the tasks mentioned in the preceding paragraph.

3. The agenda, reporting procedures and functioning of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, including participation therein, should be adjusted to reflect the priority concerns, specific requirements and programme of work of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. Steps should be taken to merge the Environment Co-ordination Board (ECB), the Inter-Agency Consultative Board (IACB) and the UNIDO Advisory Committee with the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination. On the initiative of the Secretary-General the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination may establish ad hoc panels drawn from its membership to carry out the tasks indicated above in respect of specific major issues, including in particular the preparation of documentation, containing options and possible alternative courses of action, for consideration by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

4. Save in exceptional cases where the Economic and Social Council is satisfied that permanent machinery is justified, the subsidiary machinery of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination should be replaced by flexible ad hoc arrangements designed to meet the specific needs of the intergovernmental bodies concerned and geared to the policy and programming processes of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

5. The executive secretaries of the regional commissions should have a full opportunity to participate in the work of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination in all matters of interest to them. Issues affecting intersecretariat co-ordination at the regional level should be dealt with through the executive secretaries of these commissions.

6. A major consideration underlying all arrangements for intersecretariat co-ordination should be the need to facilitate co-ordination by Governments themselves at the national level and the strengthening of national co-ordination mechanisms. The Economic and Social Council should review its efforts to assist Governments as appropriate in achieving more effective co-ordination at the national level.

7. Team leadership and over-all responsibility for operational activities carried out through the United Nations system at the country level should be entrusted to a single representative who would also be responsible for developing, at the country level, a multidisciplinary dimension in sectoral development assistance programmes. He should, as necessary, be assisted by joint interagency co-ordinating groups at the national level and be guided by the priorities established by the responsible national co-ordinating mechanism.

8. In reviewing the relationship agreements between the United Nations and the specialized agencies, the Economic and Social Council should be guided by the necessity to make these agencies fully responsive to policy recommendations and guidelines emanating from the United Nations. In that context, the Assembly should, for the purpose of over-all co-ordination, fully exercise its powers under Article 17, paragraph 3, of the Charter.

#### VIII. Secretariat support services

1. Recognizing the increasing importance of the role of the United Nations system in the economic and social fields, and the need to strengthen the machinery that would support the Secretary-General and intergovernmental bodies in the performance of their enhanced role in these fields, the following measures should be taken in restructuring the United Nations Secretariat:

(a) A comprehensive interdisciplinary research, planning and programming unit should be created within the United Nations Secretariat /drawing as necessary upon all relevant parts of the United Nations system/. This unit would, inter alia, undertake intersecretariat analysis and synthesis of policy options as required by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and other intergovernmental bodies. In formulating its work programme, this unit should take into account the advice of the Committee for Development Planning, the terms of reference of which should accordingly be modified. In addition, the unit will be responsible for staff work for the co-ordination machinery referred to in section VII of the present paper;

(b) The operational activities presently undertaken within the department of Economic and Social Affairs should be redeployed as indicated in section V above. The technical sectoral responsibilities of that department will as appropriate be redeployed to the regional commissions or to United Nations programmes and agencies having relating responsibilities;

(c) The technical servicing of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly and ad hoc world conferences in the economic and social fields, and the function of following up resolutions and decisions of these bodies should be made the responsibility of a single unit under the authority of the Secretary-General. This unit would organize and

co-ordinate the provision of substantive support services by the relevant units in the light of the specific requirements of those bodies;

(d) Consideration should be given to the level of responsibility within the Secretariat for the restructured economic and social affairs sectors. In this context, various options including the establishment of the post of Director-General for development and international economic co-operation should be examined;

(e) High priority should be given to the development of a unified personnel system, including a unified system of salaries, grading, conditions of service and recruitment. In applying the principle of staff recruitment on an equitable geographical basis, due weight should be given to the level of posts for which such staff are recruited and to the objectives set out in General Assembly resolution 3416 (XXX). The system of competitive examinations for recruitment should be improved with due regard to the diversity of cultural and socio-economic backgrounds in different regions of the world. A scheme for pre-recruitment training should be implemented to assist in the training of candidates from developing countries in Professional and other posts;

(f) The information activities undertaken by the United Nations system should be aimed at effectively promoting the policy objectives defined by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. The Secretary-General should streamline and reorganize the Secretariat services concerned accordingly. Under the authority of the Council and the Assembly, the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination should act as the governing body for the work programme of the information services within the United Nations, and should carry out system-wide co-ordination and responsibilities in respect of information activities.

#### B. Explanatory note by the Chairman

I should like, with your permission, to make a few remarks by way of introduction to the consolidated text which the Contact Group now has before it (CRP/CH/1).

It will be recalled that on 8 June, the Contact Group requested me, as Chairman, to prepare a consolidated text which would attempt to bring together not only the three sets of informal proposals submitted in writing by the delegation of the United States of America, the delegations members of the European Economic Community and the delegations of the Group of 77, but also the proposals and suggestions made during our first reading of those three texts. In making this request, the Contact Group also expressed the hope that I would indicate points of agreement as well as areas of divergence, and that for the purpose of coherent presentation, I would exercise a measure of discretion in redrafting the language of the various proposals.

