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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. The structure of this study follows the revised format instituted in *Supplement No. 6*, except that the sub-headings have been modified to conform to the nature of the supplementary material. Three sections have been added to the Analytical Summary of Practice to reflect the performance of technical assistance services by the Economic and Social Council in the fields of industrial development, trade and development, and energy and natural resources.
2. It should be noted that in dealing with those decisions of the Council which relate closely to the substance and phrasing of Article 66(2), namely the provision of services in the form of technical and material assistance and technical cooperation activities, this study provides relevant material concerning the context, origin, and development of various measures taken by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council that have a bearing on the actual performance of services to Governments, including policy and strategy measures and the broad outlines of the machinery and procedures set up for rendering assistance.

I. GENERAL SURVEY

3. During the period under review, there was no specific reference to Article 66(2). As in the past, there were a number of decisions relating to the performance of services to Member States at their request, the performance of services in new fields of activity and additional mechanisms. Some decisions continued the economic and social development policies identified by the Assembly and the Council during the period covered in Supplement No.7, while most others were taken in the context of newly identified development policies. For example, the implementation of the Amsterdam Declaration on A Better Life for Future Generations,¹² the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, the Convention on the Rights of the Child,³ the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination,⁴ and the United Nations Decade of International Law (1990-1999).⁵ In addition, some decisions were taken in the context of development policies targeted towards certain groups of countries or regions, including the New Programme of Action for the 1990s for the least developed countries, the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific (1985-1994),⁶ the Second

¹ A/C.2/44/6, annex.

² Signed by the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Organization team on 13 September 1993 in Washington D.C.

³ Adopted by G A resolution 44/25, entry into force on 2 September 1990.

⁴ The Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination was adopted by G A resolution 48/49 and began in 1993, the Programme of Action for the Third Decade was annexed to G A resolution 48/49.

⁵ G A resolution 44/23.

⁶ It may be recalled that the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994, was proclaimed by the General Assembly through its resolution 39/227 of 18 December 1984.

Industrial Development Decade for Africa (1991-2000), and the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangement.

A. How the Economic and Social Council performs its services

4. During the period under review, the Council did not depart from its previous practice in the performance of services to Governments. Thus, it continued to assist Member States through the machinery it considered to be most appropriate, including technical cooperation programmes and the creation of new bodies. With respect to administrative action, the usual procedure continued to be to request the Secretary-General to provide the services decided upon by the Council and the Assembly. In certain instances, the Council also referred the consideration of, and the arrangement for, services to its subsidiary organs, mainly the regional commissions in their respective fields of responsibility.

B. The approval of the General Assembly

5. As in the previous Supplements, the Assembly approved all decisions by the Council concerning the performance of services to Governments. The approval by the Assembly continued to be generally decided upon its review of the Council's annual reports.

6. It should be noted that, with regard to services in the field of human rights, the Assembly has adopted resolutions requesting the Secretary-General to respond favorably to requests from Member States for assistance in the establishment and strengthening of national institutions⁷ and has renewed its appeal to the competent organs and organizations of the United Nations system to provide the advice and assistance that may be requested by Governments to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.⁸

C. The services

1. SERVICES PROVIDED THROUGH TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMMES

7. At its session of 1989, the Council noted that 1990 would be the fortieth anniversary of multilateral technical cooperation for development within the United Nations system, which commenced with the establishment of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and the Special Fund and was later consolidated into UNDP.⁹ Thus, it decided to observe this anniversary, during United Nations Day at its forty-fifth session, in a manner benefiting the role and achievements of such cooperation.¹⁰

8. The Assembly emphasized, in its resolution 44/211, the need to increase and strengthen the promotion and implementation of technical co-operation among developing countries on a priority basis, through the rapid and full implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries,¹¹ in order to enhance the capacities and collective self-reliance of developing countries.¹² Pursuant to this

⁷ G A resolution 44/64.

⁸ G A resolution 45/172.

⁹ G A resolution 44/209.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ A/35/39 and Corr.1.

¹² G A resolution 44/211.

resolution, efforts were made by the United Nations system to revamp technical cooperation practices.¹³

9. A review of the steps taken was described in the report of the Secretary-General on operational activities for development in 1992.¹⁴ Such efforts, according to the report on the twenty-ninth session of the Committee for Development Planning, focused “on national capacity-building through national ownership and execution of operational activities of the system, as well as the programme approach and various institutional reform measures aimed at enhancing coordination and execution, such as internal coordination, coordination at the field level and decentralization of authority by the United Nations agencies to the field level,”¹⁵ and were a step in the right direction. However, the recipient Governments felt that

“[i]n practice, the United Nations system fails to exploit its advantages. They see United Nations assistance efforts as being bogged down by narrow vested interests of the various parts of the system, which results in salesmanship and turf squabbles and very standard types of projects that other organizations are more efficient in delivering. They feel that while in theory the United Nations system could ensure that the best possible and most relevant expertise is made available for development work, in practice reliance is placed on old-boy networks, depriving developing countries of the best and most dedicated persons available for development work.”¹⁶

10. In this light, the Assembly stressed the need for an overall improvement of the effectiveness and efficiency of the United Nations system in delivering its development assistance and recognized that the system had a role to play in assisting countries that were undergoing deep economic and social reforms.¹⁷ It also emphasized that the recipient Governments had “[t]he primary responsibility for coordinating, on the basis of national strategies and priorities, all types of external assistance ... in order to integrate the assistance into its development process.”¹⁸ Finally, it further stressed “[t]he need for the United Nations system to strengthen its capacity to provide policy and technical support and advice at the request of recipient countries”.¹⁹

2. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES

11. During the period under review, the provision of technical assistance by the Council to Member States, at their request continued to include the fields of public administration, human rights, narcotics control, crime prevention and control, international law, population activities, public infrastructure and sanitation, science and technology, transport and communications, and statistical services. In addition, technical assistance was extended into three new fields: industrial development, trade and development, and energy and natural resources.

12. The principal organs of the United Nations also provided technical assistance services to people in Colonial States as well as to newly independent and emerging countries. Mainly provided, were services in the field of human rights.

¹³ E/1994/22.

¹⁴ A/47/419.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁷ G A resolution 47/199.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁹ *Ibid.*

13. In the context of growing demands for disaster relief assistance on the various organs and bodies of the United Nations, the Assembly and the Council took several measures to review the emergency operations of the United Nations system. In consistence with the practice initiated under *Supplement 6*, the Council took a number of decisions in response to both natural and non-natural disasters as well as a number of emergency assistance measures in the economic, social and humanitarian fields.

****3. SERVICES OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

D. Eligibility for services

****1. MEMBER STATES**

****2. NON-MEMBER STATES**

****3. TERRITORIES**

4. OTHERS

14. During the period under review, the criteria for eligibility for services remained extended in order to provide for the needs of colonial peoples and their national liberation movements outside the system of Trust Territories as well as to assist newly independent and emerging states in the economic, social and other fields.

E. The request

1. THE FORMAL REQUEST

15. According to the terms of Article 66(2), services to Member States may be rendered only at their request. Under the decisions relating to technical assistance in the field of human rights, special attention was given to the form in which services were requested. For example, under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Committee on the Rights of the Child was requested to transmit, as it may consider appropriate, to the specialized agencies, the United Nations Children's Fund and other competent bodies, any reports from States Parties that contain a request, or indicate a need, for technical advice or assistance, along with the Committees observations and suggestions, if any, on these requests of indications.²⁰

16. Under the formulation of requests for electoral assistance, the Secretary-General provided the General Assembly with a set of guidelines for United Nations electoral assistance²¹ at its forty-seventh session. The guidelines were designed to assist Member States in formulating requests for such assistance and outlined the various types of assistance that might be provided and the conditions necessary for the United Nations to undertake such involvement. At its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a revised set of guidelines for consideration at its forty-ninth session; the revised guidelines were to reflect the experience gained over the last two years. The guidelines were provided in the annex of his report

²⁰ G A resolution 44/25, annex, article 45.

²¹ A/47/668/Add.1

on enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections.²² Although much of the information in the original guidelines remained valid, the revised guidelines included major changes in policy and procedure that reflect more recent experience.

****2. SCOPE OF THE REQUEST**

****3. OBLIGATIONS CONNECTED WITH THE REQUEST**

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

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

II. ANALYTICAL SUMMARY OF PRACTICE

**** A. United Nations Children's Fund**

B. Advisory welfare services

17. During the period under review, the Assembly, reaffirming the importance of the guiding principles for developmental social welfare policies and programmes in the near future²³ and of the follow-up to the Interregional Consultation on Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes, requested the Secretary-General to strengthen technical support and cooperation to Governments, especially those of developing countries, focusing on policy, planning, administration and training aspects of developmental social welfare²⁴ and in formulating appropriate social welfare policies so that effective programmes could be set up according to their needs.²⁵ The Council requested the Secretary-General to identify the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat as the focal point for social policy research and advisory services for countries undergoing economic and social policy adjustments.²⁶ The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General and the organizations of the United Nations system concerned, to continue to include the implementation of the Guiding Principles in their programmes of work.²⁷

18. In this light, the principal organs of the United Nations continued to take decisions regarding the Council's performance of advisory welfare services, mostly in developing countries. Mainly, both the Assembly and the Council took steps in the provision of assistance to lessen poverty and unemployment, prevent the hazards caused by disabilities, respond to the

²² A/49/675, annex III.

²³ The guiding principles were endorsed by Assembly resolution 42/125 and contained in the report of the Interregional Consultation on Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes (E/CONF.80/10).

²⁴ G A resolution 44/65 and 46/90.

²⁵ G A resolution 46/90.

²⁶ E S C decision 1991/227.

²⁷ G A resolution 46/90.

aging problem, strengthening national youth policies programmes, and the formulation of shelter strategies.

