

ARTICLE 66 (1)

CONTENTS

Text of Article 66 (1)	
Note	<i>Paragraphs</i> 1
A. General	2-5
**B. Decisions of the Council relating to recommendations of the General Assembly not addressed to the Council	

ARTICLE 66 (1)

TEXT OF ARTICLE 66 (1)

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

NOTE

1. During the period under review, there was no discussion of this paragraph of Article 66. Certain further developments relating to the review and reappraisal of the Council's functions mentioned in the *Repertory, Supplement No. 3*¹ are dealt with in section A below in order to bring the information up-to-date.

A. General

2. At its resumed forty-first session, the Council, citing General Assembly resolution 2150(XXI) approving the recommendations of the *Ad Hoc* Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies,² decided to adopt immediately one of the Committee's recommendations and reconstitute its Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) so that it would be composed of sixteen States Members of the United Nations, represented by experts of recognized competence in the economic, financial and social areas and experienced in the work of United Nations institutions.³ At the same time it invited the Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) to continue to take part in the work of the CPC which was requested, *inter alia*, to study the current procedures for inter-agency co-operation and co-ordination,⁴ and confirmed an earlier decision to continue the practice of having joint meetings of the CPC and the ACC.⁵

3. The General Assembly at its twenty-first session, having welcomed the progress recorded by the Council in the review and reappraisal of its role and functions and in the improvement in its working methods and procedures,⁶ carried the process a stage further by deciding to embark upon a major review of the functioning of the United Nations system in the economic, social, technical co-operation and related fields. In the preamble to its resolution 2188(XXI) it reaffirmed the central role of the Council in the economic, social and human rights fields under Chapter X of the Charter, noted the greatly increased complexity and rapid and unco-ordinated expansion of its work over the years, and expressed its conviction that a full review was necessary in order to bring about a better organization of international effort, in particular to attain the objectives of the United Nations Development Decade. The resolution went on, in its operative portion, to request the Council

to enlarge its CPC by five additional Member States for the purpose, and to request the enlarged Committee to undertake as a matter of priority a review which would provide a clear and comprehensive picture of the current operational and research activities of the United Nations family of organizations in the field of economic and social development, an assessment thereof and recommendations on modifications in existing activities, procedures and administrative arrangements which might be necessary and desirable to prevent duplication of effort and ensure that maximum benefit was derived from the resources available.

4. The Council complied with the Assembly's request⁷ and the enlarged Committee in due course submitted a report,⁸ the central recommendation of which was for a reconstituted CPC consisting of twenty-one States Members, to be responsible to the Council, and through it to the Assembly, for expert advice and assistance in discharging its co-ordination functions under Articles 58, 63 and 64 of the Charter and, in particular, in keeping under review the activities of the United Nations and its related agencies and programmes, studying the current procedures for co-ordination and co-operation and submitting its conclusions to the Council on the issues arising thereon. The Assembly welcomed the report in a comprehensive resolution⁹ in which, *inter alia*, it reaffirmed certain objectives set out in the resolution establishing the enlarged Committee,¹⁰ for the guidance of the organizations in the United Nations system in carrying out their research and operational activities in the field of economic and social development, and requested the Council to reconstitute the CPC as had been recommended and proceed as soon as possible thereafter "to examine and keep under continuing review the machinery for co-ordination and programme review and to introduce improvements or modifications which may appear necessary in the light of the experience gained and of relevant developments within the United Nations system of organizations."

5. The Council, at its forty-sixth and forty-seventh sessions, also decided on a number of measures¹¹ designed to improve the organization of its work, many of which related to the regional economic commissions. *Inter alia*, the Council requested the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East once again to review the possibil-

¹See, *Repertory*, under Article 66 (1), section A. The question is also referred to in this *Supplement*, under Article 60, paras. 6-8.

²Established under G A resolution 2049(XX).

³E S C resolution 1187(XLI).

⁴*Ibid.*, paras. 5 and 6.

⁵*Ibid.*, para. 8.

⁶G A (XXI), Suppl. No. 16, p. 44.

⁷E S C resolution 1189(XLI).

⁸E/4748 and Corr.1 (mimeographed).

⁹G A resolution 2579(XXIV).

¹⁰G A resolution 2188(XXI).

¹¹See G A (XXIV), Suppl. No. 3, chap. XIV, section 13; also E S C (XLVII), Suppl. No. 1, Resolutions, pp. 18 and 19.

ity of meeting biennially; it requested the regional economic commissions also to reconsider the schedule of meetings of their subsidiary bodies with a view to putting them on a biennial basis; it decided that, should any regional economic commission be authorized to meet annually, it should nevertheless be requested to review any resolutions or decisions by which recurrent items or reports had been requested, with a view to determining whether the interval between such items or reports could be extended or whether some of them could be dispensed with; it further decided that substantive items

should not be included in the agenda for its resumed sessions, except in exceptional circumstances, and that wherever possible related items on its agenda should be grouped together to avoid repetitive debates; and finally it requested the regional economic commissions to consider ways and means of reducing the volume of their reports to the Council.

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