

# REPERTORY OF PRACTICE OF UNITED NATIONS ORGANS

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### Volume IV

## ARTICLE 64

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### TEXT OF ARTICLE 64

1. The Economic and Social Council may take appropriate steps to obtain regular reports from the specialized agencies. It may make arrangements with the Members of the United Nations and with the specialized agencies to obtain reports on the steps taken to give effect to its own recommendations and to recommendations on matters falling within its competence made by the General Assembly.
2. It may communicate its observations on these reports to the General Assembly.

### INTRODUCTORY NOTE

1. During the period under review, questions relating to the authority of the Economic and Social Council to request and obtain reports were raised and considered on numerous occasions. As in the past, this study divides its discussion into separate sections focusing on the specialized agencies and the Member States, respectively. The structure of this study is similar to that of the study of Article 64 in the *Repertory*. The General Survey provides an over-all view of the trends and features of practice of the Council and subsidiary bodies during the period under review. The Analytical Summary of Practice provides a more detailed examination of specific questions bearing directly on the application of Article 64. The sections on cross-sectional programme analyses and the overview of plans and objectives of organizations have been deleted since no discussion on these matters came before the Council during the period under review.
2. As in the past, the study dealing with Article 64 makes no more than a brief mention of reports on matters in the field of human rights. These matters are dealt with more extensively under Article 62(2). Special reports and reports requested of the Secretary-General in cooperation with the specialized agencies continue to be dealt with primarily under Article 13(1)(b) and Article 62(1).

### I. GENERAL SURVEY

3. During the period under review, the Economic and Social Council undertook a comprehensive reform of its policies and programmes aimed at creating greater efficiency and enhancing and streamlining its work. By the adoption of its resolution 1988/77, the Council laid out an extensive set of measures relating to its policy formulation, monitoring, and co-ordination functions. The Council, in its annual report to the General Assembly for 1988, notes the passage of resolution 1988/77 as a

...major first step towards revitalizing the Economic and Social Council, restoring its capacity for action and creating the necessary conditions for it to truly function as envisaged by the Charter of the United Nations and by the countries of the world.<sup>1</sup>

### A. Reports from specialized agencies

4. The provisions of Council resolution 1988/77 deal primarily with issues relating to the Council's relationship with the organizations of the United Nations system, including the specialized agencies. The adoption of this resolution directly addressed criticisms that the Council received during the period under review concerning its fulfillment of responsibilities in relation to the specialized agencies. The Secretary-General submitted a report to the Council in 1987 in which he gave a detailed analysis of problems of co-ordination in the United Nations and the United Nations system.<sup>2</sup> The Secretary-General reiterated the role of the Council under Article 64 in obtaining reports from the specialized agencies.<sup>3</sup> The report reflected the view, however, that the Council had

...so far failed to bring closer together the economic and social activities of the system. While the Economic and Social Council is perhaps the only intergovernmental body that receives, on a regular basis, reports of all subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly and of the Council itself in the economic and social sectors, these reports have been considered by the Council very much in isolation of each other. Such an approach seldom allows the Council to consider the interrelationships between the social and economic issues or to address these problems in an integrated manner.<sup>4</sup>

The Secretary-General also commented that the Council faced some "practical problems" in reviewing and monitoring the activities of the organizations of the system, and suggested that increased inputs from and dialogue with the agencies might help resolve these issues.<sup>5</sup>

5. The Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC), in its annual report to the Council for 1987, also offered its criticisms of the Council on the discharge of its duties to the agencies. The Committee emphasized

...the need to strengthen the co-ordinating role of the Council in the United Nations system in accordance with Article 64 of the Charter, in particular through obtaining regular reports from the specialized agencies, including reports on the steps taken to give effect to its own recommendations.<sup>6</sup>

6. In response to these comments, Council resolution 1988/77, adopted at the end of the period under review, called for the specialized agencies to resume submission of

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1 A/43/3, Foreword.

2 E/1987/68

3 *Ibid.* para. 25.

4 *Ibid.* para. 31.

5 *Ibid.* paras. 27-30. Such practical problems included the lack of time for the Council to review reports and need for more in-depth review and preparation.

