

## ARTICLE 62 (4)

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## ARTICLE 62 (4)

### TEXT OF ARTICLE 62 (4)

It [the Economic and Social Council] may call, in accordance with the rules prescribed by the United Nations, international conferences on matters falling within its competence.

### INTRODUCTORY NOTE

1. The material contained in this study supplements that found in the *Repertory* and its *Supplements Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4*, and relates primarily to the calling of conferences by the Economic and Social Council itself on matters falling within its competence. The arrangement of the material also follows that of *Supplement No. 4*. New material has been found concerning the invitations and participation in connection with international conferences of States and has accordingly been included under subsection I. C.5. In several instances, although the Council did not formally call the conferences, the initiative and arrangements originated to a large extent, if not primarily, in the Council and material thereon has accordingly been included under section I. F.

### I. GENERAL SURVEY

#### A. General

2. During the period under review, the Economic and Social Council convened 14 conferences of States<sup>1</sup> on matters falling within its competence.

3. The international conferences of States convened by the Council dealt with cartography, the standardization of geographical names, the adoption of the Protocol on Psychotropic Substances, the adoption of amendments to the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, international container traffic, demography, the status of women and water resources.

#### B. Rules prescribed by the United Nations

4. By its resolution 2609 (XXIV), the General Assembly recalled the experimental basis upon which the Committee on Conferences had been established by it in 1966<sup>2</sup> and decided to defer consideration of the questions of the membership and terms of reference of the Committee. In the same resolution, the Assembly also confirmed the principle that, "as a general rule", not more than one "major special conference" should be scheduled in any one year.<sup>3</sup> The Assembly further decided that United Nations bodies might hold sessions away from their established headquarters when a Government issuing an invitation for a session

<sup>1</sup>See annex I. Of the 14 conferences listed in annex I, the first conference was called by the Council during the period covered by *Repertory, Supplement No. 4*; the following 11 conferences were called and convened by the Council during the period under review; the last 2 conferences were called by the Council during the period under review but were convened subsequent to it.

<sup>2</sup>G A resolution 2239 (XXI).

<sup>3</sup>See *Repertory, Supplement No. 3*, vol. II and *Supplement No. 4*, vol. I, under Article 62 (4), para. 5.

to be held within its territory had agreed to defray the actual additional costs directly or indirectly involved.<sup>4</sup>

5. However, the Economic and Social Council, at its sixtieth session, recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution to the effect of convening the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination,<sup>5</sup> including a provision whereby the General Assembly "decided to make exception to its resolution 2609 (XXIV) on the pattern of conferences" and "agreed that half of the additional cost involved in holding the conference in Ghana shall be defrayed from the regular budget of the United Nations".<sup>6</sup>

#### C. Invitations and participation in connection with international conferences of States

##### 1. MEMBER STATES AND NON-MEMBER STATES

6. The Economic and Social Council invited or requested the Secretary-General to invite States Members of the United Nations to participate in all the international conferences it called during the period under review.

7. In the cases of the United Nations Conference for the Adoption of the Protocol on Psychotropic Substances and the United Nations Conference to Consider Amendments to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, the Council invited States parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice.<sup>7</sup> In the latter case, the Council also invited States parties to the Convention.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>4</sup>G A resolution 2609 (XXIV), para. 10.

<sup>5</sup>See para. 34 below.

<sup>6</sup>E S C resolution 1990 (LX), para. 6.

<sup>7</sup>E S C resolutions 1474 (XLVIII).

<sup>8</sup>E S C resolution 1577 (L).

8. In the cases of the Third World Population Conference<sup>9</sup> and the Eighth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Far East,<sup>10</sup> the Council authorized the Secretary-General of the conference, subject to the views expressed in the Council on the question, to invite to the Conference the Government of one State not a member of the United Nations, the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, to take full part in the conference.