19. At its forty-fourth session, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to coordinate urgent appropriate actions for the formulation, in cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other multilateral bodies, of improved and enhanced action-oriented technical cooperation programmes for the eradication of poverty within the framework of the organizations of the United Nations system, in accordance with the policies, priorities and strategies of developing countries.²⁸ The Assembly also encouraged the international community, as well as the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to support the programmes of developing countries, including human resources development programmes, in order to strengthen endogenous technical capacities and generate opportunities for production and employment.²⁹ In addition, at its forty-seventh session, the Assembly invited the Secretary-General to make recommendations on ways and means by which the United Nations Secretariat could, within existing resources and without prejudice to ongoing activities, assist States in organizing their national activities for the observance of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.³⁰

20. With regard to disabled persons, in 1991, both the Assembly and the Council requested³¹ the Secretary-General to assist Member States in undertaking follow-up measures, especially training seminars, to promote the implementation of the Guidelines for the Establishment and Development of National Coordinating Committees on Disability of Similar Bodies.³² In this context, the Council urged the Secretariat, in particular the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development, and the specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and the United Nations Development Programme to play a major role in assisting Member States, in particular the least developed among them, to establish and strengthen national coordinating committees or similar bodies.³³ At its forty-seventh session, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to give higher priority and visibility to disability issues within the work programme of the United Nations system, to strengthen the leadership role of the United Nations as a promoter of technical cooperation activities, mainly by concentrating action and assistance in countries and regions that are most needy and paying special attention to especially vulnerable groups; and initiating model pilot projects, in partnership with all interested parties, to assist Member States in formulating comprehensive and coherent disability policies and feasible action plans, taking into account diverse socio-cultural factors and varying levels of economic development.³⁴ At its forty-eight session, the Assembly, under recommendation of the Council,³⁵ urged the Secretary-General to strengthen through redeployment of resources, the United Nations programme on disabled persons in order to enable it, in cooperation with Member States, bodies within the United

²⁸ G A resolution 44/212.

²⁹ G A resolution 46/141, 47/197.

³⁰ G A resolution 47/196.

³¹ E S C resolution 1991/8 and G A resolution 46/96.

³² See A/C.3/46/4, annex I. See also the report on the International Meeting on the Roles and Functions of National Coordinating Committees on Disability in Developing Countries. Beijing, 5-11 November 1990 (CSDHA/DDP/NDC/4).

³³ E S C resolution 1991/8.

³⁴ G A resolution 47/88.

³⁵ E S C resolution 1993/21.

Nations system, non-governmental organizations and other appropriate agencies, to extend technical assistance and disseminate information to enhance the capacity of Member States to develop, implement and evaluate their efforts to equalize opportunities and provide for the full inclusion in society of persons with disabilities.³⁶

21. With regard to the provision of assistance with regard to aging, the Council, in the context of the Second Review and Appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging,³⁷ urged the Aging Unit of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs to place special emphasis on developing expertise and providing technical assistance to, Member States on social and economic developmental issues related to aging.³⁸ Under this framework, at its forty-fifth session, the Assembly requested the Centre to provide, within existing resources, technical assistance to the African Society of Gerontology.³⁹

22. At its forty-sixth session, on recommendation of the Council,⁴⁰ the Assembly advised the United Nations to provide further advisory services to countries in the process of development, change and transition, at their request, to ensure that the issue of ageing remained an important part of their social development programmes.⁴¹ In addition, it adopted, based on the International Plan of Action on Ageing, the United Nations Principles for Older Persons.⁴²

23. The Council, in order to assist Member States in fully implementing the recommendations of the International Plan of Action on Ageing, called upon the Secretary-General to maintain the integrity and identity of the United Nations programme on ageing as well as the United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing. In this light, the Assembly urged Governments, specialized agencies and bodies of the United Nations system and interested non-governmental organizations to explore new approaches to supporting, through partnerships, the activities of the United Nations programme on ageing aimed at assisting Member States in selecting and reaching national targets and implementing the United Nations Principles for Older Persons.⁴³

24. Finally, in 1993 the Council urged the Secretary-General to strengthen, within existing resources, the research component of the United Nations programme on ageing in order to enable it, on the basis of approaches of the third review and appraisal and the project on developmental implications of population ageing, to develop policy and programme options for assisting Member States in achieving their national targets on aging for the year 2001 and in implementing the United Nations Principles for Older Persons.⁴⁴

25. With regard to the provision of assistance to Member States with regard to youth, the Council expressed that the United Nations agencies and bodies may be expected to provide appropriate support to the activities marking the tenth anniversary of International Youth Year

³⁶ G A resolution 48/95.

³⁷ E/82/I/16.

³⁸ E S C resolution 1989/50.

³⁹ G A resolution 45/106.

⁴⁰ E S C resolution 1991/10.

⁴¹ G A resolution 46/91.

⁴² Ibid., annex.

⁴³ E S C resolution 1993/22.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

and draft world programme of action for youth towards the year 2000 and beyond, at the level and in a manner corresponding to their respective mandates.⁴⁵ According to the Council, in planning their programmes for the period 1993-1994, among the various possibilities which might be considered, was to support Governments in strengthening their national youth policies programmes and strategies.⁴⁶

26. With respect to the provision of housing assistance, the Assembly, in the context of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000,⁴⁷ noted the support given to the Plan of Action of the Global Strategy⁴⁸ by donor Governments and international bodies and agencies in assisting Governments in the formulation of their national shelter strategies.⁴⁹ In addition, it urged⁵⁰ the organizations of the United Nations system, particularly the UNDP, and other multilateral and bilateral agencies to provide financial and other support to Governments for the implementation of the Plan of Action.⁵¹

C. World Food Programme

27. With the finality of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of food aid, the WFP continued to explore with other development agencies means of expanding the integration of food aid with other forms of external assistance, and was increasingly active in World Bank-led round tables in an attempt to foster that integration.⁵² While the WFP's assistance remained project-oriented, it attempted to devise better ways of determining in advance of project identification the most effective emphases for project food aid in support of national development programmes aimed at alleviating hunger and poverty. However, food aid kept being regarded as an "add on" to projects because WFP itself had historically been project-oriented, with most of its activities requiring project-by-project approval by its governing body.⁵³

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

28. The Assembly emphasized, in its resolution 44/211, the need to increase and strengthen the promotion and implementation of technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC) on a priority basis, through the rapid and full implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for

⁴⁵ E S C resolution 1993/24.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ It may be recalled that the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 was adopted during the previous period under review by G A resolution 43/181.

⁴⁸ A/43/8/Add.1.

⁴⁹ G A resolution 44/173.

⁵⁰ G A resolution 44/173, 46/163, and 48/178.

⁵¹ See e.g. A/43/8/Add.1 for the period 1989-1990; A/45/8/Add.1 for the period 1991-1992; and A/47/8/Add.1 for the period 1993-1994.

⁵² A/45/273 – E/1990/85.

⁵³ Ibid.

Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries,⁵⁴ in order to enhance the capacities and collective self-reliance of developing countries.⁵⁵ In addition, it reaffirmed the continued validity of all the recommendations of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the importance of TCDC, and the continued impact of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries as the principal forum in which representatives of all the States Members of the United Nations and other relevant bodies of the United Nations system, review and promote TCDC.⁵⁶

29. During the period under review, the Assembly also reaffirmed that, while developing countries have the primary responsibility for promoting technical cooperation among themselves, developed countries and the United Nations system should assist and support such activities and play a prominent role as promoter and catalyst of TCDC, in accordance with the Buenos Aires Plan of Action.⁵⁷ In this light, the Assembly, urged Member States, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to give high priority in their particular fields of activity to the support and promotion of activities of TCDC.⁵⁸

30. At its session of 1992, the Council called upon all parties in the development effort to make concerted, planned and vigorous endeavors to benefit from the utilization of the capacities of developing countries, by giving their full support and first consideration to the use of the modality of TCDC.⁵⁹ The Council also requested all parties to increase support activities aimed at enhancing awareness in government institutions, the private sector and non-governmental organizations of the modality of TCDC and invited all countries and organizations of the United Nations development system to review further their policies and practices to facilitate the use of TCDC in the design, formulation, implementation and evaluation of programmes and projects supported by them.⁶⁰

31. In this light, the Assembly stressed the need for an overall improvement of the effectiveness and efficiency of the United Nations system in delivering its development assistance and recognized that the system had a role to play in assisting countries that were undergoing deep economic and social reforms.⁶¹ In addition, it further stressed “[t]he need for the United Nations system to strengthen its capacity to provide policy and technical support and advice at the request of recipient countries”.⁶²

32. Thus, the Secretary-General described, in his report on operational activities for development of 1992,⁶³ a review of the steps taken to revamp technical cooperation practices. In 1993, he stated that the organizations of the United Nations system had reported an increased emphasis on activities in TCDC and nearly all of the responding organizations had reported

⁵⁴ A/Conf.79/13/Rev.1. It may be recalled, that the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries was endorsed by Assembly resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1978.

⁵⁵ G A resolution 44/211.

⁵⁶ G A resolution 44/222.

⁵⁷ G A resolutions 46/159 and 48/172.

⁵⁸ G A resolutions 44/222, 46/159, and 48/172.

⁵⁹ E S C resolution 1992/41.

⁶⁰ Ibid.

⁶¹ G A resolution 47/199.

⁶² Ibid.

⁶³ A/47/419.

having adopted or being in the process of adopting policies to accelerate the use of the modality of such cooperation, and stressing the role of the operational activities segment of the Economic and Social Council in monitoring the use of this modality.⁶⁴ At its forty-eighth session, the Assembly took note of this statement with satisfaction.⁶⁵

33. As for the future of TCDC, the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, at its seventh session, appreciated the importance of developing a strategy for the United Nations development system that would make the system in the 1990s more efficiently supportive of the endeavors of developing countries and their institutions in applying TCDC.⁶⁶ Such strategy paper was presented by the Administrator at the eighth session in 1993.⁶⁷ According to him, the specific thrusts of TCDC strategy in the 1990s were

“(a) The creation of a favourable environment for TCDC in developing countries by the adoption of clearly stated national policies on the priority attached to TCDC, the areas wherein it should be primarily applied; greater degree of appreciation of the potentials and comparative advantage of TCDC by development partners, particularly developing countries;

(b) Qualitative and quantitative improvement and expansion of the information and data on capacities existing in developing countries and easy access thereto;

(c) Wide application of the modality in the implementation of projects and programmes by rigorously implementing Economic and Social Council resolution 92/41;

(d) Strengthened national mechanisms for the promotion and application of TCDC;

(e) Expansion of opportunities to facilitate the launching of new cooperation activities through tested types of activities such as the matching of capacities and needs negotiations;

(f) Strengthening of institutions which carry out or have the potential to undertake significant TCDC activities.”⁶⁸

1. UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

34. As in the past,⁶⁹ the Assembly recalled the role of UNDP as the central funding mechanism for the UN system of technical cooperation⁷⁰ and urged it to take the lead in assisting developing countries in overcoming the problems encountered in their efforts to promote and implement activities in TCDC.⁷¹ In this light, the principal organs of the United Nations appealed to the UNDP to maintain the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, to take specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries, and to provide assistance for island developing countries. In addition, they welcomed UNDP’s example

⁶⁴ A/48/491.

