

ARTICLE 66(2)

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ARTICLE 66(2)

Text of Article 66(2)

It [the Economic and Social Council] may, with the approval of the General Assembly, perform services at the request of Members of the United Nations and at the request of specialized agencies.

Introductory Note

1. During the period under review, there was no specific reference to Article 66, paragraph 2. However, there were a number of decisions relating to the performance of services to Member States at their request, new programmes were put into operation and additional subsidiary bodies responsible for the provision of services were established. The decisions were largely set in the context of the international development policies identified in General Assembly resolutions 2626 (XXV) (International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade), 3202 (S-VI) (Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order), 3281 (XXIX) (Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States), and 3362 (S-VII) (Development and international economic cooperation), resolutions explored in the Chapter IV provisions of *Supplement No. 5 to the Repertory*. The outline of the present study follows that of the previous Article 66(2) studies, with the addition of new subheadings reflecting new developments during the review period.

I. GENERAL SURVEY

A. United Nations Children's Fund

2. Frequently, during the period covered by the present *Supplement*, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council called upon Governments of Member States and other donors for increased financial support of the United Nations Children's Fund.¹ In its resolutions adopted during the fifty-first and fifty-third sessions, the Council urged Governments and other donors to make every effort to increase their contributions to achieve an annual revenue of \$100 million by the end of 1975.² In that regard, the General Assembly, at its twenty-eighth session, requested the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Executive Director of UNICEF, to convene in 1974 a special pledging conference for volunteer contributions to be made in order to attain the target figure of \$100 million.³ In resolutions adopted during the sixty-first and sixty-third sessions, the Council endorsed a raised target of \$200 million in annual revenue and urged Governments and other donors to increase their contributions.⁴ After the special pledging conference in 1974, in its resolution adopted during the twenty-ninth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Executive Director of UNICEF, to convene regular annual

pledging conferences for the Fund starting in 1975.⁵ In its resolution adopted during the 1978 session, the Council endorsed a raised target of \$240 million in annual revenue for 1980 and again urged Governments and other donors to increase their contributions.⁶

3. At its fifty-first session, the Economic and Social Council welcomed UNICEF's contribution to the furtherance of the objectives of the Second United Nations Development Decade and its co-operation in the system of country programming under the leadership of the United Nations Development Programme. Furthermore, the Council commended UNICEF's prompt and considerable assistance provided to meet the urgent needs of mothers, children and adolescents in emergency situations throughout the world.⁷

4. At its fifty-third session, the Economic and Social Council noted with satisfaction the increase of essential supplies and equipment and funds for the training of personnel in the developing countries provided by UNICEF. It also commended UNICEF's new guidelines on assistance to education, prepared with UNESCO, particularly the concentration on educationally deprived children in rural areas and the least developed countries. The Council further lauded UNICEF's initiatives to improve nutrition through support for long-term supplementary feeding

¹G A resolutions 2855 (XXVI), 3015 (XXVII), 3250 (XXIX), 31/168, 32/110 and 33/80 and E S C resolutions 1528 (XLIX), 1619 (LI), 1709 (LIII), 1821 (LV), 1880 (LVII), 1964 (LIX), 2021 (LXI), 2109 (LXIII) and 1978/56.

²E S C resolutions 1619 (LI), 1709 (LIII).

³G A resolution 3123 (XXVIII).

⁴E S C resolutions 2021 (LXI), 2109 (LXIII).

⁵G A resolution 3250 (XXIX).

⁶E S C resolution 1978/56.

⁷E S C resolution 1619 (LI).

schemes.⁸ The General Assembly, at its twenty-seventh session, endorsed the Council's resolution.⁹

5. At its thirtieth session, alarmed by the situation of children adversely affected by the current economic crisis,¹⁰ the General Assembly urged the developed countries to provide external assistance to UNICEF in expanding basic services for children of the developing countries in the fields of maternal and child health, nutrition, water supply and basic education.¹¹ At its thirty-first session, the General Assembly reiterated the importance of basic services for children in developing countries and accordingly urged the developing countries to incorporate the basic services concept in their national plans, urged the developed countries to provide external assistance to supplement the efforts of the developing countries urged and the international community to support the basic services concept at the international and the country programming level.¹²