9. In the case of the United Nations Water Conference, the Economic and Social Council adopted the "all States" clause<sup>11</sup> and requested the Secretary-General to invite, accordingly, all States to participate in the conferences.<sup>12</sup> In the case of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, the General Assembly decided to invite "all States" to participate in the conference.<sup>13</sup>

## 2. DEPENDENT TERRITORIES

10. In the case of the Third World Population Conference, the Economic and Social Council invited the Government of Papua New Guinea to participate in the Conference as an observer.<sup>14</sup> In the case of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, the Council authorized the Secretary-General to invite the Governments of Papua New Guinea, the Netherlands Antilles and Suriname to participate in the conference as observers.<sup>15</sup>

## 3. SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

11. As in the past, the Economic and Social Council invited or requested the Secretary-General to invite interested specialized agencies to most international conferences called during the period under review<sup>16</sup> and frequently invited non-governmental organizations. In some instances members of the International Atomic Energy Agency<sup>17</sup> were also invited to participate in the conferences. The Council indicated the scope of participation of specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations. The Council also invited or requested the Secretary-General to invite IAEA<sup>18</sup> and interested non-governmental organizations<sup>19</sup> to several international conferences called during the period under review.

12. In the cases of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries for the Adoption of the Protocol on Psychotropic Substances<sup>20</sup> and the Conference of Plenipotentiaries for the Adoption of Amendments to the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs,<sup>21</sup> the Council requested the Secretary-General to invite the World Health Organization and other specialized agencies interested in the matter "with the same rights they have at sessions of the Economic and Social Council".

<sup>9</sup>E S C resolution 1835 (LVI), para. 4 (a).

<sup>10</sup>E S C resolution 1838 (LVI).

<sup>11</sup>For the interpretation of the phrase "all States", see E/5513, para. 11. See also G A (29) Suppl. No. 3.

<sup>12</sup>E S C resolution 1982 (LX).

<sup>13</sup>G A resolution 3276 (XXVII), para. 1.

<sup>14</sup>E S C resolution 1835 (LVI), para. 4 (b).

<sup>15</sup>E S C decision 73 (LVIII), E S C (58), Suppl. No. 1, p.20.

<sup>16</sup>See annex I, items 5-8, 10-11, 13.

<sup>17</sup>Ibid., items 2-3, 5.

<sup>18</sup>Ibid., items 2, 5, 7, 11.

<sup>19</sup>Ibid., items 5, 7-8, 11.

<sup>20</sup>E S C resolution 1474 (XLVIII).

<sup>21</sup>E S C resolution 1577 (L).

13. In the case of the United Nations/IMCO Conference on International Container Traffic, the Economic and Social Council decided that specialized agencies and IAEA should be invited in an advisory capacity and that interested non-governmental organizations having consultative status with the Council or special working arrangements with IMCO should be invited as observers.<sup>22</sup>

## 4. INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

14. The Economic and Social Council invited regional intergovernmental organizations to several international conferences called during the period under review.<sup>23</sup> In one instance, the Council also invited regional development banks.<sup>24</sup> The Council indicated the scope of participation of the intergovernmental organizations.

15. In the cases of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries for the Adoption of the Protocol on Psychotropic Substances and the Conference of Plenipotentiaries for the Adoption of Amendments to the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, the Council requested the Secretary-General to invite the International Narcotics Control Board, "with the same rights it has at sessions of the Economic and Social Council", and the International Criminal Police Organization—Interpol, "with the same rights it has at sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs".<sup>25</sup>

16. In the cases of the United Nations/IMCO Conference on International Container Traffic, the Third World Population Conference and the United Nations Water Conference, the Economic and Social Council decided that interested intergovernmental organizations should be invited as observers.<sup>26</sup> In the case of the Third World Population Conference, the Council further decided to invite regional development banks as observers.<sup>27</sup>

## 5. NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS

17. In three instances, representatives of national liberation movements were also invited to attend conferences called by the Economic and Social Council.<sup>28</sup> In the case of the Third World Population Conference, the Council requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to invite representatives of the national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity and/or by the League of Arab States to participate in the Conference without the right to vote.<sup>29</sup> In the case of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, the General Assembly decided to invite representatives of the same national liberation movements to participate in the Conference as observers, "in accordance with the practice of the United Nations".<sup>30</sup> In the case of the United Nations Water Conference, the Council requested the Secretary-General to invite representatives of national liberation movements recognized in its area by the Organization of African Unity, in the capacity of observers.<sup>31</sup>

<sup>22</sup>E S C resolution 1569 (L).

<sup>23</sup>See Annex I, items 5, 7-8, 11.

<sup>24</sup>Ibid., item 7; E S C resolution 1835 (LVI).

<sup>25</sup>E S C resolutions 1474 (XLVIII) and 1577 (L), respectively.

<sup>26</sup>E S C resolutions 1569 (L), 1835 (LVI) and 1982 (LX), respectively.

<sup>27</sup>E S C resolution 1835 (LVI), para. 4 (c).

