

**1985/75. Economic and technical aspects
of marine affairs**

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1980/68 of 25 July 1980 on co-operation in the uses of the sea and coastal area development and 1983/48 of 28 July 1983 on marine affairs, in response to which the Secretary-General has submitted to the Council, at its second regular session of 1985, a report on economic and technical trends and developments in marine affairs,⁵⁰

Convinced that the resources of the ocean represent an important existing and potential contribution to the development process,

Noting that an increasing number of Member States, especially developing countries, have embarked on activities designed to make full, rational use of the resources of the ocean, in particular in their exclusive economic zones,

Noting also that, in accordance with the programme on economic and technical aspects of marine affairs contained in chapter 25 of the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989,⁵¹ the Secretary-General has directed his efforts specifically towards assisting Member States in developing and managing ocean resources in their exclusive economic zones,

1. *Endorses* the efforts of the Secretary-General to make the programme on economic and technical aspects of marine affairs responsive to the growing needs of Member States;

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on economic and technical trends and developments in marine affairs;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to pursue, in close co-operation with all the competent organizations of the United Nations system, activities relating to the economic and technical aspects of marine affairs, and to report on new developments in this area to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1989;

4. *Further requests* the Secretary-General, within the mandate and terms of reference of the United Nations regarding the economic and technical aspects of marine affairs, to submit to the Council at its second regular session of 1987 a report identifying specific and practical needs and problems encountered by countries, in particular developing countries, in the management of their exclusive economic zones and the development of resources therein, as well as the types of activities and approaches to their implementation required for countries, with the support of the United Nations, to respond most effectively to those needs and problems, and to transmit to the General Assembly at its forty-

second session the conclusions and recommendations of Council.

*52nd plenary meeting
26 July 1985*

**1985/76. Report of the Committee for Programme
and Co-ordination on the work of its twenty-fifth
session**

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on the work of its twenty-fifth session,⁵²

I

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on the work of its twenty-fifth session and endorses the conclusions and recommendations contained therein;⁵³

2. *Re-emphasizes* the importance of the programming and co-ordination functions carried out by the Committee in accordance with its mandate and in the context of a continuing need for greater efficiency and effectiveness in the United Nations system;

3. *Recalls* that the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination is the main subsidiary organ of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly for planning, programming and co-ordination;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in accordance with Chapters IX and X of the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant resolutions of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, to secure the follow-up and implementation by the organizations of the United Nations system of the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, once approved by the Council and/or the Assembly;

5. *Welcomes* the decision of the Committee to include in the provisional agenda for its twenty-sixth session an item on the improvement of its work and the duration of its sessions, and invites it to take into account the views expressed at its twenty-fifth session and at the second regular session of 1985 of the Economic and Social Council;

II

**INSTRUMENTS FOR PROGRAMMING
AND CO-ORDINATION**

1. *Reiterates* that the effectiveness of the instruments at the disposal of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination to fulfil its functions,

⁵⁰ E/1985/79.

⁵¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6A (A/37/6/Add.1)*, annex II.

⁵² *Ibid.*, Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/40/38).

⁵³ *Ibid.*, chap. IX.

notably cross-organizational programme analyses, in-depth evaluations and triennial reviews of the implementation of its recommendations thereon, programme-budget mechanisms and medium-term plans, should continue to be improved;

2. *Re-emphasizes* the need to strengthen the links between the recommendations derived from cross-organizational programme analyses and evaluation exercises, on the one hand, and the preparation of programme budgets and medium-term plans, on the other hand;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General, when presenting documents such as cross-organizational programme analyses and evaluations to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, to ensure that they are concise and include objective and critical assessments of the activities and organizational arrangements under review, and of the relationships between activities and mandates;

III

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1986-1987

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the improvements in the format of the proposed programme budget and of the improvements towards the timeliness of its submission to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and requests the Secretary-General to take steps to ensure further improvement;

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of monitoring and evaluation in the programme planning and budgeting cycle and urges the Secretary-General to refine further the methods employed in those exercises;

3. *Reiterates* that the medium-term plan constitutes the principal policy directive of the United Nations and should continue to serve as the framework for the formulation of the biennial budget;

4. *Recognizes* that the Secretary-General should keep the issue of decentralization under review and report to the Committee as required on the better distribution of responsibilities between global and regional entities;

IV

CROSS-ORGANIZATIONAL PROGRAMME ANALYSES

1. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination concerning the importance, objectives, methodology, style, presentation and follow-up of cross-organizational programme analyses and future areas for such analyses;⁵⁴

2. *Stresses* the importance of the effective implementation of the recommendations made by the

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, paras. 707-715.

