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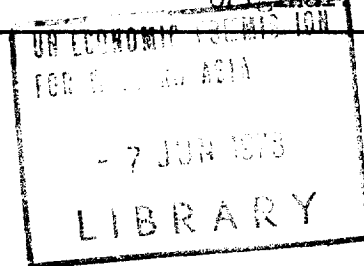


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RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS
THIRTY-SECOND SESSION AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AT ITS SIXTY-THIRD SESSION

Note from the Executive Secretary

... I attach hereto a series of resolutions and decisions taken by the General Assembly at its thirty-second session and which should be of concern to the regional commissions.

I also attach, separately, the text of General Assembly 197 (XXXII) dealing with the question of restructuring the economic and social sectors in the United Nations system, in view of the importance of this subject to the regional commissions.

With regard to the resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-third session, I enclose a series thereof. The first part contains the resolutions concerning the regional commissions as such while the second part contains resolutions of general interest to these commissions. I draw your attention to the text of the two resolutions adopted by the Council at its previous session in connexion with the granting of full membership in the Commission to the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

AT ITS THIRTY-SECOND SESSION

20 September - 21 December 1977

32/115 United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for
Development

The General Assembly in this resolution decided to hold the Conference on Science and Technology for Development at an appropriate time in 1979, bearing in mind the decision contained in paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 31/184. Also of interest to the commissions is the decision of the General Assembly to request the Secretary-General and the executive heads of the organs and organizations of the United Nations system to give high priority to the preparation for the Conference. (Please note that by decision 32/431, the General Assembly decided to hold the Conference in Vienna).

32/183 United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation Among
Developing Countries

In this resolution the General Assembly decided to convene the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation Among Developing Countries at Buenos Aires from 30 August to 12 September 1978. The regional commissions should also note that in operative paragraph 5 of this resolution the General Assembly urged all countries and relevant organizations of the United Nations system to take the necessary measures to strengthen their public information programmes relating to the Conference with the view to creating an awareness of the importance of technical co-operation among developing countries. They should also note, in particular, operative paragraph 7, in which the General Assembly requested the participating and executing agencies, including the regional commissions, to continue to give priority to their participation in the preparations for the Conference and to use their wide experience of technical co-operation in their contributions within the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Conference towards the preparation of the relevant documentation and of the plan of action and to ensure that

their public information material includes items on the objectives and current state of preparations of the Conference. In operative paragraph 3 the General Assembly requested all organizations of the United Nations system actively to assist developing countries and the representatives invited to the Conference referred to in paragraph 3(b) and (c) of its resolution 31/179 in their preparations for the Conference.

32/184 United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for
Development

The General Assembly in this resolution decided that the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development should be held at Vienna for two weeks in 1979 at an appropriate time. The General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to invite, inter alia, the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Agency, as well as interested organs of the United Nations, to be represented at the Conference.

32/188 United Nations Conference on an International Code of Conduct
on the Transfer of Technology

In this resolution the General Assembly decided to convene a United Nations conference to negotiate and to take all decisions necessary for the adoption of an international code of conduct on the transfer of technology to be held from 16 October to 10 November 1978 and requested the Secretary-General to convene, if necessary, additional meetings of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts.

32/153 United Nations Water Conference

The General Assembly in this resolution urged Member States and all organizations of the United Nations system to take intensified and sustained action for the implementation of the agreements reached at the Conference. Moreover, it requested the regional commissions to strengthen and intensify their responsibilities in the water sector and, to this end, assign specific responsibilities to an inter-governmental committee within the regional commissions in accordance with the recommendations of the Conference and with resolution 1(v) of the Committee on Natural Resources with allocation, if necessary, of additional resources. Furthermore, it called upon the

Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session, through the Economic and Social Council, the results of the special session of the Committee on Natural Resources and on the measures adopted by the whole system of the United Nations for the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan and the agreement at the Conference.

32/162 Institutional arrangements for international co-operation
in the field of human settlements

The regional commissions should note the following parts of the resolution: Part I, on international co-operation in the field of human settlements; II, on the establishment of the Commission on Human Settlements, and the description of its objectives, functions and responsibilities; III, on the establishment of the Habitat, Centre for Human Settlements, to service the Commission on Human Settlements and to serve as a focal point for human settlements action and the co-ordination of activities within the United Nations system, to be headed by an Executive Director, and on the responsibilities of the Executive Director and the Centre; IV, on the organization at the regional level; V, on terms of reference, and the description of human settlements activities and programmes at both the global and regional levels; VI, on concerted action and co-ordination; VII, on working relations with financial institutions; and, VIII, on co-operation with organizations outside the United Nations system. The regional commissions should note, in particular, Part IV, on the organizations at the regional level, where it is, inter alia, recommended that the regional commissions should consider the establishment of regional inter-governmental committees on human settlements, comprising all members, in cases where such committees do not already exist. The General Assembly also recommended that the responsibility for implementing regional and sub-regional programmes should be gradually transferred to regional organizations. It also recommended that each regional committee should be served by a unit of the secretariat of the parent regional commission under an executive officer. It also decided that the regional committees should be responsible for the formulation of regional and sub-regional policies and programmes and for their implementation. It recommended the principal functions of the secretariat units, and also that

the regional secretariat units, with the approval of the regional committees, should identify those national and regional institutions which would be best able to provide services, training and assistance in research relating to human settlements. In Part VI on concerted action and co-ordination it should be noted that the General Assembly, inter alia, decided that there should be sustained and determined effort, on the part of all organizations most closely connected with human settlements, both at the regional and global levels, to connect their planned programmes and projects. In Part VII it is recommended that the Centre and the secretariats of the regional commissions should establish working relations, as regards the questions of human settlements, with the principal financial institutions at the regional and global levels, and also that special co-operation should exist at the global, regional and national levels between the United Nations Development Programme and the Centre.

32/169 Financial and technical assistance to the least-developed among the developing countries

This resolution urges the United Nations and the Member States and the specialized agencies and international and regional financial institutions to ensure the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Desertification in favour of the least-developed countries by extending additional international and bilateral assistance.

32/172 United Nations Conference on Desertification

The General Assembly in this resolution requested the regional commissions to undertake intensified and sustained action in support of national efforts to combat desertification and to convene, as appropriate, in co-operation with interested governments and regional organizations, inter-governmental regional meetings, technical workshops and seminars to consider the immediate implementation of the recommendations contained in Section V of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification. It also recommended that sub-regional co-operation be initiated or intensified, as considered necessary, among countries affected by desertification and called upon all countries, in particular developed countries, as well as multilateral financial institutions and non-governmental donors, to provide and increase

this assistance to countries suffering from desertification. The General Assembly also entrusted the United Nations Environment Programme with the responsibility of following up and co-ordinating the implementation of the Plan of Action and authorized the Executive Director to convene immediately a consultative group. The General Assembly endorsed in principle the creation of a special account within the United Nations for implementing the Plan of Action and requested the Secretary-General to prepare and submit a study on the establishment and operation of such an account to the General Assembly.

32/57 Examination of long-term trends in economic development

The General Assembly in this resolution took note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on long-term trends in the economic development of the various regions of the world and their mutual relationship and studies of the regional commissions annexed thereto, prepared in accordance with paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 3508 (XXX). The General Assembly also endorsed ECOSOC resolution 2090 (LXIII), and, in particular, paragraph 4, thereof, which contains the recommendation to start, on the basis of the regional studies under way, preparations for the elaboration of an overall socio-economic perspective of the development of the world economy up to the year 2000 with special emphasis up to 1990 and on the problems of developing countries. It also reaffirmed the necessity to take into account, as appropriate, regional and global long-term prospects for economic and social development during the preparatory process for and in the elaboration of the new international development strategy. It should also be noted that the General Assembly invited all States, as well as the concerned organizations, organs and bodies within the United Nations system, to reply to requests for information which might be made in the course of the implementation of this resolution.