<sup>28</sup>See annex I, items 7-8, 11.

<sup>29</sup>E S C resolution 1835 (LVI), para. 3.

<sup>30</sup>G A resolution 3276 (XXVII), para. 2.

<sup>31</sup>E S C resolutions 1982 (LX).

18. During the period under review, one national liberation movement received an invitation to participate in an international conference as a result of a standing invitation by the General Assembly. Specifically, in the case of the United Nations Water Conference, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to invite representatives of organizations which had received a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate in the sessions and work of all international conferences convened under the auspices of the General Assembly, in the capacity of observers,<sup>32</sup> in accordance with Assembly resolution 3237 (XXIX) of 22 November 1974 concerning observer status for the Palestine Liberation Organization.

**\*\*D. Invitations and participation in connection with non-governmental conferences**

**E. Preparatory and other arrangements**

19. The Economic and Social Council continued its practice with regard to preparatory arrangements for international conferences in a manner described in the *Repertory*.<sup>33</sup> As a rule, the Secretary-General was requested to make the necessary arrangements. In addition, the Council also made recommendations for improved coordination of the results and for the promotion of the role of women in the organization of world conferences in the field of social development called by various bodies of the United Nations.

20. In the case of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries for the Adoption of the Protocol on Psychotropic Substances, the Council requested the Secretary-General to prepare provisional rules of procedure for the Conference and provide summary records for the Conference and its committees.<sup>34</sup>

21. In the case of the United Nations Conference to Consider Amendments to the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to prepare provisional rules of procedure for the Conference and provide summary records for the conference and its committees.<sup>35</sup> The Council also requested the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to study proposals for amendments to the Single Convention with a view to submitting comments as appropriate to the Conference.<sup>36</sup>

22. In the case of the United Nations/IMCO Conference on International Container Traffic, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to undertake the necessary preparations in collaboration with the IMCO and in cooperation with other appropriate intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.<sup>37</sup> The Council further requested the Secretary-General to ascertain the views of Governments of Member States as to their priorities for the Conference from among the topics and areas of action proposed by the Council. In addition, it requested the Secretary-General to convene a small intergovernmental preparatory group, consisting of members designated by the President of the Council and the Chairman of the

Council of IMCO, to review the responses of Governments and propose a specific provisional agenda to the Council.<sup>38</sup> The Council also requested that the Secretary-General, in cooperation and in consultation with specialized agencies, subsidiary bodies and IMCO, prepare a study with the assistance of experts on the economic implications of the proposed draft Convention on the International Combined Transport of Goods (draft TCM convention), prepared jointly by IMCO and the Economic Commission for Europe, to be considered at the Conference.<sup>39</sup> At its fifty-third session, the Council adopted the provisional agenda of the United Nations/IMCO Conference on International Container Traffic.<sup>40</sup> The Council decided not to include the draft TCM convention in the provisional agenda, but recommended to the Conference a series of criteria to be met in the consideration of a possible convention on international combined transport of goods.<sup>41</sup> At its fifty-fourth session, the Council endorsed the recommendations of the Conference and requested the Trade and Development Board of UNCTAD to authorize the intergovernmental preparatory group to make available to it its conclusions on the elaboration of a preliminary draft convention on international intermodal transport, with a view to convening a conference of plenipotentiaries on the subject.<sup>42</sup>

23. In the case of the international conference convened during the International Women's Year,<sup>43</sup> the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to draw up the agenda for the conference and to provide all necessary substantive support for the conference from within available resources.<sup>44</sup> At its twenty-ninth session, the General Assembly decided to establish a Consultative Committee for the Conference of the International Women's Year, composed of not more than 23 Member States designated by the Chairman of the Third Committee, to advise the Secretary-General on the preparation of an international plan of action to be finalized at the Conference. All costs related to the convening of the Consultative Committee were to be met from the fund established by the Council for the International Women's Year.<sup>45</sup> The General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Economic and Social Council a progress report on the preparations of the Conference. At its organizational session for 1975, the Council endorsed the Secretary-General's progress report and requested him to submit a list of non-governmental organizations which might be invited to the proposed conference.<sup>46</sup> The Council further decided that the conference should be entitled "World Conference of the International Women's Year."<sup>47</sup>

24. In the case of the Third World Population Conference, the Economic and Social Council requested<sup>48</sup> that the Secretary-General, in connection with his plans for financing the Conference, should, inter alia, continue his efforts to obtain the maximum financial support from external

<sup>32</sup>Ibid.