I must say at the outset that I found this task especially difficult. On some points it was not clear whether or not apparently similar proposals were in fact addressed to the same issues. There were of course a considerable number of divergences, but some of these seem to hinge on questions of form and wording rather than of substance. On the other hand, while there were many areas of apparent convergence, the degree of consensus was different in most cases; and I

found these differences impossible to indicate simply by the use of editorial devices such as square brackets or foot-notes.

This text should therefore be read in the light of the following understandings:

(a) Square brackets have been used to indicate alternative formulations (e.g. sect. II, para. 7, and sect. III B, para. 2), or possible modifications/additions based on informal consultations subsequent to the decision of the Contact Group (e.g. sect. I, para. 1 (a) and sect. IV, para. 5). In this context I should mention that section II, paragraph 9 is based on the results of the consultation which the Rapporteur and I, at the request of the Contact Group, carried out with representatives of the non-governmental organizations;

(b) Owing to constraints of time and format, it was not possible to take due account of a number of important representations made to me during the informal consultations just mentioned. It has been pointed out for instance that no consensus has yet emerged in respect of section V, paragraph 1 (a) and paragraphs 2-6. The same could be said of some other sections and/or paragraphs;

(c) The remainder of the text embodies widely varying degrees of consensus - ranging from complete to barely perceptible - based, subject to the observations already made above, on the discussions and consultations that actually took place. These discussions and consultations were preliminary in nature and necessarily incomplete, as many delegations had not had a full opportunity to reflect on or consult their Governments on the various proposals.

In conclusion, I wish to place on record my deep gratitude for all the assistance I received from the Secretariat in the preparation of this text. I am solely responsible - needless to add - for the short-comings I have already noted and any others that may be noted - in fulfilling my mandate.

## ANNEX III

### Some preliminary views on the problem areas under consideration by the informal working group of the Ad Hoc Committee

#### A. United States of America

##### 1. The General Assembly

(a) The mandates for the Standing Committees of the General Assembly should be reviewed, with special consideration given to the idea of transferring items on social development from the Third Committee to the Second Committee so that there would be a focal point in the Assembly on development-related issues. In doing this, issues of social development should be given full attention along with issues of economic development and co-operation;

(b) The agenda of the Second Committee should be organized around meaningful clusters of issues, reflecting an integrated approach to both the economic and social aspects of development;

(c) The Economic and Social Council could assist in developing the agenda for the Second Committee, preparing materials for its discussion and submitting draft recommendations for action by the Committee;

(d) The Third Committee should become a sharper focal point within the Assembly for consideration of the important issues of human rights and humanitarian activities;

(e) In its consideration of international economic and social issues, the General Assembly should concentrate on the elaboration of over-all policy strategies, leaving it to the most appropriate bodies to formulate the ways of implementing these strategies in practice.

##### 2. The Economic and Social Council

(a) Steps should be taken to improve the Council's preparation of economic and social issues for consideration by the General Assembly so that there is not a duplication of effort;

(b) The Council might experiment with several short subject-oriented sessions devoted to specific international economic and social issues to see if it would be more productive for its calendar and programme of work to be organized on a biennial basis with frequent subject-oriented short sessions spread throughout the year, except when the General Assembly is in session;

(c) The executive heads of the specialized agencies and programmes should be urged to participate as actively as possible in the Council's review of issues within their areas of competence, particularly with regard to intersectoral matters;

(d) One of the first short subject-oriented sessions for the Council might be devoted to reviewing the balance, compatibility, and co-ordination of development assistance activities being implemented throughout the system, financed by both assessed and voluntary contributions. Such a review should be based on a comprehensive report and analysis prepared by a specially selected interagency staff, possibly under the direction of the proposed United Nations Development Authority Administrator;

(e) The Council should have the benefit of more systematic and comprehensive reports and analyses from the Secretariat regarding economic and social activities being conducted throughout the system so that it may better fulfil its responsibility for system-wide co-ordination through more vigorous consultations with and recommendations to agencies and member Governments, as called for in Article 63, paragraph 2, of the Charter;

(f) The Council should experiment to find better consultative procedures that would help to ensure effective agreement among members with a particular interest in a subject under consideration;

(g) Steps should be taken, as suggested by the Group of Experts, to review and prune the excessive subsidiary machinery of the Council. However, this should be done only after careful review in each instance. For example, a review of the Commission on the Status of Women might indicate that, contrary to the recommendations of the Group of Experts, this Commission should be maintained in view of the long overdue major efforts that just recently have been launched in this important area.

3. Other United Nations forums for negotiations, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other United Nations organs and programmes, the specialized agencies, a/ the International Atomic Energy Agency, and ad hoc world conferences

A key consideration in this problem area is the role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). We would prefer to reserve our view on this area until after the completion of the fourth session of UNCTAD.

