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UNIFIED APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT ANALYSIS
AND PLANNING

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In its resolution 1494 (XLVIII) of 26 May 1970, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to undertake a study of the question of a unified approach to development analysis and planning in co-operation with other members of the United Nations family.
2. In accordance with this request, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development jointly organized a research team. The preliminary report of the Secretary-General on a unified approach to development analysis and planning (E/CN.5/477) and his report on the Expert Group Meeting on a Unified Approach to Development Analysis and Planning held at Stockholm in 1972 (E/CN.5/490) were considered by the Commission for Social Development at its twenty-third session.
3. On the recommendation of the Commission, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1747 (LIV) on 16 May 1973 requesting that the Secretary-General continue studies on the question of a unified approach to development analysis and planning and prepare a report on the subject "in such a way as to be of the greatest possible practical use of planners, decision-makers and administrators".
4. At its fifty-seventh session the Council had available, as requested in its decision 1 (LVI), the progress report of the Secretary-General (E/5523 and Corr.1) on the subject.
5. In addition, the Council considered at its fifty-seventh session a related matter brought before it in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the capacity of the regional economic commissions for a unified approach to development planning (E/5430), and the comments of the Secretary-General and of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (E/5430/Add.1) and the observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (E/5430/Add.2) on that report. The Council, in decision 51 (LVII),

took note of the report and the comments thereon and requested the Commission for Social Development to consider the said report at its forthcoming session and to express its views for consideration by the Council at its fifty-eighth session within the context of the study of regional structures. The Council further requested the regional economic commissions to consider the Joint Inspection Unit's report and to communicate their views to the Council not later than at its fifty-ninth session.

6. The report on a unified approach to development analysis and planning, which is being prepared by the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development in consultation with the Secretariat and the Economic Commission for Latin America, will be submitted to the Commission for Social Development at its twenty-fourth session, in January 1975. It will include a discussion of methods of seeking a unified approach to development through the formulation of general strategies, the reorientation and supplementation of existing planning procedures, the extension of current criteria for programme and project evaluation, the adoption of new methods of data analysis, the establishment of information collection systems involving social and economic indicators and the issuance of regular social reports along with economic reports.