<sup>33</sup>See *Repertory*, vol. III, under Article 62 (4), paras. 23-25.

<sup>34</sup>E S C resolution 1474 (XLVIII).

<sup>35</sup>E S C resolution 1577 (L).

<sup>36</sup>Ibid., para. 3.

<sup>37</sup>E S C (48), Suppl. No. 1A, p. 17, agenda item 10(c).

<sup>38</sup>E S C resolution 1568 (L), paras. 4-5.

<sup>39</sup>Ibid., para. 6-7. See also *Repertory, Supplement No. 5*, under Article 62 (3).

<sup>40</sup>E S C resolution 1725 (LIII), para. 2.

<sup>41</sup>Ibid., paras. 1 and 6.

<sup>42</sup>E S C resolution 1734 (LIV).

<sup>43</sup>E S C resolution 1851 (LVI). See also G A resolution 3010 (XXVII).

<sup>44</sup>E S C resolution 1851 (LVI).

<sup>45</sup>G A resolution 3277 (XXIX).

<sup>46</sup>E S C decision 67 (ORG-75).

<sup>47</sup>Ibid.

<sup>48</sup>E S C resolution 1484 (XLVIII).

sources. The Council also authorized<sup>49</sup> the Secretary-General, in association with the executive heads of interested specialized agencies and relevant non-governmental organizations, to establish a small preparatory committee to assist in formulating an agenda based on the suggestions of the Population Commission. At its fifty-sixth session, the Council endorsed the preparatory arrangements for the Conference and approved as the provisional rules of procedure for the conference the text of the revised preliminary draft of the rules of procedure, incorporating amendments proposed by the Secretariat and the annex recommended by the Population Commission.<sup>50</sup>

25. At its fiftieth session, pursuant to the Secretary-General's proposal to convene an international water conference in 1975,<sup>51</sup> the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to prepare, after ascertaining the views of Governments of Member States, specialized agencies, regional bodies and interested organizations within the United Nations system, a consolidated document on the desirability of and possible topics for the proposed conference, such a document to be submitted to the Committee on Natural Resources.<sup>52</sup> At its fifty-second session, the Council requested the Secretary-General to convene an intergovernmental panel of specialists to prepare, in collaboration with the specialized agencies concerned, a precise draft agenda and organizational proposals for the United Nations water conference.<sup>53</sup> At its fifty-fourth session, by resolution 1761 C (LIV), the Council approved the holding of a United Nations water conference in 1977 based on the provisional agenda suggested by the Intergovernmental Panel of Specialists. In addition, the Council requested the Secretary-General to consult with Member States on ways and means they deemed appropriate to conduct the preparations for the conference, including intergovernmental participation in such preparations, and to report thereon to the Council.<sup>54</sup> The Council further requested the Secretary-General to take the necessary preparatory steps for the conference, taking into account the views of Member States as well as any further guidance the Council might wish to give in the matter, to explore the possibility of convening regional conferences or seminars under the auspices of the regional economic commissions, and to coordinate the various inputs of the United Nations system with a view to avoiding overlapping and duplication.<sup>55</sup> At its fifty-ninth session, the Council appealed to the International Law Commission to give priority to the study of the law of the non-navigational uses of international watercourses and to submit a progress report to the United Nations water conference.<sup>56</sup> At the same session, the Council decided to convene the United Nations Water Conference and authorized the Committee on Natural Resources to act as the preparatory committee to assist the Secretary-General in the preparation and organization of the Conference.<sup>57</sup> The Council further approved the revised provisional agenda for the Conference, on the understanding that it should be finalized by the Committee on

Natural Resources, acting as the preparatory committee for the Conference.<sup>58</sup> The Council also requested the Secretary-General to ensure, throughout the preparatory process, full coordination with the preparatory work for the United Nations Conference on Desertification.<sup>59</sup> At its thirtieth session, the General Assembly welcomed the decision of the Council to convene the United Nations Water Conference, endorsed the arrangements for its preparations and urged the United Nations Environment Programme to provide financial support for such preparatory work.<sup>60</sup> At its sixtieth session, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, to appoint a secretary-general of the Conference to be assisted by a conference secretariat.<sup>61</sup>

26. In the cases of the Seventh and Eighth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conferences for Asia and the Far East, the Ninth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific and the First and Second United Nations Regional Cartographic Conferences for the Americas, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements to convene the conferences.<sup>62</sup>