32/168 Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations
Environment Programme

In operative paragraph 2 the General Assembly invited the governing bodies of all organizations within the United Nations system to take full account within their terms of reference, of the decisions of the Governing Council and to ensure that those organizations review their programmes and

budgets with a view to participating fully in the effective implementation of the environment programme. In operative paragraph 3 it stressed the need for ensuring that environmental considerations should be taken into account in development programmes in differing socio-economic settings, in the implementation of the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and in the formulation of the new international development strategy.

32/174 Assessment of progress in the establishment of the new international economic order

In this resolution the General Assembly after recognizing the concern that the negotiations conducted so far on the establishment of the new international economic order had produced only limited results affirmed that all negotiations of a global nature on this question should take place within the framework of the United Nations system and decided to convene a special session of the General Assembly in 1980 in order to assess the progress made in the establishment of the new international economic order. It also decided to establish a committee of the whole in order to assist the General Assembly in overseeing and monitoring the implementation of decisions and agreements reached in negotiations and serving as a forum for facilitating agreement on the resolution of outstanding issues. The General Assembly further requested the committee to submit reports on its work and recommendations to the General Assembly at its thirty-third and thirty-fourth sessions and at the special session to be held in 1980.

32/175 Effects of the world inflationary phenomenon on the development process

In particular operative paragraph 3, the General Assembly recommended that the international community should devote special attention to the problem of world inflation in the negotiations concerning the establishment of the new international economic order and in the preparation of the new international development strategy.

32/177 Finance for development

The Commission should note that the General Assembly, in operative

paragraph 2, also requested the Secretary-General to provide the group of high-level experts, mentioned in operative paragraph 1, with material for its consideration in consultation with relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system.

32/179 Role of the public sector in promoting the economic development of developing countries

Special attention should be paid to operative paragraph 4, in which the General Assembly recommended that the competent United Nations organs should take into account the studies on the role of the public sector in promoting the economic development of developing countries in formulating a new international development strategy. Also important is operative paragraph 5, in which the General Assembly invited the Secretary-General, in his study on the role of the public sector in the socio-economic development of developing countries, to take into account especially the aspects specified in this paragraph. The General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to identify, based on national requirements, international measures required to support national public administration, finance and management for the development of the developing countries.

32/114 United Nations Development Programme

The General Assembly in this resolution, inter alia, invited the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to continue his efforts, in association with participating and executing agencies and co-operating organizations, to strengthen the financial position of the Programme and to improve its management. The General Assembly further invited the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to continue discussion with the executing agencies with a view to improving the substantive co-ordination of technical co-operation on the basis of the consensus of 1970. It further invited the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the heads of the executing agencies to increase substantially the number of experts from developing countries to be included in the lists of experts submitted to governments for the execution of projects financed by the Programme, including nationals from their own countries, regional and sub-regional groupings, in accordance with relevant decisions of the Governing Council of the Programme.

32/180 Economic Co-operation Among Developing Countries

In operative paragraph 2, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to ensure, through the appropriate machinery of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, effective co-ordination of activities within the United Nations system in support of measures of economic co-operation among developing countries, as identified in the relevant decisions of the United Nations on the subject, including those based on the programme of action adopted at the Third Ministerial Meeting of the Group of Seventy-seven, the Action Programme for Economic Co-operation adopted at the Fifth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, and the report of the Conference on Economic Co-operation Among Developing Countries. In operative paragraph 3 the General Assembly further requested the Secretary-General to continue to include in the medium-term plan of the United Nations an intersectoral presentation of the activities envisaged to implement the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on economic co-operation among developing countries and to secure the same kind of intersectoral presentation on a system-wide basis. Then in operative paragraph 4 it urged the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in accordance with their established procedures and practices, to support measures of economic co-operation among developing countries, including as and when requested, the continued provision of the necessary secretariat support services and other suitable arrangements to facilitate the holding of meetings by the developing countries in pursuance of the objectives of economic co-operation among developing countries.

32/182 Technical Co-operation Among Developing Countries

The Commission should note in particular operative paragraphs 2, 3, 4 and 6 of this resolution. In paragraph 2 the General Assembly requested the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the executive heads of participating and executing agencies and regional commissions to take all necessary measures, in the light of paragraph 1 of this resolution, for the speedy implementation of all the recommendations contained in the report of the Working Group on Technical Co-operation Among Developing Countries as modified by the relevant decisions of the Governing

Council. In paragraph 3 the General Assembly also requested the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the executive heads of participating and executing agencies and regional commissions to assist the developing countries, at their request, in identifying, designing and executing development projects so as to promote technical co-operation among developing countries, particularly the least-developed among them. In operative paragraph 4 the General Assembly further requested the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the executive heads of participating and executing agencies and regional commissions in conformity with the decisions of the Governing Council mentioned in operative paragraph 1 of this resolution, to formulate for approval, as appropriate, by the intergovernmental bodies concerned, suitable changes in their rules, regulations, procedures, and practices for recruiting experts and consultants, placing fellows, awarding sub-contracts and procuring equipment and supplies in order to utilize fully the capacity and develop the potential existing in developing countries, irrespective of the economic and social system of the individual developing country. In operative paragraph 6 the General Assembly further requested the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the executive heads of participating and executing agencies and regional commissions to continue to report regularly on the implementation of the recommendations of the report of the Working Group on Technical Co-operation Among Developing Countries as modified by the above-mentioned decisions of the Governing Council, as well as on other activities undertaken by them for technical co-operation among developing countries, to the General Assembly, through the Governing Council, the United Nations Development Programme and the Economic and Social Council, and, in relation to the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation Among Developing Countries, to the Preparatory Committee for the Conference at its third session.

32/192 Reverse transfer of technology

In operative paragraphs 3 and 4 of this resolution, the General Assembly urged the developing countries to give immediate consideration to the modalities for promoting collective self-reliance among themselves with a view of using and developing their human resources and to support measures designed to encourage the absorption of trained personnel within the developing countries.

32/134 Youth in the contemporary world

In operative paragraph 3 of this resolution the General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to prepare a brief synopsis of the legislative history and programme activities of the United Nations in the field of youth since 1965, for submission to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session for further discussion.

32/135 Channels of communication with youth and youth organizations

The General Assembly in this resolution requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session a report on comments and suggestions offered by Member States and regional commissions relating to the ways and means to involve youth organizations in development activities of the United Nations at the national, regional and international level and on the progress achieved in their implementation.

32/137 International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

In paragraph 2 the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue the efforts concerning the establishment of the above institute, and to prepare, in consultation with the competent bodies of the host country, the competent organs and institutions of the United Nations system and the regional commissions concerned, a draft document describing the structure, composition, responsibilities, and programme of the Institute, as well as the co-ordination of the activities of the Institute with those of the organizations concerned, particularly the United Nations Development Programme, the regional commissions and the regional research centres for the advancement of women, having regard to the recommendations of the Group of Experts set forth in the report submitted by the Secretary-General to the Economic and Social Council at its sixtieth session.