4. Structures for regional and interregional co-operation

(a) In considering structural changes for regional and interregional co-operation, full recognition ought to be given to the significant differences in the requirements of the various geographical regions. These differences exist not only between the developed and developing regions as a whole, but, also, between the different developing regions themselves;

(b) It might be appropriate for the Ad Hoc Committee to request an expert study of how the role of the regional commissions would best relate to the central programming and monitoring activities of the United Nations Development Programme, other voluntary funding sources, and the specialized agencies;

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a/ It is the understanding of the Committee that GATT is treated by the United Nations as a de facto specialized agency (see, inter alia, E/SR.1973).

(c) The regional commissions must ensure the full participation of both member donor nations and member recipient nations in the formulation and monitoring of development assistance programmes and projects.

## 5. Operational activities of the United Nations system

(a) The goals and purposes behind the recommendations of the Group of Experts for consolidating all United Nations voluntary assistance programmes, except the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) into a new United Nations Development Authority (UNDA) are attractive and in accord with our traditional views in this area. However, certain modifications in these recommendations might be appropriate, at least during the initial stages of implementation;

(b) In addition to UNICEF, other distinct and/or well-operating programmes (e.g., the World Food Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme) should not be consolidated into the proposed UNDA. Rather, certain functions should be combined, e.g., a consolidated comprehensive annual report and analysis of system-wide development programmes for review at regular special sessions of the Economic and Social Council, a common procurement system, a unified personnel system, harmonized budget and project cycles, more uniform and compatible country programming methodologies etc. In this way, we believe the necessary more-integrated approach to development can be better achieved without compromising the unique mandates and established operating capacities of the separate programmes;

(c) The proposed new UNDA Operations Board should be responsible for both policy and operational guidance. The existing governing bodies for those programmes that will remain separate from UNDA should be maintained rather than consolidated into the Operations Board. The important unifying link would be provided by the comprehensive review of all United Nations system development programmes by a strengthened Economic and Social Council, as described above;

(d) The proposed UNDA Administrator, in recognition of his important position and in order to ensure for him the status he would require in dealing with other agencies, should have a direct line of authority from the Secretary-General. The UNDA Administrator, possibly through such actions as being responsible for preparation of the annual comprehensive report and analysis for the Economic and Social Council on system-wide development activities, should be recognized as the Secretariat official with primary responsibility for overseeing the balance, compatibility and co-ordination of system-wide development activities.

## 6. Planning, programming, budgeting and evaluation

(a) We believe that this problem area, concerning procedures for resource management, is at the heart of the Ad Hoc Committee's mandate to make the United Nations system "more fully capable of dealing with problems of international economic co-operation and development in a comprehensive and effective manner", as called for in General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII). As indicated by the Group of Experts, these procedures "constitute the processes through which the broad goals defined in the Charter are translated into more specific targets, priorities are defined and financial resources are allocated among the various activities to be undertaken to implement the organization's policies";



(b) We support the recommendations of the Working Group on United Nations Programme and Budget Machinery and the recently revised terms of reference of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) which are intended to implement the recommendations in part;

(c) We support the recommendations of the Group of Experts with the following qualifications:

- (i) We question the need for assigning to the proposed Joint Interagency Planning Unit the functions of developing system-wide short-term and medium-term plans to serve as guidelines for the programmes of individual organizations and of developing budgetary proposals for joint programmes. We believe it may be more appropriate to consider such a proposal after allowing CPC to operate for a brief period (perhaps two years) under its new terms of reference. Under these new terms of reference, CPC will, inter alia, be responsible to both the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, recommend an order of priority among United Nations programmes, co-ordinate activities within the United Nations system (on request from the Economic and Social Council) and undertake a review and appraisal of the implementation of important policy decisions to determine the degree of co-ordinated efforts undertaken system-wide. In any event, we suggest that CPC, in consultation with the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC), should be asked to report on the merits of assigning these functions to the proposed Joint Interagency Planning Unit;
- (ii) From the standpoint of Member States and general United Nations interests, we are hesitant to support the proposed long-term goal of a single small body to advise the Economic and Social Council as well as the General Assembly regarding the review, approval, and evaluation of programmes and budgets. We would be opposed to any measure that would threaten to undermine the recognized effectiveness with which the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has operated over the past 30 years. At the same time, we see some merit in the suggestion that more frequent and effective consultations might be promoted between CPC and the Advisory Committee;

(d) We attach the greatest importance to the recommendation of the Group of Experts for establishing a mechanism for the independent evaluation of programme implementation in the United Nations system. As indicated by the Group of Experts, "an essential element of programme budgeting is effective monitoring of programme implementation and appraisal of programme accomplishments". A capacity for providing governing bodies, and member Governments in general, with systematic reports on programme implementation would strengthen confidence in the individual components of the system and in the system as a whole. The proposed evaluation mechanism would measure and report upon the extent to which programme objectives are achieved, the impact of programmes in relation to the over-all development efforts of which they are a part, and the effectiveness and efficiency of the United Nations bodies responsible for programme execution.