6 A/42/16, Chapter III, part A, para. 256.

analytical summaries of their annual reports,<sup>7</sup> and called for reporting from the agencies on steps taken to implement recommendations of the Council and the General Assembly.<sup>8</sup> Furthermore, the Council decided to discontinue the use of cross-organizational programme analyses in favor of brief analyses in the medium-term plans of organizations.<sup>9</sup> Throughout the course of the period under review, however, the Council continued to receive reports on cross-organizational programme analyses on a wide variety of programme areas, and on cross-organizational reviews<sup>10</sup> of selected major issues in the medium-term plans of organizations in the system.<sup>11</sup>

7. During the period under review, the Council continued to receive reports from inter-agency task forces on work carried out in specific programme sectors during the period under review.<sup>12</sup> The ACC, in its annual reports to the Council, included discussion on the work of inter-agency task forces<sup>13</sup> on a wide range of issues, such as rural development.<sup>14</sup> The Council also continued to seek a sectoral view of agency activity through evaluation studies, and triennial evaluation reviews.<sup>15</sup> The triennial comprehensive policy review also provided the Council with an overview of operational activities in the area of development,<sup>16</sup> while the Register of Development Activities created a database of information on activities in this field.<sup>17</sup>
8. In addition to the above-mentioned systems of reporting, the Council continued, on occasion, to receive reports from individual agencies on specific topics. For example, in 1987, the Council received a note from the Secretary-General transmitting a report from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on the fight against locust and grasshopper infestation in Africa.<sup>18</sup> This example further illustrates the continued involvement of the Secretary-General in reporting on agency activity to the Council.<sup>19</sup>

7 Submission of analytical summaries of the annual reports of specialized agencies had previously been discontinued in 1977. *See Supplement No. 5*, under Article 64, para. 10.

8 E S C resolution 1988/77, paras. 2(a)(iv) and 2(b)(ii).

9 *Ibid.* para. 2(e)(iii).

10 For a description of the differences between cross-organizational programme analyses and cross-organizational reviews, see *Supplement No. 6*, under Article 64, paras. 11-19.

11 *See infra*, section II.A.1(a).

12 *See eg.* E/1986/84, Annex, report on the work of the ACC Task Force on Long-Term Development Objectives on policy changes for long-term growth and development.

13 Inter-agency task forces contributed at times to other types of reports submitted to the Council, including, for example, the cross-organizational programme analysis in the area of science and technology for development. *See* E/1987/47, Chapter II, part A, para. 20.

14 *See eg.* E/1988/42, Chapter I, part H, paras. 72-77, discussing the activities of the inter-agency task force on rural development.

15 *See infra*, section II.A.1(c).

16 *See infra*, section II.A.1(b).

17 *See infra*, section II.A.1(e).

18 E/1987/57. *See* E S C decision 1987/186. It should be noted that paragraph 1 of the report states that the FAO will also present information orally to the Council, thus illuminating another practice of specialized agencies in fulfilling their reporting requirements to the Council.

19 *See Supplement No. 6*, under Article 64, section II.A.1(c)(i). Cross-organizational programme analyses have also been submitted through the Secretary-General since 1980. *See* E/AC.51/1986/4, para. 3.

**B. Reports from Member States of the United Nations on steps taken to give effect to recommendations of the Economic and Social Council and of the General Assembly on economic and social matters**

9. While Council resolution 1988/77 covered many issues relating to reporting by the specialized agencies to the Council, the resolution did not directly address the issue of obtaining reports from member States on their steps taken to implement recommendations. Although the Secretary-General, in his 1987 report on co-ordination, suggested a responsibility of member States to harmonize their national policies with United Nations decisions,<sup>20</sup> the Council did not create specific procedures for obtaining reports from member States on such efforts.
10. In one instance, however, the Council and Assembly sought to create a more formalized system for monitoring member States' activities in furtherance of their recommendations. Under the comprehensive reporting system to monitor implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, member States were asked to complete questionnaires on their progress achieved in implementation of the Strategies.<sup>21</sup> The Council cautioned, nonetheless, against over-burdening member States with overlapping and excessive reporting requirements.<sup>22</sup>