32/138 Interagency programme for the United Nations Decade for Women

In operative paragraph 2 the General Assembly emphasized that constant and increasing efforts should be made at the national, regional and international levels to attain the objectives of the Decade. In operative

paragraph 3 it requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with all the participating agencies and organizations of the United Nations, to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session, through the Economic and Social Council, the study of the interagency programme accompanied by the observations formulated by the Council with regard to it. In operative paragraph 4 it further requested the Secretary-General to transmit to governments every two years the study of the interagency programme for the Decade. Finally, in operative paragraph 5 it urged the participating agencies and organizations of the United Nations system to identify and undertake as quickly as possible projects to be executed jointly.

32/141 Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women

The General Assembly urged the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies concerned, including the UNDP, to assist the regional commissions in formulating projects drawn up in connexion with the United Nations Decade for Women, with a view to submitting them to the Consultative Committee on the Voluntary Fund.

32/59 Report of the Fifth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

In operative paragraph 2 the General Assembly stressed the need for intensive international and regional co-operation in crime prevention and control, as well as co-ordination, among all the United Nations organs and organizations concerned, especially the United Nations Development Programme, the various regional commissions and institutes of the specialized agencies. In operative paragraph 3 it urged that technical assistance in crime prevention and control be made available to governments requesting it, as a matter of urgency, and that high priority be given to the provision of regional and interregional technical advisory services and co-operation, particularly in the light of recent directives of the policy-making bodies of the United Nations focusing on regional and inter-country activities and the proved success of this approach to crime prevention. In operative paragraph 8 the General Assembly further requested the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures for the preparation of the Sixth Congress, inter alia, through the commissioning of reports by consultant experts, selected with due regard to equitable geographic representation, and the

organization of regional preparatory meetings, pursuant to existing practice, for Africa, Asia and Latin America, to which governments of the region might send experts and to which the Secretary-General should invite consultant experts from the region concerned.

32/109 International Year of the Child

In this resolution the General Assembly reaffirmed that the major focus of the International Year of the Child is at the national level, but that this should be supported by regional and international co-operation. The General Assembly also requested all United Nations bodies concerned to keep the United Nations Children's Fund informed of their respective programmes for the International Year of the Child, and in this regard, requested the Fund, as the lead agency, to prepare a report for the General Assembly at its thirty-third session on the activities being undertaken in the United Nations system.

32/124 Narcotic drugs: international co-operation in treatment
and rehabilitation

32/125 United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control and its programmes
related to economic and social development

The General Assembly invited the United Nations Development Programme and other appropriate agencies and bodies of the United Nations, as well as international or multilateral financial institutions engaged in development assistance, to co-operate with and assist the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control in the commissioning of pilot projects aimed at providing farmers who had relied on growing narcotics raw material as their principal source of income with other ways and means of income in areas where the illicit cultivation and production of narcotics raw material should gradually be eradicated in accordance with the decisions of the governments concerned, and in the second resolution, it urged all international or multinational organizations and institutions concerned with providing economic and social development aid to co-operate with the United Nations by supporting financially the implementation of drug control programmes.

32/127 Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights

In operative paragraph 2 of this resolution the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, under the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, to give priority to the organization, in areas where no regional commissions on human rights exist, of seminars for the purpose of discussing the usefulness and advisability of the establishment of regional commissions for the promotion and protection of human rights.

32/131 Question of the elderly and the aged

The General Assembly requested the competent and concerned specialized agencies of the United Nations system to give continued attention to regional and international meetings on the major problems of concern to the aging and suggested that these organizations should engage in regular exchanges of information about their plans and activities in this field, particularly at the regional level.

32/176 Multilateral development assistance for the exploration of natural resources

The General Assembly in operative paragraph 2 requested the Secretary-General to provide the group of high-level experts with material for their consideration, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other interested bodies of the United Nations system.

32/178 Network for the exchange of technological information and the industrial and technological information bank

The General Assembly in this resolution requested the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the regional commissions and other organizations concerned to develop alternatives for further work on the network, including time schedules, costs and user-oriented operational suggestions, together with suggestions on sectors and/or subject areas where there was a particular requirement for an international information network, information network exchange and the transfer of technology. It further reaffirmed that all countries, particularly developed countries, should take measures to improve

the availability and quality of the technological information needed to assist developing countries in the selection of technologies relevant to their needs.

32/190 Special measures in favour of the least developed among
the developing countries

The General Assembly in this resolution urged the developed countries, as well as appropriate international organizations and financial institutions, to adopt scientific and concrete measures in favour of the least developed countries.

32/206 Recommendations of the Committee for Programme and
Co-ordination

In Part I of the resolution, the General Assembly confirmed that the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, by virtue of its review of both the medium-term plan and the programme aspects of the programme budget, is the main subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly for planning, programming and co-ordination, with the perspective necessary to make recommendations on the relative priorities of the United Nations programmes. It also urged subsidiary bodies to refrain from making recommendations on the relative priority of the major programmes, as outlined in the medium-term plan. It requested such bodies to propose, through the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, relative priorities to be accorded to the various subprogrammes within their respective fields of competence. In Part II of this resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to implement, in the light of the relevant recommendations and comments of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and in the most appropriate manner, the relative growth rates accepted by the General Assembly as the framework of programme and priorities. In Part III of this resolution, the General Assembly authorized the Secretary-General, in consultation with the executive heads of the regional commissions concerned, to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session, in the light of the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and of paragraph 16 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, through the Economic and Social Council, programme

proposals for increased activity in the transport programmes of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Latin America, the Economic Commission for Western Asia and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and revised estimates to that end.

32/111 Health needs of Palestinian refugee children

The General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in collaboration with Governments of host countries and with relevant United Nations bodies, to undertake a sample survey to ascertain the needs of Palestinian children in refugee camps with a view to averting adverse effects on their health.

32/161 Permanent sovereignty over national resources in the occupied Arab territories

In operative paragraph 7 the General Assembly decided to call upon all States, international organizations, specialized agencies, investment corporations and all other institutions, not to recognize or co-operate with or assist in any manner any measures undertaken by Israel to exploit the resources of the occupied territories or to effect any changes in the demographic composition or geographic character or institutional structure of these territories.

32/171 Living conditions of the Palestinian people

In operative paragraph 2 the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the relevant United Nations organs and specialized agencies, particularly the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and the Economic Commission for Western Asia, to prepare and submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session a comprehensive and analytical report on the social and economic impact of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

32/197. Restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, and 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States,

Recalling also its resolution 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975, by which it established the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System for the purpose of preparing 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 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,

Reaffirming its desire to continue the process of restructuring the United Nations system, of which the results of the work of the Ad Hoc Committee constitute a valuable initial contribution,

1. Takes note of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System 1/ and expresses its deep appreciation to the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee for the excellent manner in which he conducted its work;

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 34 (A/32/34) and Supplement No. 34A (A/32/34/Add.1).

2. Decides that paragraph 64 2/ of the recommendations contained in chapter III of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee should read as follows:

"64. The General Assembly should invite the Secretary-General to appoint, in full consultation with Member States, a Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, at a high level which he determines as commensurate with the functions outlined below, who, acting under the authority of the Secretary-General, would effectively assist him in carrying out his responsibilities as chief administrative officer, under the Charter of the United Nations, in the economic and social fields. Accordingly, the Director-General, under the direction of the Secretary-General, should be in charge of:

"(a) Ensuring the provision of effective leadership to the various components of the United Nations system in the field of development and international economic co-operation and in exercising over-all co-ordination within the system in order to ensure a multidisciplinary approach to the problems of development on a system-wide basis;

"(b) Ensuring, within the United Nations, the coherence, co-ordination and efficient management of all activities in the economic and social fields financed by the regular budget or by extrabudgetary resources. 3/

"In addition, the Secretary-General could entrust to the Director-General other tasks in areas of responsibility related to the ensemble of the economic and social activities of the United Nations. The Director-General should be appointed by the Secretary-General for a period of up to four years. He should be provided with the necessary support and resources.";

3. Endorses the conclusions and recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee, as amended in paragraph 2 above and reproduced in the annex to the present resolution;

2/ Paragraph 5 of section VIII of the provisional mimeographed text (A/32/34 (Part I)), p. 27.