⁶⁵ G A resolution 48/172.

⁶⁶ TCDC/8/4.

⁶⁷ Ibid.

⁶⁸ Ibid.

⁶⁹ See e.g. Supplements 6 and 7 under Article 66, D.1

⁷⁰ G A resolution 44/211.

⁷¹ G A resolution 46/159.

of extending special assistance to Namibia equivalent to that given to a least developed country by inviting the United Nations System and other donor agencies to follow this example.

35. With regard to the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, the Council considered the continuing need of African Governments for its services in the fields of training, research, and advisory services, was concerned with the possibility that the UNDP might withdraw its financing of it at the end of 1990, and acknowledged that it was the only regional Institute able to provide training and research services to all States members of the Economic Commission for Africa in the area of economic developing and planning.⁷² Thus, the Council appealed to the UNDP to help it to survive its financial crisis and, in particular, to give full backing to its research and advisory activities.⁷³

36. With reference to specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries, at its forty-sixth session, the Assembly requested the UNDP, as appropriate, to promote further subregional, regional, and interregional projects and programmes and to expand its support in the transport and communication sectors to the land-locked and transit developing countries and its technical cooperation for development geared towards promoting national and collective self-reliance among them.⁷⁴

37. In connection with the UNDP's provision of assistance for island developing countries and in the context of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,⁷⁵ the Assembly, *inter alia*, decided to establish a voluntary fund for the purpose of assisting small island developing States and the least developed countries to participate fully.⁷⁶ The Assembly also welcomed the preparation by the UNDP of studies on the feasibility of developing a technical assistance programme⁷⁷ and on an information network⁷⁸ for the small island developing States.⁷⁹ In addition, it invited the UNDP to initiate the implementation of the above-mentioned programme⁸⁰ by preparing a directory, as specified in paragraph 106 of the Conference Programme of Action,⁸¹ and undertaking further consultation with small island developing States and other interested parties to determine the most effective means of implementation, as well as to coordinate further interregional and intraregional consultations between relevant technical experts of small island developing States and other interested States, agencies and relevant organizations, to elaborate further the information network for small island developing States and determine the most effective means of implementing it, taking into account the requirements of the technical assistance programme⁸² and the Conference Programme of Action.⁸³

⁷² E S C resolution 1990/72.

⁷³ Ibid.

⁷⁴ G A resolution 46/212.

⁷⁵ A/CONF.167/9 and Corr. 1 and 2.

⁷⁶ G A resolution 47/189.

⁷⁷ A/49/459, annex.

⁷⁸ A/49/414, annex.

⁷⁹ G A resolution 49/122.

⁸⁰ A/49/459, annex.

⁸¹ A/CONF.167/9, resolution 1, annex II.

⁸² A/49/459, annex.

⁸³ A/CONF.167/9, resolution 1, annex II.

38. As for the provision of special assistance to Namibia, the Council took into account the decision adopted by the Governing Council of the UNDP⁸⁴ in which it decided to extend its special assistance during its fifth programming cycle (1992-1996) equivalent to that given to a least developed country. Thus, the Council invited States, organizations of the United Nations system and other donor agencies to grant Namibia for a number of years, assistance of a scope comparable to that given to a least developed country.⁸⁵ The Assembly, in its resolution 46/204, endorsed this decision.⁸⁶

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

3. UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS

39. During the period under review, the principal organs recognized the role of the United Nations Volunteers in the mobilization of resources oriented towards the provision of humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and technical cooperation for development.⁸⁷ In this light, the Assembly welcomed national initiatives, such as the establishment of a national volunteer corps called "White Helmets", undertaken in order to strengthen the stand-by capacity of developing countries, to support the United Nations activities in the area of humanitarian emergency assistance, as well as in the promotion of a smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation, reconstruction and development.⁸⁸

40. In addition, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Council at its next substantive session on ways and means of strengthening national and regional stand-by arrangements, including the establishment and full utilization of national volunteer corps, in the area of emergency humanitarian assistance, as well as in the promotion of a smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation, reconstruction and development, taking into account existing mandates and activities of the United Nations system.⁸⁹ In this context, the Assembly further invited the Secretary-General to include the results of his assessment of the potentials of the use of databases within the United Nations system to coordinate and facilitate the rapid provision of assistance by national volunteer corps to the United Nations system.⁹⁰

4. UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

41. In the context of international cooperation in the monitoring, assessment and anticipation of environmental threats and in assistance in cases of environmental emergency, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, assisted by the Executive Director of the United Nations

⁸⁴ Governing Council of the UNDP decision 91/14.

⁸⁵ E S C resolution 1991/50.

⁸⁶ G A resolution 46/204.

⁸⁷ G A resolution 49/139.

⁸⁸ Ibid.

⁸⁹ Ibid.

⁹⁰ Ibid.

Environment Programme, to prepare a report⁹¹ containing proposals and recommendations on possible ways and means to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations to assist Governments facing environmental emergencies, at their request.⁹²

** 5. HABITAT AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

** 6. SPECIAL PROGRAMME

** 7. WORLD FOOD COUNCIL

**8. UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY

**9. NATIONAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY CAPABILITY PROGRAMME

E. Technical assistance in the field of public administration

42. During the period under review, the principal organs took several decisions with respect to technical assistance in public administration. Steps were taken to assure technical advice, mainly to Governments of developing countries, in public administration and finance, in setting up and strengthening independent and effective judicial systems, in implementing codes of conduct and standard minimum rules, in strengthening the rule of law, and in the holding of elections.

43. In the context of the Tenth Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance, the Council decided that meetings on this subject should focus on current issues in public administration and finance with a view to providing timely technical advice to developing countries. Specifically, special attention was to be accorded, *inter alia*, to assisting Governments, as requested, in strengthening policy formulation processes by improving, in particular, government budgeting and accounting systems.⁹³

44. In this regard, the Secretary-General reported to the Council that the Eleventh Meeting of Experts had also suggested that the United Nations provide technical assistance, where appropriate, to (a) programmes to orient those appointed to government positions from outside government; (b) top policy seminars at which ministers and civil servants from different countries with similar problems could share experiences and strategies; (c) specialist training for those involved in implementing "management accountability systems", specifically including line

⁹¹ G A resolution 44/224.

⁹² Ibid.

⁹³ E S C decision 1989/114.

managers; and (d) development of a framework "code of ethics" for public service which countries could then adapt for their own needs.⁹⁴

45. In addition, the Secretary-General reported that the Eleventh Meeting had recommended that the United Nations provide technical assistance in the field of taxation and budgeting to Governments in developing countries as well as to intensify its efforts to assist Governments in transnational economies through technical assistance concerning improved public administration, finance and information systems, and a stronger "enabling environment" for private sector and enterprise development.⁹⁵ Finally, the Secretary-General noted that the Eleventh Meeting was satisfied with the continuous growth of technical cooperation activities in public administration and finance, which underlined the importance of management in development and reflected the increasing priority attached by Governments to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of public sector management.⁹⁶

46. With respect to the provision of assistance to Governments in setting up and strengthening independent and effective judicial systems, the Council adopted the Procedures for the Effective Implementation of the Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary.⁹⁷ Procedure 11, stated that

As a part of its technical cooperation programme, the United Nations, in particular the Department for Technical Cooperation for Development of the Secretariat and the United Nations Development Programme, shall:

- (a) Assist Governments, at their request, in setting up and strengthening independent and effective judicial systems;
- (b) Make available to Governments requesting them, the services of experts and regional and interregional advisers on judicial matters to assist in implementing the Basic Principles;
- (c) Enhance research concerning effective measures for implementing the Basic Principles, with emphasis on new developments in that area;
- (d) Promote national and regional seminars, as well as other meetings at the professional and non-professional levels, on the role of the judiciary in society, the necessity of its independence, and the importance of implementing the Basic Principles to further those goals;
- (e) Strengthen substantive support for the United Nations regional and interregional research and training institutes for crime prevention and criminal justice, as well as other entities within the United Nations system concerned with implementing the Basic Principles.⁹⁸

47. In addition, according to Procedure 12, the "United Nations regional and interregional research and training institutes for crime prevention and criminal justice as well as other concerned entities within the United Nations system shall assist in the implementation process. They shall pay special attention to ways and means of enhancing the application of the Basic

⁹⁴ E/1994/56.

⁹⁵ Ibid.

⁹⁶ Ibid.

⁹⁷ E S C resolution 1989/60

⁹⁸ Ibid., annex.

Principles in their research and training programmes, and to providing technical assistance at the request of the Member States.”⁹⁹

48. As for the provision of assistance to Governments in the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials, the Council adopted the Guidelines for the Effective Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials.¹⁰⁰ According to paragraph 6 of the Guidelines:

6. The United Nations, as part of its advisory services and technical cooperation and development programmes, shall:

(a) Make available to Governments requesting them the services of experts and regional and interregional advisors to assist in implementing the provisions of the Code;

(b) Promote national and regional training seminars and other meetings on the Code and on the role and functions of law enforcement officials on the protection of human rights and the prevention of crime.¹⁰¹

49. With respect to the administration of juvenile justice, the Council requested the Secretary-General to provide the necessary technical assistance to Member States, particularly the developing countries, in implementing the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (Beijing Rules), developing projects and evaluating achievements.¹⁰² In this light, it called upon the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development of the Secretariat and the United Nations Development Programme to support projects of technical assistance, to cooperate in promoting activities in the field of juvenile justice, and to invite other funding agencies within and outside of the United Nations system to provide financial support for programmes relating to the administration of juvenile justice.¹⁰³ It also requested the United Nations regional commissions and institutes for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders to intensify efforts to promote the Beijing Rules, both in their work programmes and their project and advisory activities.¹⁰⁴

50. With regard to the provision of assistance in strengthening the rule of law, the Assembly, at its forty-eighth session, recalled that it was decided at the World Conference on Human Rights that a comprehensive programme be established within the United Nations and under the coordination of the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat, with a view to helping States in the task of building and strengthening adequate national structures which have a direct impact on the overall observance of human rights and the maintenance of the rule of law. Thus, it expressed its conviction that such a programme should be able to provide, upon the request of the interested Government, technical and financial assistance for the implementation of national plans of action as well as specific projects for the reform of penal and correctional establishments and the

⁹⁹ Ibid., annex.

¹⁰⁰ E S C resolution 1989/61.

