

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ON THE WORK  
OF ITS FIFTY-FOURTH AND FIFTY-FIFTH SESSIONS*Corrigendum*

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*Insert the following text between paragraphs 975 and 976:*

975a. The representative of the Secretary-General, introducing the programme budget for 1974-1975 and the medium-term plan for 1974-1977, said that the medium-term plan provided the framework within which the Secretary-General proposed to carry out the directives of Member States and that it was envisaged that the plan should assist Governments in their decision-making process and should enable them to obtain a comprehensive picture of the efforts being made to translate policy decisions into programmes, programme components and specific activities. The plan and the programme budget had been prepared with the full participation of programme managers and other members of the Secretariat concerned. The Secretary-General was conscious of the need to improve further the Organization's programming capacity and he hoped to achieve that through the maximum use of existing staff and machinery, wherever possible. In particular, he was endeavouring to simplify present organizational structures, to improve compliance with the decisions of Member States, to correlate the proper delegation of responsibility with the necessary authority, and to create monitoring, evaluation and feedback systems which would operate compatibly with the new programme budget; for that purpose, the Secretary-General contemplated making maximum use of electronic data processing. In the first medium-term plan he had devoted major attention to those activities which lent themselves most readily to programming over a medium-term period, namely the organizational units and programmes covering the economic, social and human rights fields. Those units and programmes would give rise to direct expenditures, under the regular budget, of \$89 million in 1974, \$95 million in 1975, \$102 million in 1976 and \$108 million in 1977, exclusive of conference and other common services and upward adjustments which might be made necessary by further exchange rate changes. On the same basis, total United Nations expenditure under the regular budget would amount to \$256 million in 1974, \$262 million in 1975, \$276 million in 1976 and \$292 million in 1977. Tables summarizing the contemplated activities, broken down by organizational unit and programme, were contained in the medium-term plan, which gave an over-all view, in substantive and financial terms, of the way in which the activities were being carried out by the units concerned. The spectrum of activities was wide; the plan gave a detailed exposition of the objectives sought and of the work envisaged by all units; it concentrated on the programmes and projects which the United Nations could carry out without duplicating the work of other bodies. It was not always easy, however, to avoid overlapping, which in some cases arose from the decisions of Member States. In addition, the reluctance of some members of the Secretariat to change their work patterns and the content of programmes could lead to duplication, but the Secretary-General was striving to correct that attitude. While the present plan concentrated mainly on economic, social and human rights activities, in the future planning would be extended to cover other areas of activity.

975b. The programme budget for 1974-1975 gave a detailed account of the work to be done, subject to the Council's approval of the work programme and to the General Assembly's approval of the necessary funds. The emphasis had been placed on activities of special significance to Member States, such as the Second United Nations Development Decade, the World Population Conference, 1974, the development work of the regional economic commissions, trade, industry and natural resources, the sea-bed, outer space, and special political issues. The new programme budget followed the form of presentation approved by the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session.