27. At its sixty-second session, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of the Committee for Development Planning and of the intergovernmental bodies responsible for the formulation of a new international development strategy the declarations, recommendations and resolutions on the establishment of world conferences such as the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, the World Population Conference, the World Food Conference and the United Nations Water Conference.<sup>63</sup> To coordinate the results of the world conferences in the field of social development in the 1970s, the Council further requested the Secretary-General to continue to analyse systematically the declarations, recommendations, resolutions and plans of action of such conferences by identifying and consolidating their common elements, seen in the context of social development and relevant to the formulation of a new international development strategy.<sup>64</sup>

28. In the case of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, the Economic and Social Council recommended that Member States provide equitable representation for women and men in their delegations to the conference as well as in the preparation and follow-up to the Conference.<sup>65</sup>

29. At its first regular session in 1978, the Economic and Social Council called upon Governments to ensure that women were involved in the planning stages of international conferences and included in the governmental delegations attending the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, the International Conference on Primary Health Care, the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Devel-

<sup>49</sup>*Ibid.*, para. 4.

<sup>50</sup>E S C resolution 1835 (LVI).

<sup>51</sup>See E/C.7/2, para. 9.

<sup>52</sup>E S C resolution 1572 D (L).

<sup>53</sup>E S C resolution 1673 E (LII).

<sup>54</sup>E S C resolution 1761 C (LIV), para. 3.

<sup>55</sup>*Ibid.*, para. 5.

<sup>56</sup>E S C resolution 1955 (LIX).

<sup>57</sup>E S C resolution 1979 (LIX).

<sup>58</sup>*Ibid.*, para. 2. The United Nations Conference on Desertification was convened by the General Assembly pursuant to G A resolutions 3337 (XXIX) and 3511 (XXX).

<sup>59</sup>E S C resolution 1979 (LIX), para. 5.

<sup>60</sup>G A resolution 3513 (XXX).

<sup>61</sup>E S C resolution 1982 (LX).

<sup>62</sup>E S C resolutions 1570 (L), 1838 (LVI), 1839 (LVI), 2048 (LXII) and 2049 (LXII), respectively.

<sup>63</sup>E S C resolution 2072 (LXII), para. 1.

<sup>64</sup>*Ibid.*, para. 2.

<sup>65</sup>E S C resolution 1851 (LVI), para. 4.

opment and the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development.<sup>66</sup> The Council further called for the topic of women and development to be included in the substantive discussions of such conferences and, where appropriate, considered as a separate agenda item.<sup>67</sup>

## F. International conferences initiated and prepared by the Economic and Social Council other than those called by the Council

### 1. PREPARATORY AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS

30. In several instances, although the conferences were not formally called by the Economic and Social Council, the initiative and arrangements originated largely in the Council. During the period under review, the Council recommended that the General Assembly consider the desirability of convening six international conferences on: the human environment; food security and assistance; racism and racial discrimination; technical cooperation among developing countries; science and technology for development; and new and renewable sources of energy.<sup>68</sup>

31. At its twenty-fourth session, in pursuance of its decision in resolution 2398 (XXIII) of 3 December 1968 to convene in 1972 a United Nations Conference on the Human Environment,<sup>69</sup> the General Assembly entrusted the Secretary-General with overall responsibility for organizing and preparing for the conference, "bearing in mind the views expressed during the debates of the Economic and Social Council".<sup>70</sup> The Assembly also requested him to submit to it a brief progress report, through the Council.<sup>71</sup> At its forty-ninth session, the Council recommended that the Conference should be presented with a draft declaration on the human environment prepared by the Preparatory Committee for the Conference, recommended the closest possible cooperation between the Preparatory Committee and the specialized agencies in drawing up the agenda for the Conference and recommended further that the Secretary-General investigate the possibility of providing assistance to developing countries for the preparation of national reports and case studies for consideration by the Conference.<sup>72</sup>