¹⁰¹ Ibid., annex.

¹⁰² E S C resolution 1989/66.

¹⁰³ Ibid.

¹⁰⁴ Ibid.

education and training of lawyers, judges and security forces in human rights, and in any other sphere of activity relevant to the good functioning of the rule of law.¹⁰⁵

51. At its forty-sixth session, the Assembly noted with appreciation the advisory services and technical assistance provided by the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat as well as the technical assistance provided by the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development of the Secretariat and UNDP to some Member States, including those in transition to democracy, at their request, and invited those bodies to continue and intensify these efforts as requested.¹⁰⁶ In addition, it endorsed the view of the Secretary-General that he should designate a senior official in the Offices of the Secretary-General to act as a focal point for the handling of requests of Member States organizing elections, and requested the Secretary-General to designate such an official.¹⁰⁷ Thus, it requested that the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat as well as the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development of the Secretariat and UNDP collaborate closely with the senior official designated by the Secretary-General and inform him or her of the assistance provided and activities undertaken by them in the area of electoral assistance.¹⁰⁸ The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to notify the competent organ of the United Nations upon receipt of official requests from Member States for electoral verification and, upon the direction of that organ, to provide appropriate assistance.¹⁰⁹

52. At its forty-seventh and forty-eighth sessions, the Assembly reaffirmed that there was no universal need for the United Nations to provide electoral assistance to Member States, except in special circumstances such as cases of decolonization, in the context of regional or international peace processes or at the request of specific sovereign States, by virtue of resolutions adopted by the Security Council or the General Assembly in each case, in strict conformity with the principles of sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States.¹¹⁰ It also noted the increase in requests for electoral assistance by Member States, commending the electoral assistance provided by the Organization and requesting the Secretary-General to take further steps to support States which request assistance by, *inter alia*, enabling the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in accordance with his mandate and through the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat, to support democratization activities as related to human rights concerns, including, *inter alia*, human rights training and education, assistance for human rights-related legislative reform, strengthening and reform of the judiciary, assistance to national human rights institutions and advisory services on treaty accession, reporting and international obligations as related to human rights.¹¹¹ The Assembly further commended the programmes of assistance carried out by the United Nations Development Programme for civil service reform and for governance, and especially those for strengthening participation and linkages between concerned sectors of society and Governments.¹¹²

¹⁰⁵ G A resolution 48/132.

¹⁰⁶ G A resolution 46/137.

¹⁰⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁹ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁰ G A resolutions 47/130, 48/124, and 49/180.

¹¹¹ G A resolutions 47/138 and 49/190.

¹¹² G A resolution 49/190.

53. During the period under review, specific electoral assistance was provided to Haiti and Liberia. In the case of Haiti, the Assembly took note of the letters dated 23 June¹¹³ and 9 August 1990,¹¹⁴ from the President of the Provisional Government of the Republic of Haiti to the Secretary-General, in which the President requested assistance from the United Nations in order to achieve the peaceful and efficient development of the coming electoral process.¹¹⁵ According to the Assembly, “an increase in technical, economic and financial cooperation, when constitutional order is restored in Haiti, is necessary to support its economic and social development efforts in order to strengthen its democratic institutions”.¹¹⁶ In addition, it requested the Secretary-General, in cooperation with regional organizations and Member States, to provide the broadest possible support to the Government of Haiti in meeting, to the extent possible, the following requests:

- (a) A nucleus of some fifty observers that would arrive in Haiti prior to voter registration and would leave only after the elections;
- (b) Reinforcement of the nucleus at the time of elections and voter registration, bringing the total to a few hundred observers;
- (c) Assistance to the Co-ordinating Committee for the security of the elections, to be provided by two or three advisers;
- (d) Observation of the implementation of the electoral security plans by specialized staff, that is, by observers, the number of whom remains to be determined, with solid experience in the public order field;¹¹⁷

54. In the case of Liberia, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to coordinate the work of the United Nations system and to mobilize financial, technical and other assistance for the holding of democratic elections and the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Liberia.¹¹⁸

55. During the period under review, the principal organs of the United Nations also took decisions on the provision of other services in the field of public administration to several individual countries or regions. Steps were therefore taken to assist Cambodia, Haiti, Liberia, Palestine and Rwanda.

56. At its forty-eighth session, the Assembly welcomed the establishment in Cambodia of an operational presence of the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat to continue to assist with the training of persons responsible for the administration of justice.¹¹⁹ While, at its forty-ninth session, it urged the international community and governmental and non-governmental organizations to increase their technical, economic and financial cooperation with Haiti in support of its economic and social development efforts and in order to strengthen Haitian institutions

¹¹³ A/44/965 and Corr.1, annex.

¹¹⁴ A/44/973, annex.

¹¹⁵ G A resolution 45/2.

¹¹⁶ G A resolution 46/7.

¹¹⁷ G A resolution 45/2.

¹¹⁸ G A resolution 49/21.

¹¹⁹ G A resolution 48/154.

responsible for dispensing justice and guaranteeing democracy, respect for human rights, political stability and economic development.¹²⁰

57. At its forty-ninth session, the Assembly welcomed the efforts of the government of Rwanda to restore the rule of law and to reconstruct the Rwandese justice system. Thus, it invited Member States, the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to intensify their efforts to provide technical and financial assistance for the administration of justice, particularly to ensure the independence and impartiality of the judiciary, and welcomed in this regard the efforts of the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat to assist the Ministry of Justice of Rwanda.¹²¹ The Assembly also invited Member States, the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to intensify their efforts to provide technical and financial assistance to the system of law enforcement in Rwanda, including police training, and welcomed in this regard the assistance being provided by the Assistance Mission to the Government of Rwanda in its efforts to establish a new integrated police force.¹²²

58. Finally, also in its session of 1994, the Council stressed the need for the full engagement of the United Nations in the process of building Palestinian institutions and in providing broad assistance to the Palestinian people, including assistance in the fields of elections, police training and public administration.¹²³ In this light, the Council called upon relevant organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to intensify their assistance in response to the urgent needs of the Palestinian people in accordance with the Palestinian priorities set forth by the Palestinian Authority with emphasis on national execution and capacity-building.¹²⁴

F. Technical assistance in certain fields relating to human rights

59. During the period under review, both the Assembly and the Council continued to promote the work of the United Nations in the field of human rights. Mainly, decisions were taken with regard to the development of public information activities, and the implementation, promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms set forth under the international instruments on human rights. In this light, the principal organs requested the promotion of additional national institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights and the provision of assistance to States in the context of regional human rights arrangements and in the field of the administration of justice.

60. With regard to public information activities, the Assembly noted at its forty-fourth and forty-fifth sessions the special value, under the advisory services and technical assistance programme in the field of human rights, of regional and national training courses and workshops, in cooperation with Governments and other entities, in promoting education and awareness in the field of human rights.¹²⁵ At its forty-fourth plenary meeting the Council approved the request of

¹²⁰ G A resolution 49/27.

¹²¹ G A resolution 49/206

¹²² Ibid.

¹²³ E S C resolution 1994/29.

¹²⁴ Ibid.

¹²⁵ G A resolutions 44/61 and 45/99.

the Commission on Human Rights (the Commission) for the Secretary-General to establish a list of forensic experts, and experts in related fields, which could be required to help Governments and the Centre for Human Rights (the Centre) in providing technical and advisory services.¹²⁶ In this light, the Assembly encouraged the Centre to continue to develop training courses and materials and to disseminate human rights information materials as part of its technical assistance projects.¹²⁷

61. In the context of the implementation, promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms set forth under international instruments, during the period under review, the principal organs of the United Nations requested the Secretary-General to intensify the programme of advisory services in order to assist States in the implementation of the Covenants on Human Rights¹²⁸ and other international instruments. The Council and the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to encourage more States to become parties to the Covenants,¹²⁹ and the Assembly repeatedly advised him to assist States in their reporting obligations by producing a reporting manual, as well as to report regularly to the Commission regarding possible technical assistance projects.¹³⁰

62. At its forty-fifth session the Assembly welcomed the adoption by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of General Comment No. 2 (1990)¹³¹ regarding the

¹²⁶ E S C decision 1993/263.

¹²⁷ G A resolution 49/187.

¹²⁸ International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights adopted by G A resolution 2200A (XXI) U.N. Doc. A/6316 (1966), 999 U.N.T.S. 171 entry into force 23 March 1976, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights adopted by G A resolution 2200A (XXI) U.N. Doc. A/6316 (1966), 993 U.N.T.S. 3 entry into force 3 January 1976.

¹²⁹ G A resolutions 44/130 and 48/119 and E S C resolutions 1990/45, 1991/33 and 1992/11.

¹³⁰ G A resolutions 44/135, 45/85 and 46/111.

¹³¹ International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights adopted by G A resolution 2200A (XXI) U.N. Doc. A/6316 (1966), 993 U.N.T.S. 3 entry into force 3 January 1976. General Comment No. 2 on Article 22 adopted by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights at its Fourth session, found in Supplement No. 3, Annex III, E/1990/23:

"1. Article 22 of the Covenant establishes a mechanism by which the Economic and Social Council may bring to the attention of relevant United Nations bodies any matters arising out of reports submitted under the Covenant "which may assist such bodies in deciding, each within its field of competence, on the advisability of international measures likely to contribute to the effective progressive implementation of the ... Covenant". While the primary responsibility under article 22 is vested in the Council, it is clearly appropriate for the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to play an active role in advising and assisting the Council in this regard.

"2. Recommendations in accordance with article 22 may be made to any 'organs of the United Nations, their subsidiary organs and specialized agencies concerned with furnishing technical assistance.' The Committee considers that this provision should be interpreted so as to include virtually all United Nations organs and agencies involved in any aspect of international development cooperation. It would therefore be appropriate for recommendations in accordance with article 22 to be addressed, *inter alia*, to the Secretary-General, subsidiary organs of the Council such as the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission on Social Development and the Commission on the Status of Women, other bodies such as UNDP, UNICEF and CDP, agencies such as the World Bank and IMF, and any of the other specialized agencies such as ILO, FAO, UNESCO and WHO. ...