## 7. Interagency co-ordination

(a) We support improved interagency co-ordination in the sense not of giving orders but, rather, of seeking consensus and encouraging interagency co-operation

within a global perspective on international economic and social issues developed within the Economic and Social Council. As efficient and economical as a tightly co-ordinated system over-all may be, we believe this goal should not be sought at the expense of sacrificing the productive pluralism of the system that has assured its responsiveness to new situations and provided opportunities to draw upon and utilize the technical expertise covering a wide range of activities;

(b) We support the recommendations of the Working Group on United Nations Programme and Budget Machinery and the recently revised terms of reference for CPC which are intended to implement these recommendations in part. We are anxious to develop CPC's capacity for assisting the Economic and Social Council in implementing its co-ordination responsibilities;

(c) We are in general agreement with the recommendations on interagency co-ordination of the Group of Experts, but we believe that detailed consideration of such measures should await decisions regarding other problem areas under consideration by the Ad Hoc Committee, since they will determine the scope and nature of co-ordination required within the system.

## 8. Secretariat support services

(a) The Ad Hoc Committee should consider recommending that the General Assembly direct the International Civil Service Commission to give the highest priority to the development of proposals for a unified personnel system, as called for in General Assembly resolution 3357 (XXIX) of 18 December 1974;

(b) This is a problem area of the greatest importance, but final decisions should await actions regarding other problem areas under consideration by the Ad Hoc Committee, since they will determine the nature and scope of Secretariat support services required within the system.

## B. States members of the European Economic Community

### I. The General Assembly

1. A prime objective of the Committee's work is to make more effective the decisions of the General Assembly in promoting coherent and world-wide policies of international co-operation in the economic and social fields. Decisions that are reached in respect of problem areas 2-8 will all be designed to contribute to this objective. In the view of the nine delegations the more practical approach is to develop proposals in respect of these individual areas and then to consider their implications for the widest of these areas, that of the General Assembly, which as the supreme organ should develop its ability to take an over-all view. In other words, we propose to work from the particular to the general, not vice versa.

2. The Second and Third Committees should not be considered in isolation, since these sessional Committees are an integral part of the machinery which the Assembly has traditionally chosen to establish each year. We recognize that a number of proposals have already been raised which might involve recommendations to the Assembly about some reorganization of this machinery. However, those parts of the Assembly's agenda which fall within the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee are for

the most part also subjects of discussion in the Economic and Social Council. Since there were indications in the Ad Hoc Committee's general debate that an early consensus might be achieved in respect to problem area 2, we think that it would be premature to discuss in detail the functioning of the Assembly before we have reached conclusions about improvements which might be achieved in the Economic and Social Council. Such improvements would necessarily have implications in respect of the input to the Assembly.

3. Nevertheless, it might be appropriate at this stage to give some broad indications of the implications for the Assembly of the approach to the Economic and Social Council which we set out below. Our main object would be to help the Assembly simplify the task of covering its already overburdened agenda. Recent experience in the Economic and Social Council has already demonstrated the value of grouping a number of agenda items under a single sectoral heading. We suggest that this approach could usefully be extended to the Assembly's handling of similar agenda items in the economic and social field. We suggest below that the Economic and Social Council should present to the Assembly advice on the agenda items which it had already debated in order to assist in such a grouping of items.

## II. The Economic and Social Council

4. The nine delegations believe that the task of the Committee is to enable the Economic and Social Council to fulfil its role as defined in the Charter (Chapters IX and X). By and large the Economic and Social Council has so far rarely achieved this. In practice, the Council all too often seems to consider itself neither sufficiently competent to deal with technical questions at the so-called "expert" level, nor sufficiently competent to take major decisions of policy.

5. We therefore have to create conditions in which the Economic and Social Council can be both sufficiently flexible and sufficiently effective to handle both technical discussion and major policy discussion as the need arises.

6. As far as policy discussion is concerned, experience suggests that the Council's regular work programme has often been out of touch with the dominant economic issues of the day. The Council has been a prisoner of its traditional agenda: its discussions have by and large failed to make a significant public impact. To overcome this, it will be necessary for the Council to devote much more care to the planning of its work programme at the beginning of its annual cycle. Under Council resolutions 1768 (LIV) and 1807 (LV), the Council is already required to select major issues to focus its work in the year. This selection should be related to the dominant issues of the time, with a view to promoting work on these questions under the Council's auspices through the first half of the year: this work, which could include directives to the Secretariat, should prepare the ground for an effectively prepared major debate on these issues at the Council's summer session. Such debate should be concentrated and of a high quality justifying ministerial attendance.

7. The summer session could therefore provide an opportunity for agreeing at a high political level on a common international approach to such issues.

8. The Economic and Social Council has not to date made much use of the flexibility provided in the United Nations Charter for its working time-table.

In the view of the nine delegations this inherent flexibility could be used to advantage to assist the Council in establishing its role both for policy discussion and technical discussion. Short subject-oriented sessions of the Council should be scheduled either to consider necessary action by the United Nations in a particular field, or to prepare or receive the results of technical work undertaken in specialist bodies. In other circumstances, such ad hoc sessions could serve to emphasize the importance of discussion in the Council on a particular subject.

