

ARTICLE 66 (1)

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TEXT OF ARTICLE 66 (1)

The Economic and Social Council shall perform such functions as fall within its competence in connection with the carrying out of the recommendations of the General Assembly.

NOTE

1. As pointed out in the *Repertory*,¹ Article 66 (1) is closely related to Article 60, both Articles being concerned with the relation of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. In that study, the material included under Article 66 (1) dealt principally with the action taken by the Council in relation to General Assembly decisions not addressed to it specifically or covering a wider field of responsibility than its own. There was no discussion of this paragraph of Article 66 during the period under review,² and certain actions taken by the Economic and Social Council were similar to those described in the study of this Article in the *Repertory*. During this period, the Council initiated a review and reappraisal of its functions which is discussed in section A below.³

A. General

2. During the period under review and particularly at its thirty-ninth session, the Economic and Social Council adopted a number of important decisions directed towards enabling it to carry out its functions more fully in the economic, social and human rights fields.

3. By resolution 1091 (XXXIX), adopted at its thirty-ninth session, the Council, "*Convinced* that the great increase in the activities of the United Nations and its related agencies in the economic, social and human rights fields has necessitated a thorough review and reappraisal of the Council's role and functions," requested Governments of Member States, which had not yet done so, to present their views on that question so that the Secretary-General could transmit them to the General Assembly at its twentieth session together with the views already received⁴ and his analytical summary of those comments. In addition, the Council requested the General Assembly to consider that

question and decided to resume consideration of it at a later date. In response to the Council's request, the General Assembly adopted a resolution⁵ in which, bearing in mind the responsibilities of the Council under Chapters IX and X of the Charter and taking into account also the particular responsibilities of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as described in section II of General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX), it requested the Secretary-General to submit detailed proposals to the Council at its forty-first session and to the General Assembly at its twenty-first session "on the ways in which the Council might adapt its procedures and working methods so as to enable it effectively to fulfil its role, ...". The General Assembly also decided⁶ to include in the provisional agenda of its twenty-first session an item dealing with a general review of the programmes and activities of the United Nations family in the economic, social, technical co-operation and related fields.

4. At its forty-first session, the Council had before it the report of the Secretary-General referred to above. It rearranged its own programme of work and decided to have on its provisional agenda at a later session an item on the review and reappraisal of its role and functions. In taking those decisions, the Council stated that it had "an important role to play in: (a) Acting as governing body for the United Nations work programme in the economic, social and human rights fields, (b) Ensuring the co-ordination of the activities of the United Nations system of organizations, and (c) Providing a forum for the discussion of issues of international economic and social policy, and formulating recommendations for the United Nations system of organizations".⁷

5. In another decision at its thirty-ninth session, the Council reconstituted its Special Committee on Co-ordination,⁸ making it more representative by the inclusion of the officers of the Council, the Chairman of the Co-ordination Committee and ten members of the Council, elected annually by the Council. One of the tasks assigned to the Special Committee was the strengthening of co-ordination

¹ See *Repertory*, under Article 66 (1), para. 1.

² Article 66 was referred to by the Council in the preamble of its resolution 1090 G (XXXIX) on reports of the Advisory Committee on Co-ordination and the Special Committee on Co-ordination.

³ The question has been referred to in the study of Article 60 in this *Supplement*, in para. 3.

⁴ The Council began the discussion of this question at its thirty-eighth session and at its 1363rd meeting requested the Secretary-General to invite Member States to submit their views on the subject.

⁵ G A resolution 2097 (XX).

⁶ G A resolution 2098 (XX).

⁷ E S C resolution 1156 (XLI).

⁸ E S C resolution 1090 G (XXXIX). See also a decision taken at its 1419th mtg., fortieth session. See also this *Supplement* under Article 68.

within the United Nations system and the establishment of a closer relationship between the Council and the Advisory Committee on Co-ordination.