6. At its thirty-first session, the General Assembly proclaimed the year 1979 International Year of the Child (the Year) in the hope that it would serve to encourage all countries to review their programmes for the promotion of the well-being of children and to mobilize support for such programmes. The General Assembly decided that, as general objectives, the Year should provide a framework for advocacy on behalf of children and for enhancing the awareness of the special needs of children on the part of decision-makers and the public, and promote the programmes for children as an integral part of economic and social development. The Assembly called upon the appropriate organs and organizations of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations, the public and Governments to participate in the Year and to support UNICEF in its coordination of the activities.¹³ At its sixty-third session, the Economic and Social Council noted that the costs of the Year were to be financed from voluntary contributions by Governments.¹⁴ At its 1978 session, the Economic and Social Council noted with satisfaction the establishment of national commissions for the Year by 91 countries and the intent of more countries to participate. The Council also urged Governments to increase programmes benefiting children in developing countries, with a view to ensuring that all children would be provided with at least the most essential services by the end of the century. In furtherance of the goals of the Year, the Council urged UNICEF to pay particular attention to children living under colonial rule, apartheid and foreign occupation.¹⁵

B. Advisory welfare services

7. At its forty-eighth session, the Economic and Social Council focused on the social situation of children in the light of the Declaration on the Rights of the Child. The Council invited the organizations of the United Nations

system to intensify their assistance to Governments in the fields of health, nutrition, education and social welfare and place special emphasis on efforts to prevent suffering among children, to meet the needs of handicapped children and to provide protection for children born out of wedlock, for children with incomplete or broken families and for children whose work was exploited for material gain.¹⁶ At its fifty-fourth session, the Council examined the needs and aspirations of youth, which were being jeopardized by the prevalence of mass poverty and the inequitable distribution of wealth and services. It noted the proposals in the report of the Secretary-General and accordingly recommended that Governments formulate programmes to ensure that their youth would have opportunities in the fields of education, health, employment and participation in all aspects of national and international life.¹⁷ In addition, the Council at its fifty-eighth session endorsed the view that United Nations programmes concerning youth should aim at creating specific opportunities for youth to participate in development efforts at the national and international levels.¹⁸

8. At its twenty-eighth session, the General Assembly addressed the protection of the rights and welfare of the aged as a primary goal of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development. In that regard, the Assembly called upon Governments to adopt programmes for the welfare, health and protection of older people, to develop social security measures to ensure that the aged received an adequate income, to enhance the contribution of the elderly to social and economic development, to discourage discrimination against the aged, to encourage the creation of employment opportunities for the elderly and to promote the strengthening of the family unit.¹⁹

9. At its twenty-ninth session, the General Assembly noted with approval the resolutions of the Economic and Social Council that emphasized the importance of fundamental structural socio-economic changes in countries for the purpose of achieving social progress and development. The Assembly reaffirmed that each State had the sovereign right to adopt the economic and social system which it deemed appropriate and recommended that the entire population of a State actively participate in the preparation and execution of economic and social development policies.²⁰

C. World Food Programme

10. The General Assembly regularly established contribution targets for WFP. At its twenty-sixth session, acting on the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council,²¹ that Assembly established a target of \$340 million in voluntary contributions for 1973 and 1974 and directed the Secretary-General to convene a pledging conference in early 1972.²² At its twenty-eighth session, the Assembly, acting on the recommendation of the Council,²³ raised the target of voluntary contributions for 1975 and 1976 to \$440 million and again requested the Secretary-General to

⁸E S C resolution 1709 (LIII).

⁹G A resolution 3015 (XXVII).

¹⁰The plight was set out in the decision of the Executive Board of UNICEF entitled "Declaration of an emergency for children in developing countries as a result of the current economic crisis".

¹¹G A resolution 3408 (XXX).

¹²G A resolution 31/167.

¹³G A resolution 31/169.

¹⁴E S C resolution 2105 (LXIII).

¹⁵E S C resolution 1978/40.

¹⁶E S C resolution 1493 (XLVIII).

¹⁷E S C resolution 1752 (LIV).

¹⁸E S C resolution 1923 (LVIII).

¹⁹G A resolution 3137 (XXVIII).

²⁰G A resolution 3273 (XXIX).

²¹E S C resolution 1650 (LI).

²²G A resolution 2805 (XXVI).

²³E S C resolution 1830 (LV).

convene a pledging conference in early 1974.²⁴ At its thirtieth session, the Assembly, acting on the recommendation of the Council,²⁵ raised the target of voluntary contributions for 1977 and 1978 to \$750 million and again requested that pledging conference to take place early in 1976.²⁶ Finally, at its thirty-second session, the Assembly, acting on the recommendation of the Council,²⁷ raised the target of voluntary contributions for 1979 and 1980 to \$950 million and again requested a pledging conference to take place early in 1978.²⁸

11. At its twenty-fifth session, the General Assembly recommended to Member States to use their excess food supplies to meet the unsatisfied food needs of people in developing countries through the World Food Programme, which had gained experience in effectively utilizing resources with its existing procedures. The Assembly also called upon Governments to increase their cash contribution to WFP.²⁹