9. In our view it is a basic responsibility of the Council to ensure that the United Nations system is provided with an opportunity for effective exploration of issues at both experts and policy levels, before conclusions are drawn. We think that at this stage it would be appropriate to undertake a review of the traditional agenda of the Economic and Social Council to see precisely how the Council can ensure that these two requirements are effectively met. On the basis of this review the Working Group could then proceed to examine the structure of the Economic and Social Council machinery.

10. At the end of its major work programme in each year, the Council should prepare recommendations for the General Assembly about organization of work in the Assembly for those items which have appeared on the Council's agenda in that year. In its report, therefore, the Council should indicate, for instance, those items which it has explored thoroughly, and should also identify questions where major issues have been left open for the Assembly, and perhaps also indicate items which, in the Council's view, might benefit from further discussion at a technical level before coming back to a later session of the Assembly. This section of the Council's report would therefore be a basic document when the Assembly and its main committees consider their organization of work; whilst its recommendations can only be advisory, such indications from the Council should help to streamline the business of the United Nations system through the year. In effect, the Council would provide annotations on items on the General Assembly draft agenda.

11. The political importance of the Economic and Social Council could be further enhanced by the introduction of the special subject-oriented sessions mentioned above. One particularly important use of such sessions could concern major issues in the field of development and international co-operation, when a new issue began to be identified as meriting special international attention at a high political level; a first step might be to call a special session of the Economic and Social Council for discussion of this issue alone. The session should be set some months ahead, in order to allow for thorough preparation both by Governments and within the United Nations system. The Council's debate could, on some occasions, be directed towards the achievement of an international approach to the issue: in other cases, the Council might choose to recommend special discussion of the issue either at the Assembly or in some other institution of the United Nations system, or, as provided for in Article 62 of the Charter, at a special international conference.

12. In order to realize the improvements in the Council's performance which we seek from the approach outlined in this paper, the Council's Bureau, the United Nations Secretariat and the specialized agencies should be encouraged to participate more actively in the Council's work.

III. Other United Nations forums for negotiations, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other United Nations organs and programmes, the specialized agencies, b/ the International Atomic Energy Agency, and ad hoc world conferences

13. In a number of other United Nations forums for sectoral matters, consultations and negotiations on reorganization are taking place in a varied and diversified manner. The Committee has already noted the important role played by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in terms of General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX), and intends to take into account the results of the forthcoming deliberations at the fourth session of UNCTAD. Similar information on the role of the specialized agencies and other sectoral organs should also be gathered from them with a view to developing a coherent and comprehensive approach.

14. The consideration of what additional information is needed could be based on Secretariat document E/5453/Rev.1, parts II and III (circulated by the Secretariat in connexion with the Council's work on rationalization), as a list of reference for forums where negotiations may take place.

15. The nine delegations tend to support the idea of having special sessions of the General Assembly rather than ad hoc world conferences merits support, although some merit is seen in conferences called to frame specific international agreement on closely defined subjects.

IV. Structures for regional and interregional co-operation

16. The nine delegations recognize the need to encourage regional co-operation and economic co-operation among developing countries. In order to strengthen the effectiveness of United Nations regional activities in the economic and social fields and the key role of the regional commissions in that respect, the Working Group should examine the way in which problems arising in the regional framework can be brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council in a form suitable for coherent discussion and action whenever necessary.

17. The Group should also examine ways to harmonize the activities of the regional commissions and those of other United Nations bodies.

18. In discussing regional co-operation, the Working Group should take into account the differences and the requirements of the various regions.

V. Operational activities of the United Nations system

19. In the course of the years, voluntary funds for operational activities have increased in number, with the intention of mobilizing supplementary resources. The number of special funds, however, has probably increased to an extent that reduces their marginal productivity in terms of the ratio between additional administrative expenses and additional resources made available for actual development assistance.

20. In the exercise of streamlining the United Nations operational activities' machinery we find ourselves confronted with two seemingly divergent needs:

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b/ Idem.

(a) To translate into operational terms (and machinery) a momentum existing in individual sectors when these become the focus of attention by the international community;

(b) To ensure an over-all coherence of the system and an optimal ratio between increased administrative costs, mobilization of new resources and implementation of new programmes.

21. On numerous occasions the delegations of the Nine have advocated increased concentration of resources for technical assistance and the creation of new voluntary funds should be resisted whenever a balance between those two needs was not being maintained.

22. In the existing situation, the nine delegations feel that any institutional restructuring in this area should be preceded by a detailed analysis, in the Working Group, of the operational activities financed from various sources.

23. Any rationalization attempt should not reduce the volume of funds available for operational activities and, to the extent possible, increase it.

24. As a tentative approach, the nine delegations would like to suggest the following broad guidelines and objectives for the work of the Working Group:

(a) Consolidation of existing voluntary funds while safeguarding, as appropriate, a separate identity for main sectors of development assistance;

(b) Creation of a mechanism for evaluation of economic benefits and developmental consequences of projects the Nine find worth exploring - in particular, the experience gained by the World Bank (pp. 10-11 of Mr. McNamara's statement) and any other idea which may be put forward in the Working Group;

(c) Exploration of the possibility for unification of procurement system;

(d) Utilization of the country programming system as a term of reference for co-ordination also of operational medium-term plans and programmes financed by agencies and other United Nations bodies out of their own resources;

(e) Means of improving the co-ordination, at the intergovernmental level, of the United Nations system's operational activities;

(f) Review and as appropriate reorganization of operational activities of the United Nations Secretariat.