3/ This applied equally to all services and organs within the United Nations without prejudice to their respective spheres of competence or terms of reference as contained in their relevant legislative mandates.

4. Invites the Secretary-General to appoint a Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation as soon as possible, preferably during the first quarter of 1978;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to implement those recommendations which are addressed to him, to assist the organs, organizations and bodies involved in the restructuring process and to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session, through the Economic and Social Council, within the scope of its competence, at its sixty-fifth session;

6. Invites the Secretary-General to submit to the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-fourth session a report giving further details on how he plans to implement the conclusions and recommendations annexed to the present resolution in the light of comments made 4/ and to seek guidance, as necessary, on issues requiring further clarification;

7. Requests all organs, organizations and bodies within the United Nations system to implement these recommendations within their respective spheres of competence and to submit progress reports, including plans for further implementation, to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session through the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-fifth session;

8. Decides to keep under review the implementation of the above-mentioned conclusions and recommendations.

109th plenary meeting

20 December 1977

4/ Comments made in the Ad Hoc Committee, at the resumed sixty-third session of the Economic and Social Council and at the thirty-second session of the General Assembly.

ANNEX

Conclusions and recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee
on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors
of the United Nations System

CONTENTS

<u>Section</u>	<u>Paragraphs</u>
I. GENERAL ASSEMBLY	1 - 4
II. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL	5 - 15
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 <u>AD HOC</u> WORLD CONFERENCES	16 - 18
IV. STRUCTURES FOR REGIONAL AND INTERREGIONAL CO-OPERATION .	19 - 27
V. OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM . .	28 - 36
VI. PLANNING, PROGRAMMING, BUDGETING AND EVALUATION	37 - 49
VII. INTERAGENCY CO-ORDINATION	50 - 58
VIII. SECRETARIAT SUPPORT SERVICES	59 - 64

I. 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 as to international economic, social and related problems and, to that end, to function as the principal forum for policy-making and for the harmonization of international action 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 may 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. It may also review and evaluate developments in forums outside the United Nations system and address recommendations to them.

2. The General Assembly should promote 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 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 balanced and efficient distribution of items in the Second and Third Committees, taking due account of the respective functions of those Committees, the nature of the items concerned, their substantive

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interrelationships and the need to consider questions of economic and social development in a co-ordinated manner. The Chairmen of the Second and Third Committees should hold consultations with a view to assisting the General Committee to that end. Steps should also be taken to improve co-ordination between the Second and Third Committees, on the one hand, and the Fifth Committee on the other.

(b) The Second and Third Committees should, within their respective spheres of competence, fully utilize the possibility of grouping substantively-related items under one heading for purposes of consideration.

(c) Discussions in the Second Committee should focus on individual items or groups of items, organized in the manner indicated in subparagraph (b) above. Such discussions 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 Second Committee should set agreed deadlines for the submission of such proposals. These measures should also be adopted, to the extent applicable, by the Third Committee.

4. Documentation submitted by or on behalf of the Secretary-General to the Second and Third Committee as well as to other United Nations bodies in the economic and social fields concerning items on their agenda should be concise, action-oriented and in conformity with the relevant general and specific legislative directives.

II. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

5. 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, under the authority of the Assembly or in the performance of such functions as may be assigned to it by the Assembly, should concentrate on its responsibilities:

(a) To serve as the central forum for the discussion of international economic and social issues of a global or interdisciplinary nature and the

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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 practical 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 after their approval by the Assembly and/or the Economic and Social Council;

(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, the implementation of the priorities 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 priorities established by the General Assembly for the system as a whole.

6. In discharging these responsibilities, the Economic and Social Council should bear in mind the importance of assisting in the preparation of the work of the General Assembly in the economic, social and related fields so that the Assembly may give timely and effective attention to the substantive issues requiring consideration. Such preparation should include the drawing up, for consideration by the Assembly, of suggestions regarding the latter's documentation and organization of work in the economic and social fields, as well as of recommendations for action by the Assembly on substantive issues.

7. 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 for the purpose, inter alia, of considering action by the United Nations system in particular sectors,

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reviewing the results of technical work undertaken in specialized bodies and establishing guidelines for such work, reviewing programme budgets and medium-term plans within the United Nations system, and recommending policy guidelines for operational activities. The Council, taking into account the provisions of paragraphs 10 and 11 below, should identify subject areas on which such sessions should be held.

8. 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 items on its agenda should be grouped under one heading for purposes of consideration. The Council may, in modification of its programme, decide on ad hoc arrangements - including in particular the convening of special sessions - to deal with emerging problems meriting special or urgent international attention. In formulating its programme, the Council should take into account the possibility of transmitting certain of the reports submitted through it to the General Assembly without debate.

9. At such times as may be decided upon by its members, the Economic and Social Council should also hold periodic meetings, at the ministerial or other sufficiently high 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.

10. In the light of the foregoing and in order to ensure that the subject areas referred to in paragraph 7 above are given the most effective and informed consideration possible within the broad context of the tasks indicated in paragraph 5, the Economic and Social Council should assume to the maximum extent possible direct responsibility for performing the functions of its subsidiary bodies; these bodies would accordingly be discontinued or their terms of reference redefined and/or regrouped. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 27 below, the regional commissions should continue in being.

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11. On the basis of the foregoing, the measures set forth in subparagraphs (a) to (d) below should be adopted by the Economic and Social Council not later than the end of 1978 in respect of its expert and advisory groups, its standing committees and the functional commissions, and the Council should give high priority to this task in formulating its programme of work:

(a) The discontinuance of the expert and advisory bodies of the Council unless the Council takes affirmative action to renew and redefine their mandates and, where appropriate, to set deadlines for the completion of their activities;

(b) The thorough streamlining, including discontinuance, as appropriate, of the standing intergovernmental committees;

(c) The redefinition and regrouping, on the basis of their substantive and methodological interrelationships, of the terms of reference of the functional commissions, or the assumption by the Council in appropriate instances of direct responsibility for their work;

(d) The assumption by the Council of direct responsibility for carrying out the preparatory work for ad hoc conferences convened by the Council itself and, as appropriate, by the General Assembly, without prejudice to arrangements already agreed upon for conferences currently under preparation.

12. The Economic and Social Council should to the maximum extent possible refrain from establishing new subsidiary bodies; it should make every effort to meet the need for any new bodies by holding subject-oriented sessions as provided for in paragraph 7 above. For their part subsidiary bodies of the Council should refrain from creating new subordinate sessional or intersessional groups without the prior concurrence of the Council.

13. In the light of paragraphs 10 and 11 above, all States 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. In addition, consideration should be given to ways and means of making the Council fully:

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representative. a/ Where the Council decides in the context of the measures envisaged in paragraph 11 above to regroup the terms of reference of particular subsidiary bodies, it should also give consideration to the possibility of such regrouping being accompanied by an increase in the membership of the reconstituted body or bodies. The Council should continue to invite non-member States to participate in its deliberations on any matter of particular concern to them.