"5. On the broader issues of the promotion of respect for human rights in the context of development activities, the Committee has so far seen only rather limited evidence of specific efforts by United Nations bodies. It notes with satisfaction in this regard the initiative taken jointly by the Centre for Human Rights and UNDP in writing to United Nations Resident Representatives and other field-based officials, inviting their "suggestions and advice, in particular with respect to possible forms of cooperation in ongoing projects [identified] as having a human rights dimension or in new ones in response to a specific Government's request". The Committee has also been informed of long-standing efforts undertaken by ILO to link its own human rights and other international labour standards to its technical cooperation activities.

provision of technical assistance in relation to article twenty-two of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. However, in 1992, the Council continued to express concern that many States were not fulfilling their reporting obligations set forth under the treaties. To this end, the Council noted at its plenary session of 1992 that certain States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural rights had not yet made an initial report and, therefore, suggested that these States make use of the advisory services and assistance available through the Centre to aid in the preparation of these initial reports.¹³²

63. At its forty-eighth session, the Assembly invited the Committees of the International Covenants to identify the needs of States parties that could be addressed through the services of the Centre and also encouraged the Secretary-General to assess mechanisms for assisting States with their reporting obligations; these could include workshops to train local officials.¹³³ In this light, at its forty-ninth session, the Assembly requested that the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights report on possible assistance projects identified by the treaty bodies.¹³⁴

64. Regarding national institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights, the Assembly, at its forty-sixth session, requested the Centre to establish United Nations centres for human rights documentation and training within the procedures of the resources available within the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Advisory Services and Technical Assistance in the Field of Human Rights.¹³⁵ In this context, at its forty-eighth session, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to assist in strengthening national institutions and national centres for human rights documentation and training.¹³⁶ Furthermore, at its forty-seventh session, the Assembly recognized that there had been an increase in requests from Governments regarding advisory services and assistance and, therefore, noted the growing importance of these services for the international community.¹³⁷

65. Also during its forty-eighth session, the Assembly decided that the High Commissioner for Human Rights would be the principal official for human rights activities and that his/her duties would include the provision of advisory services and technical assistance to States through the Centre.¹³⁸ In the subsequent year, at its forty-ninth session, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General make available additional financial resources to the High Commissioner for

“... ”

“10. Finally, the Committee wishes to draw attention to the important opportunity provided to States parties, in accordance with article 22 of the Covenant, to identify in their reports any particular needs they might have for technical assistance or development cooperation.”

¹³² E S C decision 1992/260 and G A resolution 49/178. The States listed in E S C decision 1992/260 were: Bolivia, Central African Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Gambia, Guinea, Kenya, Lebanon, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka and Suriname.

¹³³ G A resolution 48/119.

¹³⁴ G A resolution 49/178.

¹³⁵ G A resolution 46/124.

¹³⁶ G A resolution 48/134.

¹³⁷ G A resolution 47/127.

¹³⁸ G A resolution 48/141.

Human Rights and the Centre in order to enhance each office's ability to provide advisory services and technical assistance.¹³⁹

66. The principal organs of the United Nations also examined several other issues in detail. Regarding the issue of racism and racial discrimination, the Council and Assembly continued to take decisions on providing advice and assistance by United Nations through the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination; in fact, the decision was made to extend the mandate of the Second Decade by authorizing the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. Resolutions taken regarding both decades specifically addressed the issue of assistance towards the eradication of apartheid in South Africa. The principal organs also took decisions regarding the advancement and preservation of the rights of women. In this context, many decisions were made regarding the provision of advisory services and technical assistance through the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women. The Assembly and Council also addressed the issue of human rights in relation to minorities (specifically in the context of indigenous peoples) and children, through the provision of assistance for the implementation of the International Covenant on the Rights of the Child. Additionally, there were many requests for advice and assistance from individual member States that the Council and Assembly considered. Finally, the principal organs continued to examine the implementation of the Declaration of Granting Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and specifically took decisions regarding the provision of advice and assistance to specific Territories and newly independent States, front-line States and to States regarding the dissemination of information on decolonization. In that light, the Assembly and Council again took many decisions regarding the provision of assistance to South Africa in order to enable that State to make a smooth transition from apartheid to a democratic system of governance that assures racial equality.

67. In the context of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination,¹⁴⁰ the Assembly decided at its forty-fifth session that the United Nations should intensify efforts to provide assistance and relief to the victims of racism, racial discrimination and apartheid (especially in South Africa and the occupied territories).¹⁴¹ In continuation of the efforts made through the Second Decade, and noting that the principal objectives of the Second Decade had not been met, the Assembly decided at its forty-eighth session to create a Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination¹⁴² and that efforts for assistance and relief should intensify under this decade.¹⁴³ Further to the Third Decade, the Assembly, at its forty-ninth session, reaffirmed that racist doctrines, including ethnic cleansing, are among the most serious human rights violations and adopted the revised Programme of Action for the Third Decade to make the Third Decade more effective and action-oriented. The Programme of Action highlighted the provision of assistance to States to enable them to act effectively, including assisting in the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.¹⁴⁴ The Programme also recommended that the United Nations work

¹³⁹ G A resolution 49/195.

¹⁴⁰ For a complete discussion of the Second Decade see Repertory 66(2) Supplement 6. G A resolution 38/14.

¹⁴¹ G A resolution 45/105.

¹⁴² The Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination was adopted by G A resolution 48/49 and began in 1993, the Programme of Action for the Third Decade was annexed to G A resolution 48/49.

¹⁴³ G A resolution 48/91 and 49/146.

¹⁴⁴ 660 United Nations Treaty Series 195, entered into force 4 January 1969.

with regional organizations to assist States in enacting national legislation against racial discrimination and applying the international conventions.¹⁴⁵

68. With regard to the general condition of women, in 1989 the Council requested that the World Health Organization assist Governments in ensuring that women are provided with health care and that women are involved in the design of health care services. Furthermore, the Council requested that the Secretary-General provide assistance in the formation of networks of disabled women to reinforce self-help groups.¹⁴⁶ In 1990, the Council noted the Special Plan on Economic Cooperation for Central America¹⁴⁷ and suggested the Secretary-General support the advancement of women through this organ.¹⁴⁸ Also in 1990, the Council took special note of the situation of Palestinian women and requested the organizations of the United Nations system assist in their income-generating activities including the creation of a women's centre.¹⁴⁹ In this light, in 1992, the Council recommended the promotion of small-scale industry, vocational training and legal consultation centres in the occupied territories.¹⁵⁰ Furthermore, in 1993 the Council recommended that United Nations organs provide financial assistance to Palestinian women to foster projects that aid in women's full integration in society.¹⁵¹

69. At its forty-fifth session the Assembly took consideration of the needs of women in regards to literacy and requested that the United Nations assist States in targeting resources to women to eliminate illiteracy. Additionally, the Assembly, at its forty-fifth session, encouraged the United Nations Development Fund for Women to share its experiences regarding the human development dimension in technical cooperation.¹⁵² In 1991, the Council recommended the strengthening of substantive and technical support for the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women during 1992-1993 by the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs.¹⁵³ In 1992 and 1993, the Council requested the Centre Against Apartheid strengthen its cooperation with the Division for the Advancement of Women in order to create specific assistance programmes for South African women.¹⁵⁴ In this context, in 1993, the Council recommended that all the specialized agencies of the United Nations assist in the provision of shelter, access to legal advice, counseling, and medical and financial support to women who are the victims of violence. Further to the issue of the victims of violence, the Council recommended that the specialized agencies of the United Nations assist countries in the improvement of police training to enable police to quickly and efficiently respond to all calls for assistance.¹⁵⁵ The Assembly, at its forty-ninth session, also addressed the issue of violence towards women in the context of the war in the former Yugoslavia by encouraging United Nations organs to provide the necessary assistance to victims for their physical and mental rehabilitation as well as extending support to the community-based assistance programmes.¹⁵⁶

¹⁴⁵ G A resolution 49/146.

¹⁴⁶ E S C resolution 1989/37.

¹⁴⁷ Adopted by G A resolution 42/231 by the recommendation of G A resolution 42/204.

¹⁴⁸ E S C resolution 1990/7.

¹⁴⁹ E S C resolution 1990/11.

¹⁵⁰ E S C resolution 1992/16.

¹⁵¹ E S C resolution 1993/15.

¹⁵² G A resolution 45/128.

¹⁵³ E S C resolution 1991/25.

¹⁵⁴ E S C resolutions 1992/15 and 1993/13.

¹⁵⁵ E S C resolution 1993/26.

¹⁵⁶ G A resolution 49/205, the specific UN bodies mentioned were: United Nations Children's Fund, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Health Organization.

70. In the context of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women (the Forward-Looking Strategies),¹⁵⁷ the Assembly, at its forty-fourth session, called upon the organizations of the United Nations to assist Governments in their monitoring and implementation of the Forward-Looking Strategies.¹⁵⁸ In 1990 the Council adopted the recommendations and conclusions from the first review of the Forward-Looking Strategies, which encouraged Governments to establish national machinery by 1995 to disseminate information about the situations of women. This resolution also stressed that the United Nations should support, as a priority activity, national machinery by providing technical assistance and services regarding management, training methods, and evaluation and acquisition of information to States.¹⁵⁹ The Council, in 1991, and the Assembly, at its forty-seventh session, emphasized that assistance should be given to national machinery.¹⁶⁰ In 1991 the Council also stressed that the Secretary-General should make available a regional advisor to assist national machinery in carrying out the review and appraisal of the Forward-Looking Strategies and preparing reports for the World Conference on Women in 1995.¹⁶¹

71. In the context of minorities, at its forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions the Assembly requested the Centre to provide advisory services and technical assistance on minority issues to States and to assist in the resolution of disputes and potential situations involving minorities.¹⁶² To this end, at its forty-ninth session the Assembly requested that the Secretary-General provide additional technical assistance and advisory services to the Centre.¹⁶³

72. Specifically in light of the rights of indigenous peoples, at its forty-sixth session the Assembly annexed the Programme of Activities for the International Year for the World's Indigenous People,¹⁶⁴ which included provisions for the United Nations to increase cooperation and technical assistance towards the solution of problems faced by indigenous people and explore new areas of cooperation and assistance on this subject. The Programme also specified that United Nations bodies provide technical assistance to Governments regarding the promotion and implementation of new legislation protecting the human rights of indigenous peoples.¹⁶⁵

73. In the context of the rights of the child, at its forty-fifth session the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to assist in the promotion, distribution of information and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child¹⁶⁶ in order to promote further ratification of the

¹⁵⁷ These Strategies were adopted at the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women, which was held in 1985 and provided a policy framework for advancing the status of women to the year 2000. See G A resolution 40/108 (13 December 1985) and G A resolution 41/111 (4 December 1986).