## VI. Planning, programming, budgeting and evaluation

25. The nine delegations accept the recommendations of the Working Group on United Nations Programme and Budget Machinery.

26. While recognizing the advantages of a degree of pluralism and autonomy of the specialized agencies, the nine delegations believe that the Economic and Social Council, through the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, should participate in the various stages of the conception and realization of programmes.

27. It would be advisable to first harmonize planning cycles in the different United Nations organs and specialized agencies.

28. The establishment of the medium-term plan and of the programmes within the framework of this plan should be entrusted to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, which would work in close collaboration with the Secretariat services concerned.

29. In order for the decisions of the intergovernmental organs to be faithfully reflected in the programme budget, the Economic and Social Council should determine, under the authority of the General Assembly, the priorities to be followed in the execution of the programmes and verify that such priorities are reflected in the programme budget.

30. The budgetary functions shall remain entrusted to the General Assembly in accordance with customary procedure.

31. The Economic and Social Council, after the execution of the budget programme, would also evaluate to what extent the programmes have been realized. Such evaluation could be helpful in establishing the programmes for the next cycle.

#### VII. Interagency co-ordination

32. The nine delegations are convinced of the need for strengthening interagency co-ordination and improving the present working methods of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination in order to give its members a better opportunity to come to collective recommendations as a preparation for decisions in the Economic and Social Council and other intergovernmental bodies. They fully comprehend the reasoning behind the proposal in the experts' report for the establishment of an Advisory Committee on Economic Co-operation and Development. Yet the Council's co-ordinating capacity as envisaged in the Charter should be more fully utilized. A reinforced Committee for Programme and Co-ordination may also - apart from the tasks recommended to it by the Working Group on United Nations Programme and Budget Machinery - be utilized to focus on specific programme sectors by asking specialized agencies and other United Nations organs to report on their programme in the sector being scrutinized. The Economic and Social Council may consider ways of improving the feed-back of its views to the agencies through their Executive Directors.

33. To facilitate the Council's co-ordinating tasks, a comprehensive frame of reference could be useful to help the United Nations system act in a more coherent manner.

34. In decision IV of the Ad Hoc Committee, the Secretary-General was requested to submit an organizational chart showing co-ordination responsibilities assigned to the various intergovernmental Secretariat bodies. The Secretary-General was also invited in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to present his views on options and alternative courses of action in respect to the issues under consideration. In the light of these submissions, the Working Group may wish to return to the co-ordination question at a later stage.

## VIII. Secretariat support services

35. The nine delegations advocate a greater input from the Secretariat into the debate in the economic and social sphere. The Secretariat's function should not be limited to the accumulation of information, but should extend to the formulation of proposals; there would be no obligation on Member States to adopt these proposals, but the Secretariat experience in many fields might enable them to cope up with insights not available from other sources. It is felt that, at the moment the research capability, in particular, is not being used effectively.

36. The Working Group should examine closely the varying functions of the Secretariat, including:

(a) Collection of information and policy analysis in support of the General Assembly, other organs, and subsidiary bodies;

(b) Research and planning;

(c) Operational activities.

37. With regard to the personnel system, we support the principle of a unified personnel system and extension and improvement of competitive examination for recruitment.

### C. Group of 77

#### I. The General Assembly

1. In fulfilling its responsibilities under the Charter, the effectiveness of the General Assembly, in the economic and social sectors, should be increased by

(a) Reaffirming and utilizing its functions and powers as the highest policy-making and negotiating forum, particularly with a view to strengthening its role in monetary, trade and financial fields;

(b) Considering any question or any matters within the scope of the Charter relating to international economic and social co-operation;

(c) Assigning subjects, where necessary, to other forums for negotiations and receiving the results thereof;

(d) Examining and evaluating the activities in the other forums;

(e) Assisting developing countries in advancing their mutual economic and technical co-operation;

(f) Playing a more active role in defining general policies for all operational activities within the United Nations system;

(g) Convening carefully planned and prepared special sessions to deal with major problems or groups of problems; and

(h) Rationalizing the methods of work and the agenda by, inter alia, organizing the agenda around meaningful clusters of issues.



## II. The Economic and Social Council

2. In exercising its functions and powers under the Charter and fulfilling the role defined in subsequent General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions, in particular Assembly resolutions 2626 (XXV), paragraph 83; 3202 (S-VI), chapter IX, paragraph 3; and 3506 (XXX), the Economic and Social Council should be so organized as to function continuously and should make policy recommendations on, and co-ordinate activities of the United Nations system, in respect of the following:

(a) All matters concerning international economic co-operation;

(b) Policy issues in the economic, social, human rights and related fields on sectoral and global bases;

(c) Operational activities;

(d) Specific subjects.