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

### **A. Reports from specialized agencies**

#### **1. REPORTS ON THE REGULAR ACTIVITY OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES**

11. The Economic and Social Council, under its resolution 1988/77, invoked its functions and powers under Chapters IX and X of the United Nations Charter in setting out a broad variety of reform measures intended to revitalize its policies and programmes. Concerning its responsibilities in obtaining regular reports from the specialized agencies, the Council decided to invite the agencies to resume submission of analytical summaries of their annual reports for its consideration.<sup>23</sup> During the period under review, however, the Council continued to rely on reports dealing with specific programme sectors as its principal means of monitoring agency activity.<sup>24</sup>

#### **a. Cross-organizational programme analyses**

<sup>20</sup> E/1987/68, para. 17.

<sup>21</sup> E S C resolution 1988/22, Annex, para. II.7.

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.* preambular para. 7.

<sup>23</sup> E S C resolution 1988/77, para. 2(a)(iv)(b). This practice had been discontinued since 1977 in favor of a programme-sector-by-programme-sector approach. *See Supplement No. 5*, under Article 64, section I.A.1; *see also* E/AC.51/1986/4, para. 3.

<sup>24</sup> *See* E S C resolution 1985/76, calling for continued improvements in instruments such as cross-organizational programme analyses, in-depth evaluations, and triennial reviews.

12. During the period under review, the Council continued its practice of relying on cross-organizational programme analyses to gain an overall view of activities in the United Nations system under specific programme sectors. The Secretary-General reiterated that an underlying purpose of this type of analysis was to enable the Organization to assess the correspondence between the work and the mandates of the various agencies.<sup>25</sup> In furtherance of this goal, the Council considered cross-organizational analyses on a broad range of topics during the period, including economic and technical cooperation among developing countries,<sup>26</sup> and human settlements. Furthermore, the Council reviewed reports prepared by the Secretary-General to follow-up on the analyses.<sup>27</sup> The Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) stated that the role of cross-organizational analyses could be strengthened particularly through effective follow-up and implementation of its recommendations based on consideration of the analyses.<sup>28</sup> In its annual report for 1986, however, the Committee expressed concern at a perceived lack of such follow-up to its conclusions and recommendations.<sup>29</sup> The Secretary-General reflected this concern in commenting that there was no systematic mechanism for ensuring effective follow-up to cross-organizational analyses.<sup>30</sup> The Secretary-General further stated that the problem was exacerbated by the lack of specificity in the Committee's conclusions and recommendations stemming from review of the reports.<sup>31</sup>
13. Although there seemed initially to be a great deal of satisfaction with the use of cross-organizational analyses, the period on a whole saw an increasing amount of frustration and lack of faith in the use of this particular tool. The CPC, in its annual report for 1985, stated that cross-organizational programme analyses were generally considered to be extremely important and useful in promoting co-ordination and efficiency in the system as a whole.<sup>32</sup> Questions continued to arise, however, on the need to improve the methodology and clarify the scope of the analyses.<sup>33</sup> Furthermore, both the Committee and the Council reiterated the need for cross-organizational analyses to be concise and concrete.<sup>34</sup>
14. Questions also continued to arise on the perceived role of cross-organizational programme analyses. The Council, in its resolution 1985/76, stated that they should include a critical assessment of activities under review. The CPC also stressed that reports on cross-organizational analyses were to include analytical and precise

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25 E/AC.51/1985/6, para. 2.

26 E/1985/53

27 See eg., E/AC.51/1985/3, Follow-up to the cross-organizational programme analysis on marine affairs.

28 A/40/38, Chapter III, part G, para. 708. The Council, in its resolution 1985/76, para. IV.2, also stressed the importance of follow-up to ensure effective implementation of the recommendations of the Committee.

29 A/41/38, Chapter IV, part A, paras. 198 and 199. The Committee suggested, however, that the primary responsibility for follow-up rested with the Secretary-General and the organizations of the system themselves.