¹⁵⁸ G A resolution 44/171.

¹⁵⁹ E S C resolution 1990/15.

¹⁶⁰ E S C resolution 1991/22 and G A resolution 47/95.

¹⁶¹ E S C resolution 1991/22.

¹⁶² G A resolutions 48/138 and 49/192.

¹⁶³ G A resolution 49/192.

¹⁶⁴ The International Year for the World's Indigenous People was proclaimed through G A resolution 45/164 and originally recommended through E S C 1990/248.

¹⁶⁵ G A resolution 46/128.

¹⁶⁶ Adopted by G A resolution 44/25, entry into force on 2 September 1990.

Convention by States.¹⁶⁷ The Assembly later, in both its forty-seventh and forty-ninth sessions, requested all bodies of the United Nations to intensify efforts to disseminate information on the Convention and to assist Governments in its implementation.¹⁶⁸

74. In the context of the provision of human rights assistance to States on an individual basis, the Council and Assembly continued to take decisions regarding the provision of services to Governments in order to guarantee the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms worldwide. Decisions in this area aimed at providing assistance to States in order to enable them to meet their obligations under the international human rights implements and providing advice and assistance to Governments through United Nations special representatives or independent experts. For example, the Council at its plenary session of 1993 approved the Commission's request to appoint a special representative to assist the Government of Cambodia in the promotion and protection of human rights.¹⁶⁹ Also in regard to Cambodia, the Assembly at its forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions, noted that the Centre for Human Rights in Cambodia was given the task of managing the implementation of educational and technical assistance and advisory services programmes and assisting the Government in meeting its obligations under the human rights instruments, including preparation of reports.¹⁷⁰ The Assembly also requested, at its forty-ninth session, that the Centre assist in the creation of an independent national institution for the promotion and protection of human rights in Cambodia.¹⁷¹

75. In the context of the Dominican Republic, the Council at its plenary session of 1992, took note of the decision of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights¹⁷² to send one or two members to advise the Government in its efforts to comply with the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in reference to the large-scale evictions that were included in the Committee's report.¹⁷³

76. In the case of El Salvador, the Assembly requested that competent United Nations organs advise and assist the Government to promote and protect human rights.¹⁷⁴ Similarly, the Council, in 1992, approved of the Commission's request for an independent expert who would provide assistance in human rights matters to the Government and analyze the situation in reference to the Peace Agreements and the Assembly, at its forty-seventh session, appointed an expert to that end.¹⁷⁵ In that vein, the Council at its plenary session of 1993 approved the Commission's request to extend the designation of the expert for an additional year.¹⁷⁶

¹⁶⁷ G A resolution 45/104.

¹⁶⁸ G A resolution 47/112 and 49/211.

¹⁶⁹ E S C decision 1993/254. This decision also notes Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/6 of 19 February 1993 (E/1993/23 and Corr.2 and 4).

¹⁷⁰ G A resolutions 48/154 and 49/199.

¹⁷¹ G A resolution 49/199.

¹⁷² See Committee's General Comment No. 4 (E/1992/23 annex III):

¹⁷³ E S C decision 1992/261.

¹⁷⁴ G A resolution 44/165.

¹⁷⁵ E S C decision 1992/237 and G A resolution 47/140. The Council's decision and the Assembly's resolution made reference to the Commission's resolution 1992/62 of 3 March 1992 (E/1992/22).

¹⁷⁶ E S C decision 1993/284. The Council's decision made reference to the Commission's resolution 1993/93 of 10 March 1993 (E/1993/23 and Corr. 2 and 4).

77. In regard to Georgia, the Council, at its plenary session of 1993, approved the Commission's request for the provision of support and technical assistance to the Government. Furthermore, the Council approved the provision of advisory services in the realm of legislation, constitutional and institutional matters to enable the implementation of international human rights standards.¹⁷⁷

78. In the context of the provision of assistance to Guatemala, the Council, at its plenary session of 1992, approved the Commission's request to extend the mandate of the independent expert to enable him to continue examining the human rights situation and providing assistance to the Government in the field of human rights.¹⁷⁸

79. With respect to Paraguay, the United Nations provided technical assistance in various areas of cooperation, human rights being one of the first areas in which such assistance was provided. In April 1990 the Government of Paraguay, the Centre, and the UNDP concluded their first technical cooperation agreement in the field of human rights;¹⁷⁹ its primary objectives were: (a) to identify assistance and cooperation needs in this field; (b) to determine areas of cooperation; and (c) to define procedures for its execution.¹⁸⁰

80. During the forty-fourth session, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General and specialized agencies and organs of the United Nations continue to provide assistance to newly independent and emerging States.¹⁸¹ In this light, in 1991, the Council requested the specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations strengthen existing measures and formulate additional programmes of assistance to the remaining Territories.¹⁸²

81. During the period under review, the Assembly recognized the need of newly independent and emerging States for assistance from the United Nations in the economic, social and other fields.¹⁸³ Furthermore, the Assembly and Council noted that it was the responsibility of the specialized agencies of the United Nations to implement resolutions relating to the extension of assistance, requiring the system provide assistance to both the peoples of the Territories and to their national liberation movements towards this end.¹⁸⁴ In this light, the principal organs requested that the specialized agencies continue and intensify programmes of assistance to Territories and newly independent states.¹⁸⁵ The Assembly in its forty-fifth and forty-seventh sessions also specified that that the executive heads of specialized agencies and other United

¹⁷⁷ E S C decision 1993/281. The Council's decision made reference to the Commission's resolution 1993/85 of 10 March 1993 (E/1993/23 and Corr. 2 and 4).

¹⁷⁸ E S C decision 1992/246. The Council's decision made reference to the Commission's resolution 1992/78 of 5 March 1992 (E/1992/22).

¹⁷⁹ PAR/90/003/01/99.

¹⁸⁰ E/CN.4/1994/78/Add.1.

¹⁸¹ G A resolution 44/101.

¹⁸² E S C resolution 1991/68.

¹⁸³ G A resolutions 44/101, 45/34, 46/71, 47/23, 48/52, and 49/89.

¹⁸⁴ G A resolutions 45/18, 47/16 and 48/47 and E S C resolutions 1992/59 and 1993/55.

¹⁸⁵ E S C resolution 1992/59 and G A resolution 47/16.

Nations organs should submit proposals for the implementation of specific programmes of assistance to their governing and legislative organs.¹⁸⁶

82. In the context of apartheid in South Africa, at its forty-eighth session the Assembly urged the specialized agencies and organs of the United Nations to work in coordination in their assistance to the Territories and also to increase support for forces working for the transformation of South Africa into a united, democratic and non-racial society. In this light, during the period under review, the Assembly and Council stated that the specialized agencies and organs of the United Nations should take measures to withhold assistance of any kind from the apartheid regime in South Africa until a democratic State had been created and instead should support the opponents of apartheid to ensure its speedy end. Similarly, in regard to the Action for Resisting Invasion, Colonialism and Apartheid Fund, at its forty-fifth and forty-seventh sessions, the Assembly invited the specialized agencies and organs of the United Nations to cooperate with the Action to provide emergency assistance to the front-line States and national liberation movements struggling against apartheid.¹⁸⁷

83. At its forty-seventh session, the Assembly noted that Security Council resolutions¹⁸⁸ provided the basis for the Secretary-General to act in assisting the people of South Africa to end racial violence.¹⁸⁹ In this context, during the Assembly's forty-eighth session and during the Economic and Social Council's 1993 session, the organs requested that the agencies and organizations of the United Nations increase humanitarian and legal assistance to the victims of apartheid.¹⁹⁰

84. In light of special assistance to front-line states, the principal organs of the United Nations reaffirmed the provisions of the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa especially the provisions relating to assistance to front-line States.¹⁹¹ In this context, the Council and Assembly stressed that this assistance would enable the rebuilding of economies and enable those economies to withstand further acts of aggression by South Africa.¹⁹²

G. Technical assistance in the field of narcotics control

85. During the period under review, the principal organs of the United Nations took decisions seeking to support Member States in the promotion and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and the Global Programme of Action against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of

¹⁸⁶ G A resolutions 45/18 and 47/16.

¹⁸⁷ G A resolutions 45/18 and 47/16.

¹⁸⁸ The Security-Council resolutions that provided the basis for the Secretary-Generals action were resolutions 765 (1992) of 16 July 1992 and 772 (1992) of 17 August 1992.

¹⁸⁹ G A resolution 47/82.

¹⁹⁰ E S C resolution 1993/55 and G A resolution 48/47.

¹⁹¹ G A resolutions 45/224, 47/16 and E S C resolutions 1991/68 and 1992/59. G A resolution 45/224 refers to Security Council resolutions 568 (1985) of 21 June 1985, 571 (1985) of 20 September 1985 and 581 (1986) of 13 February 1986 in which the Council, inter alia, requested the international community to render assistance to the front-line States.

¹⁹² E S C resolution 1991/68 and G A resolution 47/16.

narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Decisions were also taken with respect to the provision to Governments, by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (Programme), of assistance in the implementation of drug control conventions, in the training of personnel responsible for applying new laws, in establishing control mechanisms for international trade in psychotropic substances, and in the development and implementation of national strategic plans to combat drug abuse.

86. With respect to the implementation of conventions and programmes of action, in 1989, both the Assembly and the Council requested the Secretary-General to provide assistance to States, at their request, to enable them to establish the legislative and administrative measures necessary for the application of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.¹⁹³ The Assembly also called upon the United Nations and its relevant bodies and specialized agencies, other relevant intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to extend their cooperation and assistance to States in the promotion and implementation of the Global Programme of Action¹⁹⁴ against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.¹⁹⁵

87. With regard to the provision of services by the Programme, the Assembly, at its forty-seventh and forty-ninth sessions, requested the Programme to continue to provide legal assistance to Member States that request it, in the adjustment of their national laws, policies and infrastructures to implement the international drug control conventions, as well as in the training of personnel responsible for applying the new laws.¹⁹⁶ It also expressed its satisfaction at the programme of regional legal workshops initiated by the Programme to assist States in identifying limitations in their legal capacity to implement the relevant international conventions fully and in developing appropriate measures and arrangements to overcome such limitations.¹⁹⁷

88. At its 1993 session, the Council called upon Governments of States with experienced national drug control administrations and the Programme to provide support such as training and information systems to States that require assistance in establishing effective control mechanisms for international trade in psychotropic substances.¹⁹⁸ In this connection, the Council requested the Programme, in cooperation with the Customs Cooperation Council, to provide advice and technical expertise to States in developing measures aimed at identifying movements of illicit drugs, particularly before export and while in transit.¹⁹⁹ Finally, the Council requested the Programme to give priority to assisting countries in the development and implementation of national strategic plans to combat drug abuse, fully integrating efforts to reduce supply and demand.²⁰⁰ For this purpose, it reaffirmed the request that the Programme disseminate, through the database of the International Drug Abuse Assessment System, the information on demand reduction received from Governments, specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, in such a way as to assist

¹⁹³ E S C resolution 1989/13 and G A resolution 44/140.