3. The Council should organize its programme of work on a biennial basis providing for shorter but more frequent subject-oriented meetings.

4. The Council should assume direct responsibility for the work of the following of its subsidiary bodies which will be accordingly discontinued.

/TO BE ADDED/

5. In the light of the foregoing, all Members of the United Nations wishing to participate in the work of the Council should be enabled to do so to the fullest possible extent.

6. The Council should hold an annual meeting at the ministerial or other high political level to review the world economic and social situation.

III. Other United Nations forums for negotiations, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other United Nations organs and programmes, the specialized agencies, c/ the International Atomic Energy Agency and ad hoc world conferences

### A. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

7. UNCTAD needs to be transformed into an effective institution of the United Nations system for deliberation, negotiation and review in the field of trade and international economic co-operation, maintaining its close relationship with the General Assembly. This would be a step towards the final objective of creating a comprehensive world trade and development organization.

8. The vital function of UNCTAD as a generator of new ideas and new policy approaches should be retained and strengthened in order to increase its effectiveness as an international organ for improving the condition of international trade and accelerating the economic development of the developing countries.

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c/ Idem.

9. Furthermore, there is a need to strengthen the negotiating function of UNCTAD in order to enable UNCTAD to play its full part in translating principles and policy guidelines, including those enunciated by the General Assembly, into specific policies and concrete agreements, and to make its contribution to the establishment of the new international economic order.
10. The competence of UNCTAD (the Conference, the Board and the secretariat) should be strengthened, taking into account the interest of the developing countries and the need for it to evolve into an effective central negotiating organ of the United Nations to deal with issues in the field of trade and international economic co-operation and thereby directly assist the General Assembly in its efforts to realize the new international economic order. Thus, UNCTAD would continue to exercise an overview of negotiations being conducted elsewhere in respect of issues concerning trade and international economic co-operation. In consequence of its cross-sectoral responsibilities, UNCTAD would also assist the General Assembly by keeping under review the interrelationships between the relevant problem areas and the measures proposed in relation thereto, and by making appropriate recommendations.
11. On the basis of these principles, the necessary organizational changes in respect of the machinery of UNCTAD, including those set out below, should be made in order to strengthen UNCTAD's decision-making and negotiating capacity. Moreover, the name of UNCTAD should be changed to describe more accurately its character as the organization within the United Nations responsible for the functions described above.
12. The membership of the Trade and Development Board should be open to all members of UNCTAD.
13. In accordance with Trade and Development Board resolution 45 (VII), paragraph 9, and UNCTAD resolution 80 (III), paragraph 8, which envisages the holding of sessions of the Board at a ministerial level, the Board should meet in ministerial sessions once between the fourth and fifth sessions of the Conference. After the fifth session of the Conference, the Board should meet at the ministerial level every two years unless it decides otherwise. Such a ministerial session should normally not last more than one week and should be preceded by a meeting of senior officials to make the necessary preparations.
- B. Other United Nations organs and programmes, specialized agencies (including GATT), IAEA and ad hoc world conferences
14. These will serve as forums for negotiations in economic and social sectors within their fields of competence, taking full account of the needs and requirements of the developing countries.
15. All organs of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and the IAEA, including GATT, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Monetary Fund shall implement the relevant policy measures laid down by the General Assembly.
16. In respect of negotiations undertaken within their specific spheres of competence, these forums should be guided by the over-all framework of global policies established by the General Assembly.
17. Ad hoc world conferences may be convened to deal with specific subjects.

#### IV. Structures for regional and interregional co-operation

18. The role of the regional commissions should be strengthened and their leadership at regional and subregional levels both in the formulation of regional policy options and in the co-ordination of economic and social development should be enhanced.

19. The relationship between the centre and the regional commissions should be mutually reinforced: the regional commissions should participate in the implementation of global policy decisions of the major intergovernmental organs of the United Nations and, at the same time, should provide inputs for the research, policy-making and operational functions performed at the centre.

20. The regional commissions should play a central role of co-ordination at the regional level. Relations between the regional commissions and the specialized agencies and the system as a whole should be strengthened and a closer co-operation with the United Nations Development Programme should be worked out.

21. The regional commissions should assist in identifying projects and programmes for promoting co-operation among developing countries.

22. To be able to improve their efficiency, the regional commissions should have more administrative autonomy, greater flexibility on procedures and on matters related to personnel and staff recruitment. Furthermore, the streamlining of their structures should be considered, in particular, through the merging or abolition of subsidiary bodies.

23. Greater co-ordination of efforts is necessary at all levels to promote better interregional co-operation. Arrangements between regional commissions should be contemplated to permit exchange of information and experiences on a permanent basis (inter alia: periodic meetings of staff concerned with substantive programmes).

24. The United Nations Development Programme should also play an important role with the assistance of the regional commissions at the interregional, regional and subregional levels, in particular by devoting increased efforts to the new forms of co-operation among developing countries.

#### V. Operational activities of the United Nations system

25. Restructuring of the operational activities of the United Nations system should be undertaken to ensure:

(a) An increased flow of resources;

(b) Reflection of the priorities of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in the allocation of resources; and

(c) Optimum efficiency and reduction of costs.