30 See E/AC.51/1986/4, para. 14.

31 See *ibid.* para. 16.

32 A/40/38, Chapter III, part A, para. 436. See also, *ibid.* part G, para. 707.

33 See *ibid.* paras. 708 – 712; A/41/38, Chapter IV, part A, para. 205.

34 See A/40/38, Chapter III, part G, para. 712; E S C resolution 1985/76, para. II.3.

conclusions based on a critical review of the facts,<sup>35</sup> and called for greater linkages in the future between the analyses and evaluation studies.<sup>36</sup> The Secretary-General, however, reminded the Council that the analyses were not to be an evaluation, but rather a co-ordination tool.<sup>37</sup> Similarly, the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) recognized the importance of cross-organizational analyses primarily as instruments for improved co-ordination and joint planning.<sup>38</sup>

15. Towards the end of the period, the Secretary-General submitted a report to the Council in which he criticized cross-organizational programme analyses as having become too large, detailed, and costly.<sup>39</sup> The Secretary-General stated that the analyses had become “increasingly complex undertakings” with “cumbersome methodology” and “questionable” cost-effectiveness.<sup>40</sup> In light of these conclusions, the Secretary-General recommended that the CPC undertake a critical review of cross-organizational analyses in order to seek means of improvement.<sup>41</sup>
16. In response to the above-listed criticisms, the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1988/77, decided to discontinue the submission of cross-organizational programme analyses in favor of brief analyses on major issues to be included in the medium-term plans of the organizations of the system.<sup>42</sup> While the CPC and the ACC continued to review cross-organizational analyses until the end of the period under review,<sup>43</sup> the ACC, in its annual overview report for 1988, took note of the decision by the Council to discontinue the analyses.<sup>44</sup> The Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Programme Matters) (CCSQ (PROG)) of the ACC agreed to await the outcome of consultations on future analyses, given the provisions of Council resolution 1988/77.<sup>45</sup>
17. In addition to receiving cross-organizational programme analyses, the Council also continued its practice, during the period under review, of considering cross-organizational reviews of selected major issues in the medium-term plans of the

35 A/41/38, Chapter IV, part A, para. 205. The Committee also cautioned against cross-organizational analyses being too descriptive, and called instead for critical and analytical assessment of activities.

A/40/38, Chapter III, part J, para. 725.

36 A/42/16, Chapter III, part B, para. 266.

37 E/AC.51/1985/6, para. 29.

38 See E/1985/57, Chapter IV, para. 31.

39 E/1987/68, para. 36. The Secretary-General stated that, since the development of this type of analysis in 1978, ten such analyses had been completed. In reviewing these, both he and the CPC had “expressed concern from time to time that the results of the studies may not have justified the cost of preparing them...”.

40 *Ibid.*, para. 40. The report also illuminated problems in the selection of subjects for cross-organizational analyses, the methodology, the length of time for preparation, and the lack of follow-up. The Secretary-General also noted that, while one major purpose of this instrument was to point out issues of overlap and duplication of work activities in the system, no such issues had in fact come to light. *Ibid.* paras. 36 – 40.

41 *Ibid.* para. 40.

42 E S C resolution 1988/77, para. 2(e)(iii). The Council called for the Secretary-General to submit to it draft proposals on a multi-year programme for such analyses.

43 See eg. A/43/16, Chapter III, part A; E/1989/18, Chapter II, part F, section 2.

44 E/1989/18, Chapter II, part F, paras. 121-122.

45 *Ibid.*

organizations of the United Nations system.<sup>46</sup> The need for such review separate from cross-organizational programme analyses was questioned, however, on a number of occasions. The Council, in its resolution 1986/51, endorsed the recommendations of the CPC that the cross-organizational review and the cross-organizational analysis in the area of science and technology for development be merged into a single report.<sup>47</sup> Moreover, the Secretary-General, in his report on co-ordination in the United Nations system, stated that

...although cross-organizational programme analyses and cross-organizational reviews have slightly different origins, they are practically indistinguishable and should be combined in future under the heading of cross-organizational programme analyses.<sup>48</sup>

In concurrence, the CPC, in its annual report for 1987, recommended that, when possible, cross-organizational reviews and cross-organizational analyses be combined into one report under a single integrated methodological framework.<sup>49</sup>