¹⁹⁴ Resolution S-17/2, annex.

¹⁹⁵ G A resolutions 45/148, 46/102, 47/102, 48/112, and 49/168.

¹⁹⁶ G A resolutions 47/97 and 49/168.

¹⁹⁷ G A resolution 47/97.

¹⁹⁸ E S C resolution 1993/38.

¹⁹⁹ E S C resolution 1994/4.

²⁰⁰ E S C resolution 1993/35.

Governments and the organizations concerned in developing their policies to reduce demand, in providing technical support to Member States in the submission of data, and in implementing quality-control measures.²⁰¹

H. Technical assistance in the field of crime prevention and control

89. As in the past, the Assembly and Council continued to take a number of decisions regarding the assistance rendered to States in the areas of criminal justice and crime prevention and control. During the period under review, the principal organs concerned themselves with a number of issues including: the implementation of the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (and preparations for the Ninth Congress); the findings and the role of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control (the Committee); various issues of cooperation and assistance implemented through the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch; and international legal instruments and findings regarding the issue of crime prevention and criminal justice.

90. With regard to the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, at its forty-fourth session the Assembly invited the Council to give consideration to the report of the Committee, which stressed assisting States in developing self-reliant and adequate law enforcement and judicial structures through human resources development, the reinforcement of national machinery, the promotion of human rights, the organization of joint training activities and the development of pilot and demonstration projects.²⁰² Subsequently, at its forty-fifth session, the Assembly again emphasized the urgent need to be responsive to the Eighth Congress' call for strengthening the operational aspects of the United Nations programme of work in crime prevention and criminal justice.²⁰³ By the same resolution, at its forty-fifth session, the Assembly urged the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development, UNDP and other United Nations bodies to give full support to projects of technical assistance, particularly to developing countries, in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.²⁰⁴ In this context, in 1991 the Council requested the Secretary-General to pay attention to the operational aspects of the resolutions of the Eighth Congress in order to assist States in promoting human resources development, training activities and executing pilot and demonstration projects; furthermore, the Council invited the UNDP and the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development and other relevant entities to consider increasing support to these endeavors.²⁰⁵ In 1992, the Council noted that resolution 7 of the Eighth Congress requested the Department of Technical Cooperation and Development to provide assistance to States for anti-corruption and corruption control outreach.²⁰⁶

91. Furthermore, in preparation for the Ninth Congress, the Council, in 1994, requested the Secretary-General to invite Member States to consultations regarding possible technical

²⁰¹ Ibid.

²⁰² G A resolution 44/72.

²⁰³ G A resolution 45/121.

²⁰⁴ G A resolution 45/121.

²⁰⁵ E S C resolution 1991/15.

²⁰⁶ E S C resolution 1992/23.

cooperation projects and recommended that the introductory session on technical cooperation projects be held prior to convening the workshops at the Ninth Congress.²⁰⁷ The Council, through this resolution, went on to invite the Ninth Congress to consider ways of developing and refining forms of technical cooperation to States through the provision of advisory services, training research programmes and the development of working manuals.²⁰⁸ The Council further invited the Ninth Congress to consider practical methods for promoting the exchange of experiences in order to ensure coherence in international assistance efforts.²⁰⁹ The Council then requested the Ninth Congress to consider violence against women and children as a separate topic and to propose recommendations to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice²¹⁰ in respect to legislation, procedures, policies, practices, and technical cooperation and assistance. Lastly the Council invited the Congress to take into account the guidelines for cooperation and technical assistance in the field of urban crime prevention (see note 78).²¹¹

92. During the period under review, the principal bodies took a number of decisions regarding the role and activities of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch (the Branch) and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme (the Programme). The Assembly and Council discussed the overall role of these bodies, their provision of technical assistance to States and the Statement of Principles and Programme of Action of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme (contained in resolution 46/152 of the Assembly) but also discussed a variety of specific topics. The institutional capacity of both the Programme and the Branch were discussed at length and decisions in this regard were taken on the infrastructure, funding and staffing of both organs. Other topics of considerable interest were the role of United Nations institutes and affiliated institutes, the cooperation and coordination of Branch or Programme projects with other agencies and the role of joint strategies and initiatives.

93. In regard to the general functions and role of the Programme and the Branch, the Assembly, at its forty-sixth session, and the Council, in 1992 and 1993, decided that the Programme should be devoted to providing States with practical assistance, such as data collection, information and experience sharing and training, in order to achieve the goal of preventing crime and improving the response to crime.²¹² Also in 1992 the Council reaffirmed the request of the Assembly to the Secretary-General to: plan, implement and evaluate crime preventions and criminal justice assistance projects and serve as a facilitating agent with the aim of preventing crime while promoting security, justice and human rights; ensure more effective cooperation with States through the United Nations Criminal Justice Network; and strengthen interregional and advisory services in crime prevention and criminal justice.²¹³ The Council, in 1992, noted the report of the Secretary-General²¹⁴ on the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations for the

²⁰⁷ E S C resolution 1994/19.

²⁰⁸ E S C resolution 1994/19.

²⁰⁹ E S C resolution 1994/19.

²¹⁰ Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was established by the Economic and Social Council by E S C resolution 1992/1 of 6 February 1992 as a subsidiary body of the Council to replace the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control.

²¹¹ E S C resolution 1994/19.

²¹² G A resolution 46/152. and E S C resolutions 1992/22 and 1993/34.

²¹³ E S C resolution 1992/22.

²¹⁴ E/CN.15/1992/6.

Ministerial Meeting on the Creation of an Effective United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme.²¹⁵

94. Furthermore, the Council in 1993 stated that the Programme should provide necessary operational perspectives to States and that these would assist States in modernizing their criminal justice systems.²¹⁶ Further to this resolution, the Assembly, at its forty-eighth session, reaffirmed the importance of the Programme and its crucial role in assisting States to achieve the goals of preventing crime and improving the response to crime.²¹⁷

95. During the period under review, the principal bodies took many decisions regarding the broad range of technical assistance activities being taken in the field of criminal justice and crime prevention through the Programme and the Branch. The Assembly, at its forty-fourth session, encouraged intergovernmental organizations to cooperate with the Secretariat in forming and implementing technical cooperation projects in crime prevention and criminal justice, to allocate adequate resources for these assistance projects and to increase their support to interregional and regional institutes for the prevention of crime and treatment of offenders.²¹⁸ In 1990 the Council invited United Nations funding agencies, especially the UNDP and Department of Technical Cooperation, to support technical cooperation programmes, which seek to establish projects for the provision of services to victims of crime.²¹⁹ Further, in 1990, the Council recommended the establishment of a comprehensive programme of work in order for the United Nations to deal with its function of policy and standard setting, as well as its function to serve as a clearing-house for assistance projects, and that this programme should include the provision of technical advisory services to Member States at their request.²²⁰ In this light, the Assembly, at its forty-fifth session, requested the Secretary-General to develop technical cooperation programmes, including interregional advisory services, with a view to enhancing the role for education in the operation of crime prevention criminal justice.²²¹

96. In 1992 the Council recalled previous resolutions, which had requested the Secretary-General to explore new ways of providing technical cooperation to developing countries and to develop concrete projects of technical cooperation, promote education, training and public awareness in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.²²² Further, in 1992, the Council recalled the note by the Secretary-General²²³ on strengthening international cooperation in crime prevention and criminal justice, including technical cooperation in developing countries.²²⁴ In this light, the Council, through this same resolution in 1992, stated that it was determined to respond to the increasing requests from Governments for technical cooperation and advisory services in crime prevention and criminal justice and was convinced that operational activities and technical assistance should occupy a prominent place in the United Nations activities in this

²¹⁵ E S C resolution 1992/22.

²¹⁶ E S C resolution 1993/34.

²¹⁷ G A resolution 48/103.

²¹⁸ G A resolution 44/72.

²¹⁹ E S C resolution 1990/22.

²²⁰ E S C resolution 1990/24.

²²¹ G A resolution 45/122.

²²² E S C resolution 1992/22.

²²³ E/CN.15/1992/4 and Add.3 and 4.

²²⁴ E S C resolution 1992/22.

field.²²⁵ The Council, also in 1992, encouraged Governments to avail themselves of the technical assistance services of the Programme, as well as those provided by the Secretariat.²²⁶ Regarding the priorities of the Commission, given the need of developing countries for technical assistance,²²⁷ the Council, in 1992, 1993 and 1994, determined that the objectives of the Commission should be to concentrate the majority of its resources on the provision of training, advisory services and technical cooperation.²²⁸

97. Furthermore, in 1992 and 1993, the Council stated that an additional objective of the Commission should be to offer practical assistance and to implement special operational activities and advisory services upon request; in this respect the Council specified that the Secretariat should place an emphasis on serving as a broker or clearing-house for the provision of these services.²²⁹ The Council then, in 1992, urged that the Department of Economic and Social Development, the UNDP and other funding agencies to give full support to technical assistance projects in crime prevention and criminal justice, and to encourage technical cooperation in these fields with developed and developing countries. Further the Council, at that time, decided that the Commission should include a standing item on technical assistance on their agenda.²³⁰

98. Further to the issue of technical assistance, the Council, in 1993, requested the Secretary-General to establish a support system for developing countries that would ensure that the costs of membership in the United Nations Criminal Justice Information Network and transmission costs were covered.²³¹ In 1993 the Council requested the Secretary-General to consider undertaking technical assistance activities in the field of environmental crime through the Programme, and for the Secretary-General to include environmental crime as an issue for technical cooperation and to this end to establish a roster of experts in the field of environmental crime. Furthermore, through this resolution, the Council called upon the bodies concerned to provide requesting Member States with technical cooperation in the field of environmental crime.²³²

99. The Assembly, at its forty-ninth session, recognized that operational activities and technical assistance should continue to receive priority attention among United Nations activities in crime prevention and criminal justice.²³³ In this light, the Council in 1994 requested the Secretary-General to establish a database on technical assistance, collaborative arrangements and funding; this database would integrate the needs of Member States.²³⁴

²²⁵ E S C resolution 1992/22. This resolution noted that these recommendations were taken in the light of the recommendations of the Ministerial Meeting on the Creation of an Effective United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, held in Paris from 21 to 23 November 1991.