32. At its resumed fifty-fifth session, the Economic and Social Council decided to recommend to the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session the convening of a world food conference under the auspices of the United Nations and invited the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly, through the Council, a report on the question.<sup>73</sup> By its resolution 1831 (LV) of 11 December 1973, the Council submitted to the General Assembly a draft resolution regarding the convening of a world food conference<sup>74</sup> and decided, subject to the adoption by the General Assembly of the draft resolution, to establish an intergovernmental preparatory committee for the conference.<sup>75</sup> By its resolution 3180 (XXVIII) of 17 December 1973, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendations and prepa-

ratory arrangements of the Council and decided to convene the World Food Conference in 1974, recommended that the Conference should be an intergovernmental conference at the ministerial level, and entrusted the Council with overall responsibility for the Conference.<sup>76</sup> At its fifty-sixth session, the Council consequently decided to convene the World Food Conference from 5 to 16 November 1974 and requested the Secretary-General to follow its detailed recommendations with respect to the Conference.<sup>77</sup> At its fifty-seventh session, the Council approved the draft provisional rules of procedure, the draft provisional agenda and the proposed organization of work of the conference, as submitted by the Preparatory Committee, and decided to transmit them for adoption by the Conference.<sup>78</sup> The Council further decided to convene a meeting of interested delegations to consider certain specific proposals for possible consideration by the Conference and to report thereon to the Preparatory Committee.<sup>79</sup>

33. At its fiftieth session, the Economic and Social Council took note of the considerations put forward by the Secretary-General on the possibility of convening a second United Nations conference on science and technology and requested the Committee on Science and Technology for Development to examine the advisability of convening such a conference.<sup>80</sup> By its resolution 3168 (XXVIII) of 17 December 1973, the General Assembly took note of the Council's consideration of the question. At its fifty-seventh session, the Council decided to convene an intergovernmental working group of the Committee on Science and Technology for Development to examine the specific objectives, topics and agenda of such a conference.<sup>81</sup> At its sixty-first session, the Council recommended to the General Assembly that it decide to convene the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development and recommended the main objectives and framework of the Conference.<sup>82</sup> The Council further requested the Committee on Science and Technology for Development to act as the preparatory committee for the Conference, open to the participation of all States, and that a secretary-general be appointed to head a secretariat of the conference.<sup>83</sup> At the same session, the Council requested the Secretary-General to prepare a programme of work for the various stages of the preparatory period of the Conference and further requested the preparatory committee for the Conference to prepare the final provisional agenda.<sup>84</sup> By its resolution 31/184 of 21 December 1976, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendations and preparatory arrangements of the Council and decided to convene the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development during 1979 within the framework recommended by the Council.<sup>85</sup>

34. At its fifty-eighth session, following the adoption by the General Assembly of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination,<sup>86</sup> including the convening of a world conference on combat-

<sup>66</sup>E S C resolution 1978/34.

<sup>67</sup>Ibid.

<sup>68</sup>See annex III.

<sup>69</sup>See *Repertory, Supplement No. 4*, vol. 1, Article 62 (4), para. 4.

<sup>70</sup>G A resolution 2581 (XXIV), para. 3.

<sup>71</sup>Ibid., para. 15.

<sup>72</sup>E S C resolution 1536 (XLIX).

<sup>73</sup>See E S C (55), Suppl. No. 1A, p. 3.

<sup>74</sup>See E S C resolution 1831 (LV), paras. 2-7.

<sup>75</sup>Ibid., para. 1.

<sup>76</sup>G A resolution 3180 (XXVIII).

<sup>77</sup>E S C resolution 1840 (LVI).

<sup>78</sup>E S C decision 23 (LVII), E S C (LVII), Suppl. No. 1, p. 4.

<sup>79</sup>Ibid.

<sup>80</sup>E S C resolution 1826 (LV).

<sup>81</sup>E S C resolution 1897 (LVII).

<sup>82</sup>E S C resolution 2028 (LXI).

<sup>83</sup>Ibid., para. 4.

<sup>84</sup>E S C resolutions 2035 (LXI) and 1978/4.

<sup>85</sup>G A resolutions 31/184, 32/115, 32/430, 32/431 and 33/192.

<sup>86</sup>G A resolution 3057 (XXVIII), annex, para. 13.

ing racial discrimination, the Economic and Social Council recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution requesting the Secretary-General to enter into consultations with the potential host Government for the conference.<sup>87</sup> The General Assembly adopted the draft resolution at its thirtieth session.<sup>88</sup> At its sixtieth session, the Council authorized the appointment of a committee composed of members of the Council for the purpose of completing, in consultation with the Secretary-General, the preparations for the conference.<sup>89</sup> The Council further recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution to the effect of convening the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.<sup>90</sup> At its sixty-second session, the Council approved the draft provisional agenda and the draft provisional rules of procedures for the conference and requested the Secretary-General to appoint a secretary-general of the conference at the level of Assistant Secretary-General.<sup>91</sup> Following the withdrawal by the initial host country of its offer to host the conference, the Council further recommended to the General Assembly a new draft resolution to the effect of convening the conference.<sup>92</sup> At its thirty-second session, the General Assembly endorsed the draft resolution of the Council and decided to convene the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination at Geneva from 14 to 25 August 1978.<sup>93</sup>