12. During the period covered, the United Nations/FAO Intergovernmental Committee of the World Food Programme submitted annual reports to the Economic and Social Council for review.³⁰ The General Assembly at its thirtieth session, upon the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council,³¹ reconstituted the United Nations/FAO Intergovernmental Committee of the World Food Programme as the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes, comprising 30 States Members of the United Nations or members of the FAO, to ensure the effective evolution and coordination of food aid programmes.³²

D. Programmes of technical cooperation for the economic and social development of underdeveloped countries

1. UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

13. Certain decisions addressed the framework for the activities of the United Nations Development Program, the central funding body for technical cooperation in the United Nations system. On the recommendation of the Council,³³ the General Assembly approved the UNDP Governing Council's 1970 consensus concerning "country programming", the programming of UNDP's assistance at the country level.³⁴ As the first phase of a process called the United Nations Development Cooperation Cycle, this programming involved identification of the role of programme inputs in specified areas within the country's development objectives. The country programme would be formulated by the Government of the recipient country in cooperation, at an appropriate stage, with representatives of the United Nations system, the latter under the leadership of the resident representative of UNDP. The resident

representative would transmit the country programme to the Administrator of UNDP who, in turn, would submit it with his recommendations to the Governing Council for its consideration and approval. The decision addressed, in addition to the formulation of country programming, project formulation, intercountry programming and the implementation of UNDP assistance. The country-programming approach as approved held the Administrator fully accountable for the management of all aspects of the programme, on the one hand, while necessitating the greater decentralization of responsibility for programming and implementation to the country level, on the other.

14. At its twenty-seventh session, the General Assembly invited Governments, particularly those whose contributions had lagged behind in recent years to increase their contributions to UNDP by at least 15 percent annually to promote the goal of doubling total resources available to the Programme by 1975.³⁵

15. Convinced that a strengthened and expanded UNDP and the prospect of its resources doubling by 1975 would necessitate increased participation of and representation by Member States, the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session decided to enlarge the membership of the UNDP Governing Council to 48, with 27 seats allocated for developing countries and 21 for economically more advanced countries.³⁶

16. At its thirtieth session, the General Assembly endorsed the decision of the UNDP Governing Council on new dimensions in technical cooperation, stressing the importance of applying guidelines for future orientation that included the following:³⁷ the basic purpose of technical cooperation should be the promotion of self-reliance in developing countries by building up, inter alia, their productive capability and their indigenous resources and by increasing the availability of the managerial, technical, administrative and research capabilities required in the development process. The selection of priority areas in which to seek the assistance of UNDP should remain the exclusive responsibility of the Governments of the recipient countries; the UNDP should respond favourably to requests for meeting the most urgent and critical needs of each developing country, taking into account the importance of reaching the poorest and most vulnerable sections of their societies and enhancing the quality of their life.

17. At its thirty-first session, the General Assembly authorized the UNDP Governing Council to grant to the Administrator, as an exceptional measure, short-term borrowing power through the end of 1977, to borrow, pursuant to prescribed criteria, from voluntary-funded trust funds of organizations within the United Nations system to meet short-term cash requirements which of unmet might jeopardize approved programmes.³⁸

18. The Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on successive occasions appealed to Governments to increase their contributions to UNDP. For example, during the latter part of the period under review, in related resolutions, the Council and the Assembly appealed to all Governments to increase their voluntary contribu-

²⁴G A resolution 3121 (XXVIII).

²⁵E S C resolution 1981 (LIX).

²⁶G A resolution 3407 (XXX).

²⁷E S C resolution 2128 (LXIII).

²⁸G A resolution 32/112.

²⁹G A resolution 2682 (XXV).

³⁰E S C resolutions 1650 (LI), 1830 (LV), 1981 (LIX) and 2128 (LXIII).

³¹E S C resolution 118 (LIX).

³²G A resolution 3404 (XXX).

³³E S C resolution 1530 (XLIX).

³⁴G A resolution 2688 (XXV).

³⁵G A resolution 2973 (XXVII).

³⁶G A resolution 2813 (XXVI).

³⁷G A resolution 3405 (XXX).

³⁸G A resolution 31/165

tions with a view to achieving or exceeding the overall 14 percent growth rate on which the indicative planning figures for the second programming cycle were based.³⁹

19. In the by the same resolutions, the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council also approved the Governing Council's decision that affirmed, *inter alia*, that multilateral technical cooperation should be directed clearly and exclusively towards the goal of the national and collective self-reliance of the developing countries; and that UNDP technical assistance programmes should be increasingly oriented towards bringing about tangible transfers of technology, skills and know-how to the developing countries.⁴⁰ The Governing Council had also recommended the avoidance of the creation of new technical cooperation funds within the United Nations system if such cooperation could be adequately undertaken by UNDP and, wherever feasible, the bringing of such funds within the framework of UNDP.