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

15. The Economic and Social Council should examine and improve its consultative relationships with the non-governmental organizations, taking fully into account the provisions of the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order. The Council should also make recommendations for the rationalization and harmonization of consultative relationships 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. b/

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

16. All United Nations organs and programmes, the specialized agencies, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the International Atomic Energy Agency

a/ For reservations and interpretative statements regarding this information, see Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 34 (A/32/34), annex II.

b/ For interpretative statements regarding this paragraph, see Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 34 (A/32/34), annex II.

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

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and ad hoc world conferences should co-operate in whatever measures are necessary for the effective discharge of the responsibilities of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and should, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and within the scope of their respective basic instruments, give full and prompt effect to their specific policy recommendations.

17. In carrying out their respective mandates, all United Nations organs and 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.

18. In the light of General Assembly resolution 31/159 of 21 December 1976, appropriate measures should accordingly be taken to enable the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, within available resources, effectively to play the major role envisaged in resolution 90 (IV) of 30 May 1976 of the Conference d/ 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.

IV. STRUCTURES FOR REGIONAL AND INTERREGIONAL CO-OPERATION

19. 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 in respect of technical co-operation activities.

d/ See Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Fourth Session, vol. I, Report and Annexes (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.II.D.10), part one, sect. A.

20. 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.

21. 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 medium-term plan of the United Nations covering fields of interest to them, taking into account the special needs and conditions of their respective regions.

22. Subject to such guidance as may be provided by the Governments concerned and without prejudice to membership of the regional bodies concerned, the organizations of the United Nations system should take early steps to achieve a common definition of regions and subregions and the identical location of regional and subregional offices.

23. Relations between regional commissions and the organizations of the United Nations system should be strengthened. Close co-operation with the United Nations Development Programme should be established and appropriate arrangements 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 and, in areas which do not fall within the purview of the sectoral responsibilities of specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies, for other subregional, regional and interregional projects.

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24. 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.

25. As a means of promoting 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 intersecretarial meetings, utilizing existing machinery as far as possible for that purpose.

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

27. 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.

V. OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

28. Restructuring measures in respect of the operational activities of the United Nations system for development should serve to promote the achievement of the following objectives:

(a) A real increase in the flow of resources for such activities on a predictable, continuous and assured basis;

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(b) The assistance provided should be in conformity with the national objectives and priorities of the recipient countries;

(c) The orientation of these activities and the allocation of available resources for the activities to fully reflect the over-all strategies, policies and priorities of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council;

(d) The achievement of optimum efficiency and the reduction of administrative costs with a consequent increase in the proportion of resources available to meet the assistance requirements of recipient countries.

29. In carrying out the comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development, as provided for in paragraph 5 (d) above, the Economic and Social Council should be guided by the objectives outlined in paragraph 28 above.

30. With these objectives in view and as a first step, with future steps to be determined by the General Assembly, integration measures as outlined in the following paragraphs should be gradually undertaken, under the authority of the Secretary-General wherever appropriate, in respect of existing United Nations programmes and funds for development financed by extrabudgetary resources. The implementation of these measures should be carried out under the guidance of the Assembly and the Economic and Social Council particularly bearing in mind, firstly that a major premise underlying such integration is that it will stimulate substantially higher levels of voluntary contributions to operational activities for development, and secondly that it should accordingly be carried forward with due regard to the current levels of such voluntary contributions. The resources, aims and objectives of each programme, as reflected in existing programmes and funds, should remain clearly identified.

31. Without prejudice to other arrangements for mobilizing additional funds for particular programmes through other measures or from other sources and subject to provision being made for the earmarking of contributions for specific programmes, there should be held a single annual United Nations pledging conference for all United Nations operational activities for development. In preparing for the pledging conference, the Secretariat should make available

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to Governments information concerning previous and current contributions for the various programmes from Governments and other sources.

32. Measures should be taken to achieve maximum uniformity of administrative, financial, budgetary, personnel and planning procedures, including the establishment of a common procurement system, harmonized budget and programme cycles, a unified personnel system and a common recruitment and training system.

33. At the country level, there should be improved coherence of action and effective integration, in accordance with the objectives and priorities of the Government concerned, of the various sectoral inputs from the United Nations system. The United Nations Development Programme country-programming process e/ should be utilized as a frame of reference for the operational activities carried out and financed by the organizations of the United Nations system from their own resources.

34. On behalf of the United Nations system, over-all responsibility for, and co-ordination of, operational activities for development carried out at the country level should be entrusted to a single official to be designated taking into account the sectors of particular interest to the countries of assignment, in consultation with and with the consent of the Government concerned, who should exercise team leadership and be responsible for evolving, at the country level, a multidisciplinary dimension in sectoral development assistance programmes. These tasks should be carried out in conformity with the priorities established by the competent national authorities and with the assistance, as necessary, of joint interagency advisory groups. Subject to the requirements of individual countries, steps should be taken to unify the country offices of the various United Nations organizations.

35. In the context of the foregoing, consideration should be given by the General Assembly to the establishment of a single governing body responsible for the management and control, at the intergovernmental level, of United

e/ See paras. 1-5 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) of 11 December 1970.

Nations operational activities for development. f/ This body should replace the existing governing bodies. Its composition should be such as to ensure a wide, equitable and balanced representation.

36. Steps should be taken to ensure adequate developing country representation at the executive management and other central decision-making levels of secretariat structures in the area of operational activities for development of the United Nations system.

VI. PLANNING, PROGRAMMING, BUDGETING AND EVALUATION

37. The recommendations in the present section are designed to enhance the effectiveness of the planning, programming, budgetary and evaluation processes within the United Nations system.

38. 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.

39. 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.

40. In addition, the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination should in the light of the perspective indicated above formulate recommendations, for

f/ It is agreed that the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme are to be excluded.

consideration of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, on the relative priorities of United Nations programmes; in this context subsidiary intergovernmental and expert bodies should accordingly refrain from making recommendations on the relative priorities of the major programmes as outlined in the medium-term plan and should instead propose, through the Committee, the relative priorities to be accorded to the various subprogrammes within their respective fields of competence.

41. 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 General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council should, in the light of experience, keep under continuous review the terms of reference of the Committee.

42. 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.

43. 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.

44. 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.

45. 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.

46. 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, and subject to the review envisaged in paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 31/93 of 14 December 1976, the payment by the United Nations of the travel and per diem expenses of one representative of each State member of the Committee should be continued.

47. In exercising its responsibilities as defined by the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions should be guided by the priorities of the 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 sixteen.

48. 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 work out appropriate arrangements for maintaining continuous contact. The two Committees should so organize their respective programmes of work as to facilitate the discharge of the foregoing tasks; to the same end the Secretary-General should make the necessary adjustments to the cycle for the preparation of the relevant documentation and generally ensure compliance by the Secretariat with the procedures indicated above.

49. Intergovernmental bodies should enforce existing rules concerning the submission of programme-budget implications of proposals submitted to them. To the extent possible, a statement of programme-budget implications should be available in writing during the consideration of proposals and normally not

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later than twenty-four hours before the approval of the proposals concerned. Such statements shall indicate, as appropriate, related programmes already included in the relevant medium-term plan, the percentage increase in the expenditures of the Secretariat units concerned and the resources which could be released from any programme elements which have become obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective. If in the course of a session two or more statements of programme-budget implications have been submitted, the Secretary-General shall submit, at the conclusion of the session, a summary of such statements containing aggregate figures.