35. At its sixty-first session, on the basis of various decisions taken by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, the Economic and Social Council decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it convene the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and designate the sessional Committee on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries of the Governing Council of UNDP as the preparatory committee for the Conference, open to the participation of all members.<sup>94</sup> By its resolution 31/179 of 21 December 1976, the General Assembly, bearing in mind the decision of the Economic and Social Council, decided to convene the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries at Buenos Aires from 27 March to 7 April 1978.<sup>95</sup>

36. At its sixty-third session, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the specialized agencies, the regional commissions and other United Nations bodies concerned, to submit a report to it on the feasibility of holding an international conference on new and renewable sources of energy.<sup>96</sup> At its second regular session in 1978, the Council recommended to the General Assembly that it give favourable consideration to, and take definitive action on, convening at the earliest possible time a United Nations conference on new and renewable sources of energy and, in that context, that it define the objectives, scope, nature and timing of such a conference, as well as the preparatory arrangements, in-

cluding intergovernmental machinery.<sup>97</sup> By its resolution 33/148 of 20 December 1978, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendations of the Council and decided to convene the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy in 1981.<sup>98</sup>

## 2. INVITATIONS AND PARTICIPATION

37. The Economic and Social Council also took decisions with respect to invitations and participation in connection with international conferences initiated and prepared but not called by the Council.

38. In the case of the World Food Conference and the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, the Council recommended to the General Assembly to invite participation in these conferences on the basis of the "all States" clause.<sup>99</sup>

39. In the cases of the World Food Conference, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to invite non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council or with the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations to participate in the conference as observers.<sup>100</sup> In the case of the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, the Council recommended to the General Assembly to invite non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council on the basis of recommendations to be made by the Council.<sup>101</sup>

40. In the case of the World Food Conference, the Council requested the Secretary-General to invite the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs and decided to invite interested intergovernmental organizations to participate in the conference as observers.<sup>102</sup>

41. In the case of the World Food Conference, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to invite representatives of the national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity and/or the League of Arab States to participate in the Conference without the right to vote.<sup>103</sup> In the case of the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, the Council recommended that the General Assembly invite representatives of national liberation movements recognized in its area by the Organization of African Unity to participate in the Conference in the capacity of observers.<sup>104</sup>

42. Also in the case of the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, the Economic and Social Council recommended to the General Assembly to invite representatives of organizations which had received a standing invitation from the Assembly to participate in the sessions and the work of all international conferences convened under its auspices in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 3237 (XXIX) of 22 November 1974 and 31/152 of 20 December 1976.<sup>105</sup>

<sup>87</sup>E S C resolution 1938 B (LVIII).

<sup>88</sup>G A resolution 3378 (XXX).

<sup>89</sup>E S C resolution 1990 (LX), para. 4. See also E S C decision 206 (ORG-77) and E S C resolution 2046 (S-III).

<sup>90</sup>E S C resolution 1990 (LX), para. 6.

<sup>91</sup>E S C resolution 2057 (LXII).

<sup>92</sup>Ibid., para. 10.

<sup>93</sup>G A resolution 32/129. See also E S C resolution 1978/3.

<sup>94</sup>E S C resolution 2023 (LXI).

<sup>95</sup>G A resolution 31/179.

<sup>96</sup>E S C resolution 2119 (LXIII).

<sup>97</sup>E S C resolution 1978/61.

<sup>98</sup>G A resolution 33/148.

<sup>99</sup>E S C resolutions 1840 (LVI) and 2057 (LXII), respectively.

<sup>100</sup>E S C resolution 1840 (LVI).

<sup>101</sup>E S C resolution 2057 (LXII).

<sup>102</sup>E S C resolution 1840 (LV).

<sup>103</sup>E S C resolution 1840 (LVI), para. 2 (b).

<sup>104</sup>E S C resolutions 2057 (LXII) and 3280 (XXIX).

<sup>105</sup>E S C resolution 2057 (LXII).