**2. PROVISION OF OPERATIONAL, EXECUTIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

3. UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS

20. At its twenty-fifth session, the General Assembly, upon the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council⁴¹ and convinced that voluntary service in development assistance activities was both rewarding to the volunteers and valuable to the success of such activities, established the United Nations Volunteers, effective 1 January 1971.⁴² The General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to designate the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme as the Administrator of the United Nations Volunteers and invited Governments of Member States to contribute to a special voluntary fund for the activities of the UNV.

21. After the establishment of the United Nations Volunteers programme, the General Assembly regularly called for the promotion and expansion of volunteer services and invited Governments to continue contributing to the Special Volunteer Fund.⁴³ In particular, the Assembly requested all United Nations organizations and agencies to channel all requests for volunteers in development projects through the United Nations Volunteers programme.⁴⁴ Furthermore, the Assembly considered the programme to be a major operational unit of the United Nations for the execution of youth programmes and accordingly requested the Secretary-General and the Administrator of the programme to hold joint inter-secretariat consultations at least once a year to discuss the implementation of youth programmes.⁴⁵ The Assembly also encouraged the recruitment of more volunteers from developing countries.⁴⁶

4. UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

22. Having appealed to Governments to strengthen international cooperation in protecting the environment by, *inter alia*, promoting training, research and exchange of information relating to the preservation and improvement of environmental conditions and providing technical assistance and financial resources to developing countries in enforcing environmental protection measures,⁴⁷ the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session decided to establish the United Nations Environment Programme, to consist of a Governing Council, a small secretariat and an Environment Coordination Board.⁴⁸ The Assembly was convinced that the need for prompt and effective implementation by the international community of measures to safeguard the environment required a permanent institutional arrangement within the United Nations system. In that regard, the Governing Council of the Programme should promote international cooperation in the field of environment, provide general policy guidance on environmental Programmes, and keep under review the world environmental situation and the impact of national and international environmental policies on developing countries. A voluntary fund was also established to finance the costs of the new Programme.⁴⁹

23. Besides the programme's general mandates, the General Assembly at its thirtieth session requested the Governing Council of UNEP to undertake a study of the problem of the material remnants of wars, particularly mines, and their effect on the environment, given that most developing countries had incurred losses of lives and property and faced impediments to development owing to material remnants of wars waged by colonial Powers that had occupied those developing countries.⁵⁰ In addition, the General Assembly entrusted the Governing Council with responsibilities to coordinate programmes in combating desertification (a topic taken up by the United Nations Conference on Desertification, held at Nairobi from 29 August to 9 September 1977), particularly in the Sudano-Sahelian region.⁵¹

5. HABITAT AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

24. At its sixty-second session, the Economic and Social Council, concerned with the living conditions in squatter settlements and slums of urban and rural areas, encouraged Member States to establish programmes to prevent the further deterioration of those conditions in those areas, to intensify urban planning and community development, and to formulate strategies for coordinated action using the resources of the United Nations.⁵² Subsequently, the Council called for increased technical assistance to developing countries in the field of housing, building and planning and recommended that the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning direct its resources to regional development programmes.⁵³ Additionally, the Centre was called on to co-ordinate efforts on the use of new building materials

³⁹E S C resolution 2110 (LXII); G A resolution 32/114.

⁴⁰See E S C resolution 2110 (LXII), annex.

⁴¹E S C resolution 1539 (XLIX).

⁴²G A resolution 2659 (XXV).

⁴³G A resolutions 2810 (XXVI), 2970 (XXVII), 3125 (XXVIII), 31/131, 31/166 and 33/84.

⁴⁴G A resolution 2810 (XXVI).

⁴⁵G A resolution 31/131.

⁴⁶G A resolutions 2970 (XXVII) and 3125 (XXVIII).

⁴⁷G A resolution 2849 (XXVI).

⁴⁸G A resolution 2997 (XXVII).

⁴⁹G A resolution 2997 (XXVII).

⁵⁰G A resolution 3435 (XXX).

⁵¹G A resolutions 32/170 32/172, 33/88 and 33/89.

⁵²E S C resolution 1670 (LII).