VII. INTERAGENCY CO-ORDINATION

50. Interagency co-ordination at the intergovernmental level should be governed by the policy guidelines, directives and priorities established by the General Assembly and, under its authority, by the Economic and Social Council in the exercise of their over-all responsibilities as outlined in sections I and II.

51. At the intersecretariat level, interagency co-ordination should aim at effectively assisting in the preparatory work for intergovernmental decisions, in the implementation of such decisions and in their translation into mutually complementary or joint programme activities. To that end, it should integrate into a coherent whole the relevant expertise and inputs of the organizations of the United Nations system. It should also be a built-in element of the substantive support to be provided to the intergovernmental bodies concerned for the discharge of their policy-making functions as well as an integral part of intersecretariat arrangements for policy and programme execution.

52. On the basis of the foregoing, interagency co-ordination at the intersecretariat level should concentrate on the following tasks:

(a) Preparing, in compliance with the relevant general and specific legislative directives, concise and action-oriented recommendations for consideration by the intergovernmental bodies concerned;

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(b) Concerting in an effective manner the implementation, in accordance with paragraph 16 above, by the United Nations organs, programmes and agencies concerned of policy guidelines, directives and priorities emanating from the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council;

(c) Developing the co-operative and, wherever possible, joint planning as well as the co-ordinated execution, of programme activities decided upon at the intergovernmental level.

53. Interagency co-ordination at the intersecretariat level should be pursued with full respect for the competence, where relevant, of the regional commissions as outlined in section IV. In the field, such co-ordination should be pursued in conformity with the objectives and priorities of the Government concerned and should be supportive of the local co-ordination arrangements established by that Government.

54. The machinery for interagency co-ordination at the intersecretariat level should centre on the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination under the leadership of the Secretary-General. Subject to the guidance and supervision of the Economic and Social Council, that machinery should be streamlined and reduced to a minimum; except where the discharge of permanent functions necessitates the retention of continuing machinery, maximum use should be made of flexible, ad hoc arrangements designed to meet the specific requirements of the intergovernmental bodies concerned and geared to the policy-making and programming processes of the General Assembly and the Council. In the light of these considerations, steps should be taken to merge the Environment Co-ordination Board, the Inter-Agency Consultative Board and the Advisory Committee of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization with the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, which should assume their respective functions.

55. The agenda, functioning and reporting systems of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination should be adjusted to respond fully and promptly to the priority concerns, specific requirements and programme of work of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. The reporting schedules

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of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination should be reorganized so as to conform to the meetings calendar of the intergovernmental bodies concerned. Under the authority of the Secretary-General, the executive secretaries of the regional commissions should be enabled fully and effectively to participate in the work of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on matters of concern to their respective commissions.

56. Arrangements should be made to improve communication between the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and the intergovernmental bodies concerned, including wider access to the results of the relevant Administrative Committee on Co-ordination discussions by these bodies on matters of concern to them. As necessary, mutually convenient procedures should be worked out to enable the Chairman or designated representative of any of these bodies to be associated in an appropriate manner with Administrative Committee on Co-ordination discussions of particular concern to that body.

57. The review by the Economic and Social Council of the relationship agreements between the United Nations and the specialized agencies should be guided, inter alia, by the need to ensure that the agencies give full and prompt effect in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and within the scope of their respective basic instruments to the recommendations made by the General Assembly and the Council for the co-ordination of their policies and activities.

58. The powers of the General Assembly under Article 17, paragraph 3, of the Charter should be fully exercised in the interests of system-wide co-ordination, particularly in the context of the establishment of over-all priorities and in relation to administrative and budgetary issues of broad applicability. Appropriate arrangements to assist the Assembly in that regard should be made by the Economic and Social Council, the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

VIII. SECRETARIAT SUPPORT SERVICES

59. The recommendations in the present section represent guidelines, the detailed implementation of which the Secretary-General would carry out in exercise of his powers under the Charter of the United Nations.

60. In the economic and social sectors, the United Nations Secretariat should be restructured so as effectively to meet the requirements and the policy directives of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and, in the context of the purposes stated in Article 1, paragraphs 3 and 4, as well as of the provisions of Articles 100 and 101 of the Charter, to take fully into account in particular the development requirements of the developing countries.

61. In support of the relevant intergovernmental bodies, the United Nations Secretariat should concentrate on the following functions:

(a) Interdisciplinary research and analysis, drawing as necessary upon all relevant parts of the United Nations system. On the basis of the relevant legislative authority, this function includes:

- (i) Preparing, on a regular basis, global economic and social surveys and projections to assist the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in the discharge of their responsibilities as set out in sections I and II;
- (ii) Undertaking in-depth intersectoral analyses and syntheses of development issues, in close collaboration with those elements of the United Nations system engaged in similar work and taking into account relevant work in the various sectoral components of the United Nations system, and preparing concise and action-oriented recommendations on those issues in accordance with the requirements of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, for consideration by those organs;
- (iii) Identifying and bringing to the attention of Governments emerging economic and social issues of international concern;

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This function would accordingly cover, inter alia, the provision of substantive support services for the work of the Committee for Development Planning;

(b) Cross-sectoral analysis of programmes and plans in the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system with a view to mobilizing and integrating, at the planning and programming stages, the inputs and expertise of the organizations of the United Nations system for the following tasks:

- (i) Concerting in an effective manner the implementation of policy guidelines, directives and priorities emanating from the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council;
- (ii) Developing the co-operative and, wherever possible, joint planning of programme activities decided upon at the intergovernmental level, with a view to system-wide medium-term planning at the earliest possible time;

This function would accordingly cover, inter-alia, the provision of substantive support services for the relevant work of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination;

(c) Substantive support for technical co-operation activities in economic and social sectors which are not covered by other United Nations organs, programmes or specialized agencies; this function would include, inter alia, the provision of technical expertise in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of country and intercountry programmes and of specific projects, the provision of direct advisory assistance to Governments, the development of training materials and support of training institutions;

(d) Management of technical co-operation activities carried out by the United Nations in respect of:

- (i) Projects under the regular programme of technical assistance;
- (ii) Projects of the United Nations Development Programme for which the United Nations is the executing agency;

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(iii) Projects financed by voluntary contributions from Governments and other external donors including funds in trust;

(e) Provision, on an integrated basis, of technical secretariat services for the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly, ad hoc conferences and intersecretariat co-ordination machinery; this function includes organizing and co-ordinating the provision by the Secretariat units concerned of substantive support services, particularly documentation, as required by the above-mentioned bodies, ensuring that the substantive units concerned are informed of relevant developments in the work of these bodies, including resolutions and decisions adopted by them, and ensuring that these bodies are kept informed of action being taken in response to their decisions by the Secretariat units concerned;

(f) Without prejudice to the function defined in subparagraph (a) above, and in response to directives from the relevant intergovernmental bodies, research, including the collection of relevant data, and analysis in those economic and social sectors that do not fall within the purview of other United Nations organs, programmes and specialized agencies.

62. In view of their particularly close substantive and methodological relationship, the functions defined in paragraphs 61 (a) and 61 (b) above should be clustered together in accordance with a programme of phased implementation. In the same context, the functions defined in paragraphs 61 (c) and 61 (d) above should also be clustered together in a separate organizational entity in accordance with a programme of phased implementation. The function defined in paragraph 61 (e) should be treated as a distinct function in a separate organizational entity. The Secretary-General should deploy the function in paragraph 61 (f) to the clusters of functions defined in paragraphs 61 (a) and (b) or 61 (c) and (d), respectively, on the basis of the substantive, practical and methodological relationships involved, and allowing for the possibility of deploying appropriate elements to the regional commissions.