43. In the case of the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, the Economic and Social Council further recommended to the General Assembly that it invite the United Nations Council for Namibia, the Special Committee on Apartheid, the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial

Countries and Peoples, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Commission on Human Rights and other interested committees of the United Nations.<sup>106</sup>

<sup>106</sup>Ibid.

## **\*\* II. ANALYTICAL SUMMARY OF PRACTICE**

### **ANNEX I**

#### **List of international conferences of States**

1. Sixth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Far East, Tehran, 24 October-7 November 1970.  
Economic and Social Council resolution 1313 (XLIV).
2. United Nations Conference for the Adoption of the Protocol on Psychotropic Substances, Vienna, 11 January - 21 February 1971.  
Economic and Social Council resolution 1474 (XLVIII); Council decision taken at its forty-ninth session, 1722nd meeting, 31 July 1970.
3. United Nations Conference to Consider Amendments to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, Geneva, 6-24 March 1972.  
Economic and Social Council resolution 1577 (L).
4. Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, London, 10-31 May 1972.  
Economic and Social Council decision taken at its forty-eighth session, 1676<sup>th</sup> meeting, 13 May 1970.
5. United Nations/Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization Conference on International Container Traffic, Geneva, 13 November - 2 December 1972.  
Economic and Social Council resolutions 1568 (L) and 1569 (L); Council decision taken at its forty-eighth session, 1688<sup>th</sup> meeting, 22 May 1970.
6. Seventh United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Far East, Tokyo, 15-27 October 1973.  
Economic and Social Council resolution 1570 (L).
7. Third World Population Conference, Bucharest, 19-30 August 1974.  
Economic and Social Council resolutions 1484 (XLVII) and 1835 (LVI).
8. World Conference of the International Women's Year, Mexico City, 19 June - 2 July 1975.  
Economic and Social Council resolution 1851 (LVI); General Assembly resolutions 3276 (XXIX) and 3277 (XXIX).
9. United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas, Panama City, 8-19 March 1976.  
Economic and Social Council resolution 1839 (LVI).
10. Eighth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Far East, Bangkok, 17-28 January 1977.  
Economic and Social Council resolution 1838 (LVI).
11. United Nations Water Conference, Mar del Plata, Argentina, 14-25 March 1977.  
Economic and Social Council resolutions 1572 D (L), 1673 E (LII), 1761 C (LIV), 1979 (LIX) 1982 (LX) and 1983 (LX); General Assembly resolution 3513 (XXX).

12. Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, Athens, 1-22 June 1977.

Economic and Social Council decision taken at its fifty-fourth session, 1854<sup>th</sup> meeting, 4 May 1973.

13. Second United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas, Mexico City, 3-14 September 1979.

Economic and Social Council resolution 2048 (LXII).

14. Ninth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific, Wellington, 11-12 February 1980.

Economic and Social Council resolution 2049 (LXII).

### **\*\* ANNEX II**

#### **\*\* List of non-governmental conferences**

### **ANNEX III**

#### **List of international conferences initiated and prepared by the Economic and Social Council other than those called by the Council**

1. United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm, 5-16 June 1972.  
Economic and Social Council resolutions 1346 (XLV), 1447 (XLVIII) and 1536 (XLIX); General Assembly resolutions 2398 (XXIII) and 2581 (XXIV).
2. World Food Conference, Rome, 5-16 November 1974.  
Economic and Social Council resolutions 1831 (LV) and 1840 (LVI); Council decisions 23 (LVII) and 24 (LVII); General Assembly resolution 3180 (XXVIII).
3. United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 27 March - 7 April 1978.  
Economic and Social Council resolution 2023 (LXI); General Assembly resolutions 31/179, 3251 (XXIX) and 3461 (XXX).
4. World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, Geneva, 14-25 August 1978.  
Economic and Social Council resolutions 1938 B (LVIII), 1990 (LX), 2046 (S-III), 2057 (LXII) and 1978/3; Council decision 206 (ORG-77); General Assembly resolutions 3378 (XXX) and 32/129.
5. United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, Vienna, 20-31 August 1979.  
Economic and Social Council resolutions 1826 (LV), 1897 (LVII), 2028 (LXI), 2035 (LXI) and 1978/4; General Assembly resolutions 3168 (XXVIII), 31/184, 32/115 and 33/192.
6. United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, Nairobi 10-21 August 1981.  
Economic and Social Council resolutions 2119 (LXIII) and 1978/61; General Assembly resolution 33/147.