⁵³E S C resolution 1884 (LVII).

that would enable more efficient construction of dwellings in developing countries.⁵⁴

25. At its twenty-ninth session, the General Assembly established the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation as of 1, January 1975, to be under the authority and guidance of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme.⁵⁵ The efforts of the Foundation were to complement, but not duplicate, those of the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning, and its primary objective was to assist in strengthening national programmes relating to human settlements, particularly in developing countries.⁵⁶ At its thirty-second session, the General Assembly, adopting a draft resolution submitted by the Economic and Social Council,⁵⁷ set forth an integrated plan to address the question of human settlements.⁵⁸ The Assembly also established the Commission on Human Settlements, which was to discharge the responsibilities then exercised by the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning, give policy guidance and supervise the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation. A small secretariat, to be named the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), was formed to service the Commission on Human Settlements and to serve as a focal point for human settlements action.⁵⁹ At its 1978 session, the Economic and Social Council urged States to increase contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, as then incorporated in the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), with a view to reaching the \$50 million target of contributions for the period from 1978 to 1981.⁶⁰

6. SPECIAL PROGRAMME

26. In view of the continuing severe economic imbalance in the relations between developed and developing countries, the General Assembly in 1974 launched a Special Programme to provide emergency relief and development assistance to developing countries.⁶¹ As a first step, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to launch an emergency operation to provide timely relief to the most seriously affected developing countries, that is, the least developed, the landlocked and other low-income developing countries as well as other developing countries most seriously affected by the current economic crisis, natural calamities and foreign aggression and occupation. In addition, the Assembly called upon the industrialized countries to extend immediate relief and requested the International Monetary Fund to extend the most favourable financial assistance to the most seriously affected countries. The Assembly also established a Special Fund as part of the Special Programme to provide emergency relief and development assistance. At its twenty-ninth session, the General Assembly decided that the United Nations Special Fund should operate as an organ of the Assembly, to serve as a central monitoring body and stimulus for emergency relief and development assistance. A Board of Governors

⁵⁴E S C resolution 1886 (LVII).

⁵⁵G A resolution 3327 (XXIX).

⁵⁶G A resolution 3327 (XXIX) and E S C resolution 1914 (LVII).

⁵⁷E S C decision 262 (LXIII).

⁵⁸G A resolution 32/162.

⁵⁹Ibid.

⁶⁰E S C resolution 1978/66.

⁶¹G A resolution 3202 (S-VI).

was to formulate the policies and procedures of the Special Fund.⁶² At its thirtieth session, the Assembly authorized the Board of Governors to convene a pledging conference on the Special Fund in 1976.⁶³

27. With regard to natural disasters, the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session renewed its appeals to Member States to provide emergency assistance, including standby disaster relief units.⁶⁴ At its twenty-sixth session, the Assembly endorsed the proposal of the Economic and Social Council⁶⁵ and called upon the Secretary-General to appoint a Disaster Relief Coordinator under his direct command.⁶⁶ The Coordinator was to mobilize, direct and coordinate the relief activities in response to a request for disaster assistance from a stricken State promote the study, prevention, control and prediction of natural disasters. At its twenty-ninth session, the Assembly upon the recommendation of the Council,⁶⁷ called for increased staffing and facilities to strengthen the capacity of the Office of the Disaster Relief Coordinator and decided that the additional costs should be met by voluntary contributions.⁶⁸ At its thirtieth and thirty-third sessions the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to mobilize financial resources for disaster-related activities and invited all States to make voluntary contributions to the trust fund.⁶⁹

7. WORLD FOOD COUNCIL

28. Recognizing that the international community should take action to resolve the world food problem, the General Assembly, at its twenty-eighth session, decided to convene a World Food Conference in November 1974 and entrusted the Economic and Social Council with overall responsibility for it.⁷⁰ At its twenty-ninth session, the Assembly endorsed the resolutions adopted at the Conference and decided to establish a World Food Council to function as an organ of the United Nations, as proposed by the Conference.⁷¹

8. UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY

29. At its twenty-seventh session, the General Assembly established an international university under the auspices of the United Nations, to be known as the United Nations University, the objective of which was to, inter alia, maintain close coordination with UNESCO, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and other organizations in the United Nations system.⁷² At its thirtieth session, the Assembly, reaffirming that the United Nations University should play an important role in furthering the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations by devoting its work to research into the pressing global problems concerning the United Nations, stressed the need for full cooperation and coordination between the University and the appropriate agencies and bodies of the United Na-

⁶²G A resolution 3356 (XXIX).

⁶³G A resolution 3460 (XXX).

⁶⁴G A resolution 2717 (XXV).

⁶⁵E S C resolution 1612 (LI).

⁶⁶G A resolution 2816 (XXVI).

⁶⁷E S C resolution 1891 (LVII).

⁶⁸G A resolution 3243 (XXIX).

⁶⁹G A resolutions 3440 (XXX).

⁷⁰G A resolution 3180 (XXVIII).

⁷¹G A resolution 3348 (XXIX).