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63. The clustering of functions indicated in paragraph 62 above should be accompanied by a thorough rationalization and streamlining of the capabilities of the organizational units concerned, including the redeployment, as necessary, of their staff resources.

64. The General Assembly should invite the Secretary-General to appoint, in full consultation with Member States, a Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, at a high level which he determines as commensurate with the functions outlined below, who, acting under the authority of the Secretary-General, would effectively assist him in carrying out his responsibilities as chief administrative officer, under the Charter of the United Nations, in the economic and social fields. Accordingly, the Director-General, under the direction of the Secretary-General, should be in charge of:

(a) Ensuring the provision of effective leadership to the various components of the United Nations system in the field of development and international economic co-operation and in exercising over-all co-ordination within the system in order to ensure a multidisciplinary approach to the problems of development on a system-wide basis;

(b) Ensuring, within the United Nations, the coherence, co-ordination and efficient management of all activities in the economic and social fields financed by the regular budget or by extrabudgetary resources. g/

In addition, the Secretary-General could entrust to the Director-General other tasks in areas of responsibility related to the ensemble of the economic and social activities of the United Nations. The Director-General should be appointed by the Secretary-General for a period of up to four years. He should be provided with the necessary support and resources.

g/ This applies equally to all services and organs within the United Nations without prejudice to their respective spheres of competence or terms of reference as contained in their relevant legislative mandates.

Resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social
Council at its sixty-third session
from 6 July to 4 August 1977

I. Resolutions and decisions which specially deal with the Regional Commissions:

244(LXIII) Invitation to the Holy See to attend session
of the regional commissions

In this decision, the Council decided to recommend the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Latin America, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Western Asia to invite the Holy See to attend sessions of these commissions on a basis similar to that provided for in the relevant terms of reference applicable to States Members of the United Nations not members of the commissions.

250(LXIII) Report on the meetings of the Executive Secretaries
of the regional commissions

In this decision, the Council took note of the annual report of the Secretary-General on the meetings of the Executive Secretariats of the regional commissions.

251(LXIII) Report on the strengthening of the regional
commissions for regional and interregional co-operation

In this decision, the Council took note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Strengthening of the regional commissions for regional and interregional co-operation", submitted to the Council pursuant to paragraph 7 of its resolution 2043(LXI) of 5 August 1976 on that subject.

2038(LXIII) Admission of the Arab Republic of Egypt to
membership of the Economic Commission for Western Asia

This resolution, in which the Council, acting on the recommendation of ECWA, decided to admit the Arab Republic of Egypt as a member of ECWA, is, of course, of great importance to ECWA, and since Egypt is also a member of the Council also requested the Executive Secretary of ECWA to take the necessary measures for the early implementation of this resolution. In this connexion, the Legal Office, at the request of the Executive Secretary of ECWA, pointed out that the ECOSOC resolution does not contain any restrictions concerning Egypt's membership and that therefore Egypt should have the same rights as the other members of ECWA.

The following is the text of the Resolutions:

"The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered resolution 37 (IV) of the Economic Commission for Western Asia ^{1/} concerning the application of the Arab Republic of Egypt for admission to membership of that Commission,

Bearing in mind paragraph 2 of the Commission's terms of reference as contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 1818 (LV) of 9 August 1973,

1. Decides to admit the Arab Republic of Egypt as a member of the Economic Commission for Western Asia,

2. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to take the necessary measures for the early implementation of this resolution."

2089(LXIII) Annual report of the Economic Commission for Western Asia

This resolution, in which the Council decided to amend paragraph 2 of the terms of reference of ECWA, to include the Palestine Liberation Organization as a member of ECWA, is, of course, also of great importance to the Commission. It may also have created a precedent in the sense that for the first time an organization has become a member of a regional commission. This resolution also does not contain any restrictions on the membership.

The following is the text of the Resolution:

"The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2026 (LXI) of 4 August 1976,

Considering that the full participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization in the Economic Commission for Western Asia would contribute to the purposes and aims of the Commission,

Taking into consideration resolution 36(IV) of the Economic Commission for Western Asia, ^{1/}

1. Decides to amend paragraph 2 of the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Western Asia as contained in Council resolution 1818(LV) of 9 August 1973 to read:

^{1/} Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 10 (E/5969), chap.III.

"2. The members of the Commission shall consist of the States Members of the United Nations situated in Western Asia, which used to call on the services of the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut, and of the Palestine Liberation Organization. Future applications for membership by Member States shall be decided on by the Council upon recommendation of the Commission."

2. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to take the necessary measures for the early implementation of this resolution."

248(LXIII) Annual report of the Economic Commission for Western Asia

In this decision, the Council took note with satisfaction of the report of the Economic Commission for Western Asia on its fourth session, of resolutions 41(IV) and 42(IV) relating to its work programme, and of the Commission's programme of work contained in Volume II of the report.

II. Resolutions and decisions on which the Regional Commissions are required to take action:

2090(LXIII) Examination of long-term trends in the economic development of world regions

This resolution is of importance to the regional commissions, since it stresses the importance of "Examination of long-term trends in the economic development of the regions of the world" as a contribution to providing an adequate basis for international economic negotiations relating to international trade, primary commodity and food problems, industrialization, monetary problems and other issues of primordial importance for economic and social development on the global scale.

In the operative paragraphs, after noting with satisfaction, the report of the Secretary-General on long-term trends in the economic development of the various regions of the world and their mutual relationship, the resolution recommended that the regional commissions should continue and further expand their studies of long-term economic trends in their respective regions and requested the Secretary-General, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and the heads of other interested bodies of the United Nations system to start, on the basis of the regional studies under way, preparations for the elaboration of an overall socio-economic perspective of the development of the world economy up to the year 2000, with special emphasis on the years up to 1990.

2098(LXIII) Programming and co-ordination in the United Nations system

This resolution concerning programming and co-ordination matters in the United Nations system should, of course, be of great importance to the regional commissions, and in particular Part I, operative paragraph 1, and Part III, operative paragraph 2. In operative paragraph 1 of Part I, the Council endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the CPC and commended them to the organs and institutions of the United Nations system concerned, and recommended that the General Assembly act upon the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee in adopting the programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979, taking into account the discussion at the sixty-third session of the Council. In operative paragraph 2 of Part III, the Council

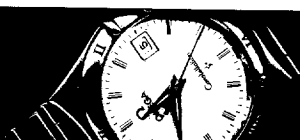
requested the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the ACC, to provide the CPC at its eighteenth session with a compendium of introductions to the most recent programme budgets of agencies and organizations within the United Nations system.

2099(LXIII) Co-operation in coastal area development

In this resolution, the Council reaffirmed that the rational use of marine resources and coastal areas was an essential component of national economic development and that the wider and more effective application of technological capabilities in developing countries was a prerequisite to this end and considered that the programme in this field proposed by the Secretary-General (E/5977) was complementary to and will be integrated, as required, with related activities carried out by other organizations of the United Nations system. It requested the Secretary-General to co-operate with the Inter-governmental Oceanographic Commission and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other competent United Nations organizations, in the development of the Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Information System taking full account of the requirement that identified information needs, not at present dealt with by other information services within the United Nations system, be met and, in particular, the need for an information referral services regarding coastal area development. The Council also invited the Secretary-General and the Executive heads of the competent organizations of the United Nations system to take or support such other measures as may be required to assist governments to developing coastal areas and to encourage more effective interaction between producers and users of marine and coastal technologies and to promote closer co-operation among developing countries in this field.