#### VI. Planning, programming, budgeting and evaluation

26. To enhance the effectiveness of the planning, programming, budgeting and evaluation functions of the United Nations:

(a) The appropriate intergovernmental bodies and secretariat units charged with programming and budgeting should develop thematic approaches to ensure the implementation of priorities set by the General Assembly;

(b) The Committee for Programme and Co-ordination should be designated the main subsidiary organ of both the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly responsible for planning, programming, co-ordination and evaluation and its terms of reference modified accordingly;

(c) The Committee for Programme and Co-ordination should consist of 21 Member States nominated by the Economic and Social Council and elected by the General Assembly. Recognizing the need to encourage Member States to be represented in the Committee at a high level of expertise and to ensure the continuity of their representation, the United Nations should bear the travel and per diem expenses of one representative from each Member State of the Committee;

(d) The Committee for Programme and Co-ordination should make recommendations with respect to the harmonization and evaluation of medium-term plans and programmes carried out by the system;

(e) In exercising its role and functions as defined by relevant General Assembly resolutions, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions should be guided by the priorities of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. To ensure more adequate representation to developing countries, the size of the Advisory Committee should be increased to 16 by the addition of one member each from Asia, Africa and Latin America;

(f) There should be close co-operation between CPC and the Advisory Committee and they should hold joint meetings whenever necessary.

## VII. Interagency co-ordination

27. Interagency co-ordination at the Secretariat level should be aimed not merely at the elimination of overlapping and duplication of activities but principally at integrating inputs from the United Nations system at the planning and programming stages and at promoting concerted action at the implementation stage. It must be an integral part of the substantive support to be provided to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council for the performance of their global policy-making and co-ordination functions. To this end interagency co-ordination should include the following tasks:

(a) The carrying out of the necessary preparatory work for the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, by integrating the relevant contributions from the organizations of the United Nations system, together with options and possible alternative courses of action for consideration;

(b) Ensuring the proper implementation by the organizations of the United Nations system of policy guidelines and directives emanating from those organs;

(c) Ensuring that programme activities are efficiently planned and implemented through the full utilization and effective integration of the programme inputs and expertise available within the system.

28. While allowing, in exceptional cases, for such ad hoc intersecretariat mechanisms for specific consultative purposes, the machinery for interagency co-ordination in respect of both research and analysis and operational activities should centre on ACC under the leadership of the Secretary-General and with the personal participation of the executive heads of the organizations. While co-ordination in respect of administrative and financial questions should continue to be one of its functions, the ACC should give the highest priority to the tasks mentioned in the preceding paragraph.

29. The composition, agenda, functioning and reporting procedures of ACC should be adjusted to reflect the priority concerns of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. The subsidiary machinery of ACC should be replaced by flexible arrangements designed to meet the specific needs of the intergovernmental bodies concerned and geared to the policy and programming processes of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

30. The executive secretaries of the regional commissions should have a full opportunity to participate in the work of ACC in all matters of interest to them. Issues affecting intersecretariat co-ordination at the regional level should be settled through the executive secretaries of these commissions.

31. A major consideration underlying all arrangements for intersecretariat co-ordination should be the need to facilitate co-ordination by Governments themselves at the national level and the strengthening of national co-ordination mechanisms.

32. In reviewing the relationship agreements between the United Nations and the specialized agencies, the Economic and Social Council should be guided by the necessity to make these agencies fully responsive to policy recommendations and guidelines emanating from the United Nations. In addition, the General Assembly should be enabled for the purpose of over-all co-ordination to exercise fully its power under Article 17, paragraph 3, of the Charter.

#### VIII. Secretariat support services

33. Recognizing the increasing importance of the role of the United Nations system in the economic and social fields, and the need to strengthen the machinery that would support the Secretary-General and intergovernmental bodies in the performance of their enhanced role in these fields, the following measures should be taken in restructuring the United Nations Secretariat:

(a) A new comprehensive interdisciplinary research, planning and programming unit should be created. This unit would take over, inter alia, the responsibility for the relevant research, planning and programming functions being performed by the sectoral units in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The unit will undertake staff work for the co-ordination machinery referred to in section VII on interagency co-ordination. In addition to its present mandate, the Committee for Development Planning will also provide advice to this unit in formulating its work programme;

(b) The Department of Economic and Social Affairs should be divested of operational responsibilities. The future location of these responsibilities will

be examined in the context of the decision to be taken on operational activities (sect. IV);

(c) The functions of servicing of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly (in the economic and social fields) and the function of following up the resolutions and decisions of those bodies should be made the responsibility of a single unit;

(d) The question of the level of responsibility within the Secretariat, of the restructured economic and social affairs sectors, should be examined;

(e) In applying the principle of staff recruitment on an equitable geographical basis, due weight should be given to the level of posts for which such staff are recruited;

(f) The information activities undertaken by the United Nations system should be guided by the policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. The Office for Public Information shall report regularly through the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

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## كيفية الحصول على منشورات الأمم المتحدة

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