⁷²G A resolution 2951 (XXVII).

tions system.⁷³ At its thirty-second session, the Assembly welcomed the fact that the programme activities of the University were under way in the high-priority areas of world hunger, human and social development, and use and management of natural resources, and hoped that the University would continue its efforts to produce tangible results and thus respond to the expectations of the Member States. In addition, the Assembly invited the University to renew its efforts to address the urgent concerns of Member States and to follow closely the activities of relevant agencies and bodies of the United Nations system in order to develop cooperative and coordinated relationships with them.⁷⁴

E. Technical assistance in the field of public administration

30. At its fifty-ninth and 1978 sessions, the Economic and Social Council, recognizing the need for the further improvement of public administration and finance systems, requested the Secretary-General to formulate programmes for the improvement of public administration and finance required to further national development objectives, and requested the international organizations, the United Nations organs, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, and specialized agencies, to support projects in that field.⁷⁵

F. Technical assistance in certain fields relating to human rights

31. During the period under review, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council gave an increased focus on the advancement of the status of women. At its twenty-fifth session, the Assembly recommended a programme of concerted international action to increase the resources available for the advancement of women.⁷⁶ Similarly, the Council urged the integration and participation of women at all levels of development,⁷⁷ in particular, in rural development programmes.⁷⁸ Specifically, the Assembly and the Council urged the appropriate United Nations organizations to provide technical assistance to Governments in developing entrepreneurial skills among women,⁷⁹ technical and vocational education for women⁸⁰ and women's role in the development process,⁸¹ in particular their participation in fields such as agriculture, industry, trade, and science and technology.⁸²

32. Further concerned with the detrimental effect on the attitudes regarding women's roles in society perpetuated by the mass communications media, the Economic and Social Council encouraged Member States to make representatives of the media aware of the importance of formulating policies and guidelines for the treatment of women in the media.⁸³ In addition, the Council invited the Secre-

tary-General to hold two seminars relating to the status of women each year.⁸⁴ At its thirty-second session, the General Assembly proclaimed the year 1975 International Women's Year,⁸⁵ and the period from 1976 to 1985 as the United Nations Decade for Women.⁸⁶ In the following year, the General Assembly endorsed the Economic and Social Council's decision⁸⁷ to establish an International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women as an autonomous body under the auspices of the United Nations, funded through voluntary contributions.⁸⁸

33. Resolved to achieve the total elimination of racism and racial discrimination, the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session designated the ten-year period beginning on 10, December 1973 as the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and accordingly requested the Economic and Social Council to assume responsibility for coordinating the programme and evaluating activities undertaken during the Decade.⁸⁹

34. During the reporting period covered, the General Assembly once again condemned⁹⁰ the policies of apartheid in South Africa and called⁹¹ for more generous contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa and continued humanitarian assistance to the victims of apartheid.⁹²

35. Finally, the Economic and Social Council reiterated its request to the Secretary-General to organize at least two seminars and one training course per year and to grant at least 25 fellowships each year for the study of human rights, giving special attention to the needs of developing countries.⁹³

G. Technical assistance in the field of narcotics control

36. At its forty-ninth session, the Economic and Social Council considered the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and requested the Secretary-General to establish a United Nations fund for drug-abuse control to finance the fight against the supply, demand and illicit traffic of drugs.⁹⁴ The General Assembly welcomed the establishment of the fund⁹⁵ and thereafter, along with the Council, urged States to contribute to the fund.⁹⁶ During the period under review, the Assembly repeatedly asked United Nations bodies and Member States to cooperate in the fight against drug abuse.⁹⁷

37. In particular, at its twenty-sixth session, the Assembly brought special attention to the problems of drug abuse by youth and therefore requested all competent bodies of the United Nations to provide assistance to developing

⁷³G A resolution 3439 (XXX).

⁷⁴G A resolution 32/54.

⁷⁵E S C resolutions 1977 (LIX) and 1978/6.

⁷⁶G A resolution 2716 (XXV).

⁷⁷E S C resolution 1684 (LII).

⁷⁸E S C resolution 1678 (LII).

⁷⁹E S C resolution 1858 (LVI).

⁸⁰E S C resolution 1860 (LVI).

⁸¹G A resolution 3505 (XXX).

⁸²G A resolution 31/175.

⁸³E S C resolution 2063 (LXII).

⁸⁴E S C resolution 1680 (LII).

⁸⁵G A resolution 3010 (XXXII).

⁸⁶G A resolution 3520 (XXX).

⁸⁷E S C resolution 1998 (LX).

⁸⁸G A resolution 31/135..

⁸⁹G A resolution 3057 (XXVIII).

⁹⁰G A resolution 31/6A.

⁹¹G A resolution 31/6 B.