6. The Council also placed itself in a better position to co-ordinate the work of the United Nations family and to formulate policy for international strategy to promote development by its decisions concerning the work programme of the United Nations in the economic, social and human rights fields.

7. At its thirty-fourth session, after the Council established its Special Committee on Co-ordination,⁹ and requested the Secretary-General to review the studies and reports included in the work programme of the United Nations and recommend measures for concentration of effort and priority use of the limited resources,¹⁰ the General Assembly requested the Council (a) to devise a framework within which the Council could indicate the priorities to be accorded to United Nations programmes and projects in the economic, social and human rights fields, bearing in mind the objectives of the United Nations Development Decade; (b) to establish priorities and (c) to review regularly the priorities in the light of any more recent or more urgent needs and the resources likely to be available to meet them.¹¹ In response, the Council at its thirty-fifth session adopted a resolution on integrated programme and budget policy¹² and, at its thirty-sixth session, requested the Secretary-General to present to it such a work programme, together with his observations on priorities.¹³ Further arrangements were made by the Council at its thirty-seventh and thirty-ninth sessions.¹⁴ In the latter session, it requested the Secretary-General to prepare a detailed work programme and provide, for each major project a full description of its purpose, scope and timing; it further requested the Special Committee on Co-ordination to examine in detail the foregoing work programme in the light of the 1967 budget estimates and to submit a report thereon to the Council at its forty-first session. Thus, the Special Committee was put in a position where it could weigh programme requirements against their budgetary implications and against the total resources likely to be available. At the same time, recommendations were made for inviting the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to be

present at the relevant meetings of the Special Committee. At its forty-first session, the Council made additional arrangements¹⁵ concerning the reporting by the Secretary-General and the consideration of the work programme by the Special Committee on Co-ordination, now re-named the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination.¹⁶

8. The Council also took action directed towards streamlining the functioning of its own meetings. It decided to reduce to more manageable proportions the volume of documentation coming before it and to improve the presentation of such material so as to make it more serviceable as a basis for action.¹⁷ The Secretary-General was requested, *inter alia*, to prepare, whenever feasible, short, analytical summaries of the reports of the functional and regional commissions and of the standing and *ad hoc* committees of the Council and to indicate those reports which were of a technical nature and required detailed study by experts of Governments of Member States rather than by the Council.

9. Finally, with respect to its functions related to policy matters, the Council at its thirty-ninth session decided to make use of a group of planning experts which was set up to advise Governments on their national planning and programming procedures. The group was entrusted by the Council with broad functions to help the Council in its task of planning international economic and social policy.¹⁸ It was subsequently named the Committee for Development Planning. The Council, also at that session, requested the Secretary-General and the executive heads of the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency to report to the Council on the maximum contribution they could make, both individually and by concerted action to the goals of the United Nations Development Decade.¹⁹ At its forty-first session, the Council made arrangements, including reporting by the Secretary-General, concerning preparations and planning, for the period after the United Nations Development Decade.²⁰

****B. Decisions by the Council relating to recommendations of the General Assembly not addressed to the Council²¹**

⁹ E S C resolution 920 (XXXIV).

¹⁰ E S C resolution 909 (XXXIV).

¹¹ G A resolution 1797 (XVII).

¹² E S C resolution 936 (XXXV).

¹³ E S C resolution 990 (XXXVI).

¹⁴ E S C resolutions 1046 (XXXVII) and 1093 (XXXIX).

¹⁵ E S C resolution 1177 (XLI).

¹⁶ E S C resolution 1171 (XLI).

¹⁷ E S C resolutions 1090 E (XXXIX) and 1154 (XLI).

¹⁸ E S C resolution 1079 (XXXIX). See also E S C resolution 1148 (XLI).

¹⁹ E S C resolution 1089 (XXXIX).

²⁰ E S C resolution 1152 (XLI).

²¹ During the period under review, the Council continued to take action with respect to the question of the control and limitation of documentation. See para. 8 above.