Committee on the cross-organizational programme analysis of the activities of the United Nations system in the area of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries;⁵⁵

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take fully into account the recommendations of the Committee for the preparation of the cross-organizational programme analysis of economic and social research and policy analysis;⁵⁶

4. *Suggests* that the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, in the context of its discussion on the cross-organizational programme analysis of economic and social research and policy analysis, should consider the report of the Secretary-General on recurrent publications of the United Nations⁵⁷ with a view to identifying duplication and undue overlaps;

V

CROSS-ORGANIZATIONAL REVIEW OF SELECTED MAJOR SECTORS IN THE MEDIUM-TERM PLANS OF THE ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

Decides to choose at its organizational session for 1986 a topic for the next cross-organizational review of the medium-term plans of the organizations of the United Nations system, to be considered at the second regular session of 1987 of the Council;

VI

REPORT OF THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT ON REPORTING TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

1. *Takes note* of the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination⁵⁸ on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on reporting to the Economic and Social Council;⁵⁹

2. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Committee that the Secretary-General should submit to it at its twenty-sixth session a report describing the existing expert bodies within the United Nations system;⁶⁰

3. *Considers* that the Secretary-General, taking into account the views expressed in the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Economic and Social Council, should continue his efforts to bring about improvements, as suggested in his further comments on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit,⁶¹ and should keep the Council informed;

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, paras. 723-734.

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, paras. 717-722.

⁵⁷ E/AC.51/1985/14.

⁵⁸ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/40/38)*, paras. 756-758.

⁵⁹ See A/39/281-E/1984/81 and Corr.1 and Add.1.

⁶⁰ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/40/38)*, para. 758.

⁶¹ A/40/284-E/1985/71.

VII

REPORTS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON CO-ORDINATION

1. *Takes note* of the annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination for 1984/85;⁶²

2. *Requests* the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, in the light of the debate at the second regular session of 1985 of the Economic and Social Council, to continue to improve its annual overview report, which should contain an analytical review of the activities of the Committee, the status of co-ordination efforts among the organizations of the United Nations system and recommendations for further co-operation and co-ordination among them;

3. *Takes note* of the Register of Development Activities proposed by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination⁶³ in response to Council resolution 1982/71 of 10 November 1982 and General Assembly resolution 37/226 of 20 December 1982 and urges its early implementation;

4. *Invites* the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to proceed with the technical design for the establishment and operation of the Register and to submit a detailed progress report to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its twenty-sixth session, including, *inter alia*, information on cost, funding, assessment of utility to Member States and agency participation; with regard to the funding, the cost to be borne by the United Nations should be limited to the resources appropriated in the regular budget in connection with paragraph 23 of General Assembly resolution 37/226.

*52nd plenary meeting
26 July 1985*

1985/77. Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling Articles 57, 58, 63 and 64 of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling also its resolutions 2008 (LX) of 14 May 1976 and 1984/61 B of 26 July 1984,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977, in particular paragraphs 2 and 3 thereof,

Having considered the report of the Chairmen of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on the twentieth series of Joint Meetings of the two Committees,⁶⁴

1. *Takes note* of the efforts made in the preparations for and in the conduct of the twentieth series of Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and stresses the need for improvement in the functioning of the Meetings;

2. *Takes note also* of the report of the Chairmen of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on the Joint Meetings of the two Committees, which includes the conclusions reached and the views expressed on the effectiveness and co-ordination of United Nations organs and specialized agencies in relief efforts in Africa and on economic and technical co-operation among developing countries;

3. *Stresses* the need for more vigorous observance of the responsibilities laid down in the Charter of the United Nations and the agreements between the United Nations and the specialized agencies, bearing in mind problems which have arisen in co-ordination and the pressing need for effective co-ordination among all the organizations of the United Nations system, including co-ordination between the United Nations and the specialized agencies;

4. *Urges* the development of an open and constructive dialogue in the Joint Meetings in order to reach concrete solutions to problems of interorganizational co-ordination; to that effect, requests that the background paper for the Meetings should be submitted sufficiently in advance to allow careful study; and also requests that that document should highlight the problems faced by organizations in the field of interorganizational co-ordination and difficulties of implementation and should be action-oriented;

5. *Recommends* that normally only one item should be chosen to serve as a focus for discussion at the Joint Meetings; the item chosen should be sufficiently precise and of such a nature as to allow a concrete discussion among members, centred on the issues identified in the background paper;

6. *Calls upon* Member States and members of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to be represented at a high level in order to maximize the usefulness of the Joint Meetings;

7. *Suggests* that problems of co-ordination should be more systematically taken into account in the work of the governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations system in view of the discussion in the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and at the Joint Meetings.

*52nd plenary meeting
26 July 1985*

1985/78. Hiring and use of consultant services

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of the relevant parts of the general conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for

⁶² E/1985/57.

⁶³ See E/AC.51/1985/7.

⁶⁴ E/1985/112.