⁹²G A resolution 32/105 A.

⁹³E S C resolution 1978/14.

⁹⁴E S C resolution 1559 (XLIX).

⁹⁵G A resolution 2719 (XXV).

⁹⁶G A resolutions 2859 (XXVI), 3145 (XXVIII), 3146 (XXVIII), 3278 (XXIX), 3446 (XXX) and 32/125, and E S C resolutions 1937 (LVIII), 2004 (LX) and 1978/13.

⁹⁷G A resolutions 3012 (XXVII), 3014 (XXVII), 3145 (XXVIII), 3279 (XXIX), 32/124 and 33/168.

countries with a view to combating the problem.⁹⁸ The Economic and Social Council also invited the appropriate United Nations bodies to devote particular attention to African countries, which lacked the resources to sufficiently address the question of drug abuse, by providing technical assistance in conducting surveys, training personnel, treating and rehabilitating the addicted and educating the public.⁹⁹

**H. Technical assistance in the field of international law

I. Technical assistance in the field of population activities

38. At its twenty-ninth session, the General Assembly took note of the report of the World Population Conference of 1974 and requested the Economic and Social Council to pay particular attention to the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action adopted at the World Population Conference and to provide overall policy guidance on population-related matters.¹⁰⁰ Accordingly, the Council at its fifty-eighth session requested the relevant United Nations organizations and Member States to provide assistance in carrying out the 1980 World Population and Housing Census Programme. In addition, the Council at its sixty-second session requested the Secretary-General to continue to monitor population trends and policies, to prepare a manual for the use of national planners on development planning, to expand technical assistance to countries and to continue the publication of the *Population Bulletin*.¹⁰¹

39. At its forty-eighth and fifty-second sessions, the Economic and Social Council invited the organizations of the United Nations system to strengthen their collaboration in the field of population and called upon the Member States to utilize the available resources devoted to population programmes in development planning and policy-making.¹⁰² The General Assembly stressed that assistance from organizations of the United Nations system and interested Member States should continue to be available upon request for evolving and implementing a dynamic population policy, including assistance in developing a comprehensive demographic research and studies programme and training programmes and in providing advisory services in that field.¹⁰³ In addition, the Assembly invited Governments to contribute to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities established pursuant to Assembly resolution 2211 (XXI) of 21, December 1966.¹⁰⁴ At its fifty-fourth session, the Council delineated that the purposes of the Fund were to build up the knowledge and the capacity to respond to regional, national and global needs in the population and family planning fields; to promote awareness of the social, economic and environmental implications of national and international population problems; to extend systematic and sustained assistance to developing countries at their request in dealing with their

population problems; and to play a leading role in promoting population programmes.¹⁰⁵

J. Provision of services of an emergency character through specially created bodies

40. During the period under review, the General Assembly endorsed the efforts of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East commended the Working Group on the Financing of UNRWA for its work, and renewed its appeal to all Governments to join in a collective effort to solve the financial crisis of the Agency.¹⁰⁶

41. In addition, the General Assembly requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to continue his assistance to refugees and his efforts to achieve speedy and satisfactory solutions to the problems of refugees, and urged Governments to continue lending support to the High Commissioner's humanitarian actions by providing financial contributions and by considering accession to the relevant international instruments established for the benefit of refugees.¹⁰⁷ Specifically, the Economic and Social Council noted with appreciation the High Commissioner's efforts in the Horn of Africa¹⁰⁸ and assistance to the South African student refugees.¹⁰⁹

K. Some characteristics of the services provided to Governments by the United Nations

42. As in previous *Supplements*, this section describes instances where the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council: (a) decided to inform the Governments concerned of the facilities available for technical assistance or recommended them to take advantage of such facilities; (b) dealt with the priorities to be given to certain projects; and (c) recommended the rendering of services to certain countries, regions or to a category of countries.

43. The General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council continued to offer technical assistance to Governments in fields such as maternal and child's health,¹¹⁰ welfare for the aged,¹¹¹ environmental protection,¹¹² human settlements,¹¹³ emergency and disaster relief,¹¹⁴ crime prevention,¹¹⁵ public administration,¹¹⁶ human rights,¹¹⁷ narcotics control,¹¹⁸ and population activities.¹¹⁹

44. The General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council also recommended to the Secretary-General and other appropriate United Nations organs or organizations give priority ("as a matter of urgency") to providing assistance to the landlocked and least developed countries in confronting their environmental problems,¹²⁰ providing

⁹⁸G A resolution 2859 (XXVI).

⁹⁹E S C resolution 2065 (LXII).

¹⁰⁰G A resolution 3344 (XXIX).

¹⁰¹E S C resolution 2053 (LXII).