#### b. Triennial comprehensive policy review

18. The Economic and Social Council in 1986 considered a report from the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation for the comprehensive policy review of operational activities undertaken by the system.<sup>50</sup> The Council, in its resolution 1988/77, decided to recommend to the General Assembly further policy guidelines for operational activities for development. As such, the Council would be responsible for defining overall priorities and specific activities for organizations within the system.<sup>51</sup> Furthermore, the Council resolved to conduct once every three years a comprehensive policy review of the operational activities for development in the United Nations system. Such reviews were to be carried out in connection with the triennial policy reviews of operational activities conducted by the General Assembly.<sup>52</sup>

#### c. Triennial evaluation reviews and in-depth evaluation studies

19. The Secretary-General, in reporting to the CPC on the triennial review of the manufactures programme, discussed briefly the distinction between triennial reviews and in-depth evaluation studies, stating that the methodology of triennial reviews differs from that of in-depth evaluations in scope, coverage, and detail. Furthermore,

...their purpose [is] not to evaluate anew the programmes concerned but rather to inform the Committee of the extent to which its recommendations [have] been implemented, the difficulties

46 See eg. E/1987/51, Secretary-General report on cross-organizational review in the area of science and technology for development; see also E S C resolution 1987/79, acknowledging consideration of the report.

47 E S C resolution 1986/51, para. VI.8.

48 E/1987/68, para. 37.

49 A/42/16, Chapter III, part D, para. 290.

50 E/1986/108. See A/41/3, Chapter VI, part B.

51 E S C resolution 1988/77, para. 2(d)(i).

52 *Ibid.*, para. 2(d)(iii).



encountered, and the impact, beneficial or otherwise, of the implementation of the recommendations on programme content or execution....<sup>53</sup>

20. The review on manufactures represented the first occasion in which a triennial review was prepared and submitted to the CPC, in accordance with its decision during the previous period under review.<sup>54</sup> The CPC continued to receive and consider reports on triennial reviews of the implementation of its recommendations in a number of programme areas, such as transnational corporations<sup>55</sup> and mineral resources.<sup>56</sup>
21. During the period under review, the CPC also continued its practice of receiving reports on in-depth evaluation studies on the work of organizations in the system in a variety of programme areas. For example, the CPC at its forty-seventh meeting considered an in-depth evaluation study of the programme on development issues and policies.<sup>57</sup> The Committee stressed the importance of evaluation and called for further refinement of methodologies involved in the studies.<sup>58</sup> As noted above, the Committee also called for increased linkages between evaluation studies and cross-organizational programme analyses.<sup>59</sup>

#### d. Register of development activities

22. The ACC prepared a report in 1987 outlining the progress achieved in establishing a register of development activities, pursuant to Council resolutions 1982/71 and 1985/76, and Assembly resolution 37/222.<sup>60</sup> While the primary goal of the register was to provide member States with a comprehensive view of the activities of the United Nations in support of development,<sup>61</sup> the organizations of the system hoped that it would lead to a potential reduction in their current reporting obligations.<sup>62</sup> The ACC hoped that the register would provide previously unavailable information on the development activities of the organizations of the system, and thus meet the requests of the Council and the Assembly.<sup>63</sup> The ACC, in its annual report for 1988, noted that the first edition of the *Register of Development Activities of the United Nations system* was published on 20 January 1989.<sup>64</sup>

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<sup>53</sup> A/40/38, Chapter IV, part D, para. 514.

<sup>54</sup> See *Supplement No. 6*, under Article 64, section II.A.1(e).

<sup>55</sup> See E/AC.51/1985/5, triennial review on transnational corporations.

<sup>56</sup> See E/AC.51/1986/9, triennial review on mineral resources; see also, E/AC.51/1988/5, triennial review of drug control programme.

<sup>57</sup> E/AC.51/1988/9

<sup>58</sup> A/42/16, Chapter II, part C, para. 235(b).

<sup>59</sup> See *supra*, section II.A.1(a).

<sup>60</sup> E/AC.51/1987/13. See also E/AC.51/1985/7.

<sup>61</sup> See E/1985/57, Chapter IV, part D, para. 49.

<sup>62</sup> See E/AC.51/1987/13, para. 17(b). Annex II of the report contains a list of the organizations to be included in the register. It should be noted that two specialized agencies declined to participate in the register, and a number of others have limited involvement. See *ibid.*, paras. 25-28.

<sup>63</sup> *Ibid.*, summary.