2105(LXIII) International Year of the Child

This resolution, having considered the progress reached in preparation for the International Year of the Child, 1979 and noting that the attainment of the objectives of the International Year of the Child would be further promoted by the establishment of a New International Economic Order, affirmed the need for intensified national and international action in preparation for the year, as well as supporting action at the regional level. (Please see also our letter of 8 September to the Executive Secretary on this subject).



2110(LXIII) Role and activities of the United Nations Development Programme

The Economic and Social Council, having considered the reports of the Governing Council of UNDP on its twenty-third and twenty-fourth sessions, endorsed its decision at its twenty-fourth session on the role and activities of the Programme, which, reaffirming the validity of the Consensus of 1970, invited the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to continue discussions with the executing agencies, with a view to improving the substantive co-ordination of technical co-operation on the basis of the Consensus of 1970, and by means of the progressive improvement of the country and inter-country programming process and the further improvement of co-ordination at the field level, with a view to strengthening the impact of the co-operation provided by the United Nations system in support of the developing efforts of the developing countries; and appealed to all governments to increase their voluntary contribution to the maximum, with a view to achieving and, if possible, even exceeding the overall growth rate of 14 percent on which the indicative planning figures for the second programming cycle were predicted and to consider the possibility of giving indications of contributions over a period of several years. The decision of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme also requested the Administrator to invite, for informal discussions, interested governments with a view to the equitable sharing of the responsibility for providing resources for the Programme and with a view to achieving, if possible, a multi-year financial basis for the Programme for planning purposes and to accept additional contributions for cost-sharing and third party cost-sharing within given limits and to make every effort possible to reduce the administrative costs of the Programme.

2121(LXIII) Report of the United Nations Water Conference

This resolution on the report of the United Nations Water Conference should be of great interest to the regional commissions who were involved in the Conference itself as well as in the preparations leading to the Conference. The regional commissions are referred to in operative paragraph 9(a) and moreover operative paragraph 10 is specially directed to the regional commissions. In operative paragraph 4, the Council urged Member States and all organizations of the United Nations system to take intensified and sustained action for the implementation of the decisions reached at the Conference. In operative paragraph 8, it approved the subjects suggested by

the Secretary-General in Section III of the note referred to in operative paragraph 6 of this resolution (E/6015) for discussion in regional meetings and at the special session of the Committee on Natural Resources. In operative paragraph 9, the Secretary-General is requested (a) to formulate, in accordance with the decisions reached at the United Nations Water Conference, proposals in respect of steps required (i) to enable the Council, the Committee on Natural Resources and the regional commissions to play the central role in the promotion of inter-governmental co-operation, and (ii) to intensify the co-ordination of activities of the United Nations system at the country level under the leadership of the resident representatives of the United Nations Development Programme; (b) to make the necessary arrangements for an in-depth study of the implications of Conference resolution II on community water supply, and the launching of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade recommended in paragraph 15 of the Mar del Plata Action Plan; (c) to arrange for the preparation of an in-depth study, in co-operation with the appropriate organizations of the United Nations system and in consultation with governments, of the most effective and flexible mechanism for increasing the flow of financial resources specifically for water development and management, covering the elements outlined in the note by the Secretary-General referred to in paragraph 6 of this resolution; (d) to present the result of the special studies called for in sub-paragraphs (b) and (c) above to the Committee on Natural Resources at this special session; (e) to make appropriate arrangements for organizing meetings of representatives of existing international river commissions, with a view to developing a dialogue between the different organizations on potential ways of promoting the exchange of their experience. In operative paragraph 10, the Council requested the regional commissions to strengthen and intensify their responsibilities in the water sector and, to this end, to assign specific responsibilities to an existing inter-governmental committee within the regional commissions, or, if necessary, create a new one in accordance with the recommendations of the Conference and with resolution 1(V) of the Committee on Natural Resources, and to formulate their requirement for whatever additional resources might be necessary for this purpose. In operative paragraph 11, the Council further requested the Secretary-General: (a) to make the necessary arrangements for the co-ordinated preparation and servicing of the special session of the Committee on Natural

Resources, which would deal with a wide spectrum of water-related activities and complex studies, and to urge the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system concerned with water resources development to participate effectively and substantively in the preparation process;

(b) to transmit the relevant decisions of the United Nations Water Conference to the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development for further action to ensure that water management problems and the problems of appropriate technologies be given priority attention in the preliminary national and regional analysis undertaken in the preparation process for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, as well as by that Conference itself; (c) to transmit the relevant recommendations and resolutions of the United Nations Water Conference to the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries and to competent organizations dealing with the preparatory process for that Conference, with a view to future action and specific areas being defined. (Please also see our letter of 12 September on this resolution addressed to the Executive Secretary).

2123(LXIII) Preparatory period for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development

In this resolution, the Economic and Social Council, stressing the importance and purpose of the preparatory period for the Conference at the national and regional levels and recalling General Assembly resolution 31/184 (XXXI) of 21 December 1976, on the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, paragraph 6 of which requested the Preparatory Committee, taking into account the time needed for the regional and interregional preparatory meetings, to submit its proposals to the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-third session, urged the Secretary-General and the executive heads of agencies and organizations concerned to ensure the speedy adoption and implementation of practical measures aimed at co-ordinating the preparatory activities for the Conference. It also called on the Secretary-General to submit to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions at the earliest possible time a request for the resources necessary in 1977. It recommended further that for the biennium 1978-1979 sufficient resources be allocated to the Conference secretariat, the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system concerned, in order to ensure

the appropriate preparation of the Conference. The Secretary-General was called upon to make proposals to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session for the provision of adequate personnel for the Conference secretariat with regard to the principle of equitable geographical distribution when making appointments at the level of senior officers and, in connexion with the above, to make the necessary arrangements to facilitate the secondment of officials of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and UNIDO to the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development.

Of special importance is paragraph 8 which stressed the necessity of providing the regional commissions with adequate funds to carry out satisfactorily the responsibilities assigned to them in paragraphs 5 and 6 of decision 1(I) of the Preparatory Committee, in which regard due account should be taken of the peculiar circumstances of each region. The resolution also requested the regional commissions to take fully into account, in preparing the regional papers, the decisions of sub-regional or regional meetings convened by governments in other forums for regional co-operation. With respect to the Latin American region, it specially requested that the Economic Commission for Latin America should co-ordinate all the activities pertaining to the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development with the Latin American Economic System.

2124(LXIII) Special measures in favour of the least developed among the developing countries

This resolution should be of interest to the regional commissions to whom, inter alia, operative paragraphs 4 and 6 are addressed. In operative organizations and financial institutions to increase the flow of financial and technical assistance to the least developed countries. In operative paragraph 3, it urged the developed countries and all international organizations and financial institutions to adopt special measures in favour of the least developed among the developing countries, as called in UNCTAD resolution 62(III) and 98(IV), and other relevant United Nations resolutions. In operative paragraph 4, the Council urged the specialized agencies, the regional commissions and other United Nations bodies to strengthen their programmes further in favour of the least developed countries. And, in

operative paragraph 6, the Council requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, Member States, the specialized agencies, the regional commissions and other United Nations bodies, to submit, through the Economic and Social Council, a progress report on the implementations of UNCTAD resolutions 62(III) and 98(IV), other relevant United Nations resolutions and the present resolution to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session.