¹⁰²E S C resolution 1486 (XLVIII); see also E S C resolutions 1672 B and D (LII).

¹⁰³G A resolution 2683 (XXV).

¹⁰⁴G A resolutions 2815 (XXVI), 3019 (XXVII) and 31/170.

¹⁰⁵E S C resolution 1763 (LIV).

¹⁰⁶G A resolutions 2672 (XXV), 2728 (XXV), 2791 (XXVI), 2792 (XXVI), 3330 (XXIX), 3419 (XXX), 31/15 and 32/90.

¹⁰⁷G A resolutions 2650 (XXV), 3143 (XXVIII), 3271 (XXIX), 32/67 and 33/26.

¹⁰⁸E S C resolution 1978/39.

¹⁰⁹E S C resolution 1978/55.

¹¹⁰G A resolution 3408 (XXX).

¹¹¹G A resolution 3137 (XXVIII).

¹¹²G A resolution 2997 (XXVII).

¹¹³E S C resolution 1670 (LII).

¹¹⁴G A resolutions 3202 (S-VI) and 2816 (XXVI).

¹¹⁵E S C resolutions 1584 (L).

¹¹⁶E S C resolutions 1977 (LIX).

¹¹⁷See sect. I. F. above

¹¹⁸E S C resolution 1559 (XLIX).

¹¹⁹G A resolution 2683 (XXV).

¹²⁰G A resolution 2849 (XXVI).

emergency relief and development assistance to the most seriously affected developing countries to overcome their economic difficulties and to achieve self-sustaining economic development,¹²¹ making technical assistance in crime prevention and control available to Governments requesting it¹²² and establishing a United Nations fund for drug-abuse control.¹²³

45. Furthermore, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council recommended the rendering of

services to certain countries and regions in various fields, including: desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region;¹²⁴ narcotics control in the African countries;¹²⁵ emergency relief to the developing countries, especially the landlocked and countries most affected by the economic crisis;¹²⁶ and various social and economic fields in developing countries.¹²⁷

****L. Services at the request of the specialized agencies**

¹²¹G A resolution 3202 (S-VI).

¹²²G A resolution 32/59.

¹²³E S C resolution 1559 (XLIX).

¹²⁴G A resolution 32/170.

¹²⁵E S C 2065 (LXII).

¹²⁶G A resolution 3202 (S-VI).

¹²⁷G A resolutions 2859 (XXVI), 2997 (XXVII), 3015 (XXVII) and 3202 (S-VI) and E S C resolution 1670 (LII).

II. ANALYTICAL SUMMARY OF PRACTICE

**A. How the Economic and Social Council performs services

B. The approval of the General Assembly

46. The question of the approval by the General Assembly of programmes undertaken by the Economic and Social Council did not arise during the period under review since the General Assembly itself established all the new programmes: United Nations Volunteers, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, Special Programme, World Food Council and United Nations University.¹²⁸

C. The services

1. SERVICES PROVIDED BY SPECIALLY CREATED BODIES

47. In addition to several specially created bodies already in existence, during the reporting period the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council created, during the period covered, the United Nations Volunteers,¹²⁹ the United Nations Environment Programme,¹³⁰ the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation,¹³¹ the Special Programme¹³² and the World Food Council.¹³³

2. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES

48. During the period under review the General Assembly, also established a programme aimed at assisting Governments with their population activities.¹³⁴

**3. SERVICES OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

D. Eligibility for services

49. At its twenty-ninth session, the General Assembly made recommendations on the provision of technical assistance to the Territories still under Portuguese domination to assist them in attaining independence.¹³⁵

E. The request

1. THE FORMAL REQUEST

50. In creating the post of Disaster Relief Coordinator, the General Assembly requested the Coordinator to provide disaster relief at the request of stricken States.¹³⁶

51. In encouraging the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to advance knowledge and develop policy in crime prevention, the General Assembly stated that aid should be directed to Governments requesting it.¹³⁷

52. In the field of population activities, the Economic and Social Council indicated that the Secretary-General should assist Governments upon their request in carrying out population censuses in order to further policy development.¹³⁸

**2. SCOPE OF THE REQUEST

**3. OBLIGATIONS CONNECTED WITH THE REQUEST

¹²⁸See Sect. I.D.3-7.

¹²⁹See sect. I. D. 3.

¹³⁰See sect. I. D. 4.

¹³¹See sect. I. D. 5.

¹³²See sect. I. D. 6.

¹³³See sect. I. D. 7.

¹³⁴See section I. I.

¹³⁵G A resolution 3340 (XXIX).

¹³⁶See section I. D. (6).

¹³⁷See section I. E.

¹³⁸E S C resolution 1486 (XLVIII).