<sup>64</sup> E/1989/18, Chapter I, part I, para. 27.

2. REPORTS BY SPECIALIZED AGENCIES ON STEPS TAKEN TO GIVE EFFECT TO RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AND OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

23. As reflected in the discussion above, the Council was able to obtain information from time to time on steps taken by the specialized agencies to give effect to its recommendations, and those of the Assembly, through already existing mechanisms for monitoring agency activities.<sup>65</sup> During the period under review, however, the Council sought a more active approach in monitoring the implementation of recommendations, rather than simply relying on evaluation studies or triennial reviews, which afforded the Council no regular reports on the matter. In its resolution 1988/77, the Council decided that the specialized agencies would include in the analytical summaries of their annual reports, to be submitted according to the provisions of that resolution, information on their efforts toward implementation of recommendations.<sup>66</sup> In furtherance of this decision, the Council called on the Secretary-General to circulate annually a list of the decisions adopted by the General Assembly relating to economic and social matters, and to highlight therein matters requiring specific action by the member States and organizations of the system.<sup>67</sup>

a. Integrated reporting system on the status of women

24. In addition to the decision to include information on implementation in the annual reports of the agencies, during the period under review, the Council further developed the integrated reporting system for reviewing progress achieved in the advancement of women.<sup>68</sup> The General Assembly, in its resolution 40/108, endorsed the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,<sup>69</sup> and called on the Secretary-General to invite the specialized agencies to report periodically to the Council on their efforts to implement the Forward-looking Strategies.<sup>70</sup> The Assembly further requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women proposals for a reporting system to monitor the implementation of the Strategies.<sup>71</sup>

25. In response to this request, the Secretary-General submitted a report in which he suggested a two-year cycle of system-wide monitoring of progress made in implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies, and a five-year cycle of longer-

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<sup>65</sup> The Council also continued, on occasion and in individual resolutions, to request reports on particular issues. *See eg.* E S C resolution 1987/78, calling on specialized agencies to take action in support of the peoples of Namibia and South Africa, and asking the Secretary-General to report to the Council in 1988 on the implementation of this resolution.

<sup>66</sup> E S C resolution 1988/77, para. 2(b)(ii).

<sup>67</sup> *Ibid.* para. 2(b)(i).

<sup>68</sup> For a synopsis of the process of establishing the reporting system, see E/CN.6/1986/2, Note by the Secretary-General on the reporting system, paras. 2-16.

<sup>69</sup> The Forward-looking Strategies were adopted by the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, held in Nairobi from 15 to 26 July 1985.

<sup>70</sup> G A resolution 40/108, paras. 2 and 5.

<sup>71</sup> *See* E/CN.6/1986/2.

term review and appraisal.<sup>72</sup> The Council adopted resolution 1987/18, in which it affirmed the appropriateness of the proposed system, and invited the specialized agencies to develop and implement a “simple, concise and direct system of reporting to the Commission on the impact of their programmes and activities on women...”<sup>73</sup> The Assembly repeated this request by again inviting the specialized agencies to report periodically to the Council, through the Commission on the Status of Women, on activities undertaken to implement the Forward-looking Strategies.<sup>74</sup> The Secretary-General presented revised proposals for the reporting strategy to the Council in 1987.<sup>75</sup>

26. In 1988, the Council, citing the above-mentioned resolutions, established the comprehensive reporting system to monitor, review, and appraise the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women.<sup>76</sup> The Council decided that the biennial reports to be submitted by the Secretary-General to the Commission would be considered in even-numbered years, beginning in 1990,<sup>77</sup> and that the quinquennial reports would be considered in 1990, 1995, and 2000.<sup>78</sup>

b. Implementation of the International Development Strategy

27. During the period under review,<sup>79</sup> the Council continued to monitor efforts at implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade.<sup>80</sup> The Council urged the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation to examine fully the progress made towards the achievement of the goals and objectives of the Strategy.<sup>81</sup> The Committee submitted a report to the General Assembly at its fortieth session in which it presented its conclusions based on the review of progress made in implementing the Strategy.<sup>82</sup> In assessing the success of the work of the Committee in fulfilling its mandate, the Committee Chairman suggested that, while it not been able to undertake as thorough

<sup>72</sup> *Ibid.* and Addendum 1. Monitoring is a “continuing process of gathering and presenting information on the status of women” while review and appraisal is “an evaluation of the progress made in achieving the goals and objectives of the Strategies...” E/1988/4, para. 9.

