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Agenda item 38

REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Australia, Denmark, Finland, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy,
Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Union
of Soviet Socialist Republics and United Kingdom of Great
Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution

Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the
economic and social fields

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 32/197 of 20 December 1977, 41/213 of 19 December 1986, 42/170 of 11 December 1987, 43/174 of 9 December 1988 and 43/213 of 21 December 1988 and its decision 43/432 of 20 December 1988,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/77 of 29 July 1989 on the revitalization of the Council and endorsing Council resolution 1989/114 of 28 July 1989 on further measures for its implementation,

Desiring to strengthen further the role and effectiveness of the United Nations through better international co-operation in resolving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character,

Reaffirming that all Member States must honour in full their financial obligations as set out in the Charter of the United Nations, and emphasizing that the financial stability of the Organization will facilitate its effective operation in the economic and social fields,

Emphasizing the need for more effective and efficient functioning of the intergovernmental structure of the United Nations and its secretariat support structures in the economic and social fields in order to enhance international economic and social co-operation and efforts to promote the development of developing countries,

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Conscious of the new demands that are likely to be placed on the intergovernmental system in the economic and social fields by, inter alia, the special session of the General Assembly on international economic co-operation, the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade, the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, the proposed 1992 United Nations conference on environment and development, the special session of the Assembly on the question of narcotic drugs and the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, 1/

Emphasizing the need to strengthen co-operation and understanding between the United Nations and the other organizations of the United Nations system as a whole in order to enable the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council to carry out their responsibilities for promoting international economic and social co-operation in accordance with the relevant articles of the Charter,

Noting the important role assigned to the Economic and Social Council in Article 63 of the Charter in co-ordinating the activities of the agencies of the United Nations system,

Emphasizing the importance of the receipt by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council from their subsidiary bodies in the economic and social fields of timely and well considered advice presented in a format that will assist them in the effective performance of their duties,

Conscious of the special responsibilities in the field of human rights assigned to the Economic and Social Council in the Charter,

Emphasizing that a high level of commitment and political support on the part of Member States will be necessary if measures agreed upon to improve the functioning of the intergovernmental system in the economic and social sectors are to be effectively implemented and truly realized,

1. Reaffirms that the reform of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations, including the revitalization of the Economic and Social Council, is a continuing process aimed at strengthening those economic and social sectors, and that the implementation of that reform requires sustained effort and constant review;

2. Requests the Economic and Social Council at its 1990 sessions to consider further ways and means to improve and rationalize its own functioning and the structure of the subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly and of the Council in the economic and social fields and, where appropriate, to ensure a more integrated approach to economic and social questions;

1/ Resolution S-13/2, annex.

3. Also requests the Economic and Social Council to consider, with the assistance of the Secretary-General, options for its organizational and sessional arrangements, including, inter alia, the following:

(a) Holding the spring session on social and humanitarian affairs at Geneva and the summer session on economic affairs in New York;

(b) Holding a single consolidated session with a high-level segment alternately at Geneva and in New York;

(c) Considering other ideas for better use of current arrangements to ensure better focused and better prepared debates.

4. Further requests the Economic and Social Council to make recommendations to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session on appropriate and rational organizational frameworks for the intergovernmental structure in the economic and social fields, as well as possible criteria and procedures for making those adjustments which may be required by changing economic and social circumstances and the emergence of new problems;

5. Decides that the structure of the Secretariat in the economic and social fields shall be the subject of further consideration and, to that end, requests the Secretary-General to keep the situation under review and to report to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly through their relevant subsidiary organs;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to consider ways of ensuring more effective and efficient functioning of the United Nations in the economic and social fields and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session through the Economic and Social Council;

7. Decides to keep this matter under constant review and to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fifth session an item on the restructuring and revitalization of the intergovernmental structure in the economic and social fields.