<sup>73</sup> E S C resolution 1987/18, para. 4. The Council also requested that the reports be submitted in a “timely manner”.

<sup>74</sup> G A resolution 42/62, para. 16.

<sup>75</sup> E/1988/4.

<sup>76</sup> E S C resolution 1988/22, Annex.

<sup>77</sup> *Ibid.* para. 5.

<sup>78</sup> *Ibid.* para. 8. The five-year cycle follows the cycle established by the World Conference during the United Nations Decade of Women.

<sup>79</sup> The period also saw efforts towards the preparation of an International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade. See G A resolution 43/182; E S C resolution 1988/76.

<sup>80</sup> It should be noted that the review and appraisal of the progress achieved in the advancement of women was part of the overall review and appraisal of progress achieved in the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade. See E/CN.6/1986/2, para. 18.

<sup>81</sup> E S C resolution 1985/25, para. 1.

<sup>82</sup> A/40/48. See also, G A decision 40/438.

scrutiny as the General Assembly had envisioned,<sup>83</sup> it had succeeded in reaching a broad consensus on future action.<sup>84</sup>

### 3. OBSERVATIONS OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL UNDER ARTICLE 64(2)

28. As in the past, the Council communicated its observations to the Assembly on reports received from specialized agencies in its annual reports to the Assembly, and occasionally by adopting individual resolutions. Additionally, in its resolution 1988/77, the Council committed itself to reporting to the Assembly on the recommendations derived from its consideration of reports from the organizations of the system. The Council further decided that it would present its report so that the Assembly would be able to review its recommendations in an integrated manner.<sup>85</sup>
29. In the case of the comprehensive reporting system on monitoring progress achieved in the advancement of women, the Council decided that the review and appraisal reports on the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies should be transmitted to the Assembly, after consideration by the Commission on the Status of Women.<sup>86</sup>

#### **B. Reports from Member States of the United Nations on steps taken to give effect to the recommendations of the Economic and Social Council and of the General Assembly on economic and social matters**

30. The report of the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade reflected a renewed commitment by member States to give effect to the policy measures outlined in the Strategy.<sup>87</sup> As in the past, however, States were not asked to report periodically to the Committee on their efforts at implementation.
31. In considering the comprehensive reporting system on progress achieved in the advancement of women, both the Council and the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to invite Governments, as well as specialized agencies, to report to the Council on their activities to implement the Forward-looking Strategies.<sup>88</sup> The provisions in the text of the comprehensive system for obtaining quinquennial reports specify that these reports are to be based on responses received from member States to a questionnaire on progress achieved in implementation.<sup>89</sup> It should be noted, however, that the Council frequently reiterated its unwillingness to over-burden

<sup>83</sup> See G A resolution 38/152, para. 2, calling for systematic scrutiny of the implementation of the Strategy.

<sup>84</sup> See A/40/48, Annex, paras. 18-19.

<sup>85</sup> E S C resolution 1988/77, para. 2(f)(vi).

<sup>86</sup> E S C resolution 1988/22, para. 12.

<sup>87</sup> A/40/48, para. 22(9).

<sup>88</sup> E S C resolution 1988/22, para. 4; G A resolution 42/62, para. 16.

<sup>89</sup> E S C resolution 1988/22, Annex, para. II.7. The text of the system states that national reports should include an account of measures taken to implement the Strategies under its three main objectives: equality, development, and peace. *Ibid.* paras. 8-10.

member States with too many reporting obligations. In its resolution 1988/22 the Council recalls that it is

[m]indful of the need to avoid duplication of reporting obligations, in view of the burden that coexisting reporting systems place on Member States, especially those with limited resources....<sup>90</sup>

Furthermore, the Council declined to create more specific procedures for obtaining reports from member States under the provisions of its resolution 1988/77.

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<sup>90</sup> E S C resolution 1988/22, preambular para. 7. *See also* E S C resolution 1987/18; E/1988/4, para. 9.