²²⁶ E S C resolution 1992/22.

²²⁷ The Council laid out a number of priority themes for the Commission in their development of a detailed budget including: national and transnational crime, organized crime, economic crime, role of criminal law in protecting the environment, crime prevention in urban areas, juvenile crime, violent criminality, efficiency and fairness in the management of criminal justice and related systems, strengthening national capacities, and collation and analysis of data in the development and implementation of appropriate policies.

²²⁸ E S C resolutions 1992/22, 1993/34 and 1994/22.

²²⁹ E S C resolutions 1992/22 and 1993/34.

²³⁰ E S C resolution 1992/22.

²³¹ E S C resolution 1993/34.

²³² E S C resolution 1993/28.

²³³ G A resolution 49/158.

²³⁴ E S C resolution 1994/22.

100. During the period under review, the principal bodies took a great number of decisions regarding the institutional capacities of the Programme and the Branch, including infrastructure, funding and staffing issues. In 1989, the Council noted with concern the shortage of staff of the Branch, which included a shortage of people to prepare reports and technical cooperation, and thus reiterated its request to the Secretary-General to increase the number of regular posts to the Branch and strengthen the professional capacity of the Branch in order to support the interregional advisory services and follow-up recommendations made at the State level.²³⁵ The Assembly at its forty-fourth session requested the Secretary-General to ensure the level of human and financial resources of the Branch were sufficient for it to carry out its tasks, including the provision of assistance to States.²³⁶

101. The Council, again in 1994, took note of the report of the Secretary-General²³⁷ on technical cooperation and advisory services of the Programme, which included the mobilization of resources, and further requested him to provide resources to the Programme and to ensure adequate support for interregional advisory services.²³⁸ Further, the Council, through this resolution, requested the Secretary-General respond actively to requests from States by formulating specific projects and also requested him to provide the Programme with adequate human and financial resources to support its technical assistance activities, especially in those fields deemed to be of high priority according to previous resolutions.²³⁹ In this light, at its forty-seventh and forty-ninth sessions the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide adequate funds to build and maintain the institutional capacity of the Programme and respond to requests from Member States for assistance in this field.²⁴⁰

102. The Council and Assembly, during the period under review, took many decisions regarding the provision of assistance through the institutes of the United Nations and affiliated institutes, in the field of criminal justice and crime prevention. The Council, in 1989, encouraged the intensification of cooperation between United Nations and its regional and interregional institutes and requested that special attention be paid to the provision of technical assistance to Member States upon their request.²⁴¹ In this light, the Council, in 1989, requested the Secretary-General, in cooperation with interregional institutes, regional commissions and relevant agencies, to intensify operational aspects of the Programme through the formation and implementation of technical assistance projects on specific crime prevention and criminal justice issues.²⁴² Furthermore, through this resolution the Council invited United Nations funding agencies²⁴³ to continue providing financial support for regional and interregional institutes for crime prevention and criminal justice in order to assist them in carrying out their technical cooperation

²³⁵ E S C resolution 1989/68.

²³⁶ G A resolution 44/72.

²³⁷ E/CN.15/1994/6.

²³⁸ E S C resolution 1994/22.

²³⁹ E S C resolution 1994/22.

²⁴⁰ G A resolution 47/191 and 49/158.

²⁴¹ E S C resolution 1989/63.

²⁴² E S C resolution 1989/68.

²⁴³ Agencies mentioned were the UNDP and the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development. The resolution also mentioned that the World Bank, United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, and UNICEF should support projects in this field.

programmes.²⁴⁴ Also through this resolution, the Council invited the regional commissions to increase their activities related to crime prevention and criminal justice by establishing closer ties with regional institutes and designating focal points to coordinate technical cooperation activities undertaken both in the region and at national levels; in this context the Council requested the Secretary-General provide necessary resources to the institutes for the provision of assistance.²⁴⁵

103. The Council in 1989, and again in 1994, found that the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders should undertake activities on a continuous basis to respond to the needs of African States and also invited the international community to respond positively to the need for assistance and support which would enable the Institute to fulfil its mandate.²⁴⁶ The Assembly, at its forty-fifth session, specified that programmes of technical and scientific co-operation regarding criminal justice should be directed towards an upgrading of the human and technical resources in all sectors of the system in order to stimulate technical assistance to States. Further the Assembly stipulated at this time that this assistance should be provided in close co-operation with the United Nations regional and interregional institutes for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders competent non-governmental organizations.²⁴⁷

104. Through this same resolution, as well as at its forty-fifth session, the Assembly noted that these regional and interregional institutes of the United Nations should develop their research, training and technical assistance capacities in order to meet the growing requests from developing countries for technical and scientific assistance. The Assembly went on to state that United Nations entities should actively assist regional and interregional institutes and in particular should assist the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.²⁴⁸

105. Regarding cooperation and coordination of United Nations bodies through the work of the Programme and the Branch, the Council, in 1989, urged the Secretary-General to seek increased support for interregional advisory services and to provide interregional and regional advisors to States as soon as resources permitted.²⁴⁹ Furthermore, the Assembly, at its forty-fifth session noted that collaborative ties should be strengthened in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice between the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the Secretariat, the UNDP, the World Bank and other relative entities in order to ensure adequate resources for technical cooperation activities in crime prevention and criminal justice.²⁵⁰ The Council, in 1992, requested the Secretary-General to strengthen cooperation regarding the technical advisory services of the Centre for Human Rights and the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat.²⁵¹ Also the Council, in 1994, requested the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to assist the Branch in the formulation and execution of technical assistance projects in areas of mutual

²⁴⁴ E S C resolution 1989/68.

²⁴⁵ E S C resolution 1989/68.

²⁴⁶ E S C resolutions 1989/59 and 1994/21.

²⁴⁷ G A resolution 45/107.

²⁴⁸ G A resolution 45/107.

²⁴⁹ E S C resolution 1989/68.

²⁵⁰ G A resolution 45/107.

²⁵¹ E S C resolution 1992/22.

concern.²⁵² The Council, also in 1994, recognized the need to fight both urban and juvenile crime and transnational crime through the provision of technical assistance to States and also stressed that providing technical assistance through advisory services and training programmes is effective in intensifying international cooperation.²⁵³

106. In a similar context, the principal bodies took a number of decisions regarding joint strategies of the Programme and the Branch with other bodies of the United Nations and joint strategies between States regarding crime prevention and criminal justice. During its forty-fifth session the Assembly noted, in regard to the Programme, that more effective and responsive international mechanisms were needed to assist countries in facilitating joint strategies for crime prevention and criminal justice.²⁵⁴

107. Then, in 1992, the Council recalled that it was desirable to assist States in improving their capacity to face the challenge of criminality by fostering new courses of action and collaborative ties and assistance through mutually supportive partnerships with the Programme and the United Nations institutes.²⁵⁵ In this light, at its forty-ninth session, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General facilitate the creation of joint initiatives and the joint formulation and implementation of technical assistance projects benefiting developing countries as establishing and maintaining efficient criminal justice systems is an essential component of development efforts; the Assembly specified that these initiatives should involve interested donor countries and funding agencies, such as the UNDP and the World Bank.²⁵⁶

108. The principal bodies continued, during the period under review, to take decisions regarding the provision of assistance and advisory services regarding the legal aspects of crime prevention and criminal justice. Specific legal issues addressed were various treaties regarding crime prevention and criminal justice, implementation of United Nations standards and norms, implementation of instruments to combat urban crime and the growing importance of enacting legal mechanisms to combat transnational organized crime, and the proceeds from organized crime.

109. In the context of treaties, the Assembly, at its forty-fifth session, adopted several treaties on the basis that they could serve as useful framework in assisting States in negotiating bilateral and multilateral agreements aimed at improving cooperation in crime prevention and criminal justice.²⁵⁷ In some cases the Assembly also requested the Committee, where requested by States,

²⁵² E S C resolution 1994/16.

²⁵³ E S C resolution 1994/22.

²⁵⁴ G A resolution 45/108.

²⁵⁵ E S C resolution 1992/22.

²⁵⁶ G A resolution 49/158.

²⁵⁷ Treaties include: the Model Treaty on Extradition in G A resolution 45/116, the Model Treaty on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, and its Optional Protocol, in G A resolution 45/117, the Model Treaty on the Transfer of Proceedings in Criminal Matters in G A resolution 45/118 and the Model Treaty on the Transfer of Supervision of Offenders Conditionally Sentenced or Conditionally Released in G A resolution 45/119.

to provide guidance and assistance to States in the development of legislation that would give effect to the obligations negotiated on the basis of these treaties.²⁵⁸

110. The Assembly and Council also took many decisions regarding the issue of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice during the period under review. In 1989 the Council encouraged the development of strategies for the implementation of United Nations standards and guidelines, in crime prevention and criminal justice, and of measures to assist States, at their request, in this implementation. Furthermore, at this time, the Council noted the use of advisory services (of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, the Centre for Human Rights and the Branch) to States in order to evaluate the impact of United Nations standards.²⁵⁹

111. In 1990 the Council called upon the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control to make recommendations to the Council on further action needed for the effective implementation of existing standards, on the basis of the proposals made at the pre-sessional working group, taking into account the following issues: measures to increase the level of support for programmes of technical cooperation and advisory services to permit more effective implementation and the need of many States for technical assistance to fulfil their expanded reporting obligations.²⁶⁰

112. In 1993 and 1994, the Council requested the Secretary-General assist Member States, at their request, in implementing existing United Nations standards and strengthen and coordinate activities in this field (including the provision of advisory services, training programmes and fellowships) with a view to undertaking and strengthening joint programmes and developing collaborative mechanisms.²⁶¹ In this context, the Council, in 1994, requested the Secretary-General to provide assistance to Member States in reforming their law enforcement and judicial penal systems and to continue cooperative training courses to assist Member States (at their request) with the use and application of United Nations standards and norms (especially through the organization of seminars for the training of trainers).²⁶²

113. In 1992 the Council, reaffirmed the request of the Assembly to the Secretary-General²⁶³ to strengthen the programme with an emphasis on designing, implementing and monitoring technical cooperation projects at the national regional and subregional levels, in order to devote greater attention to assisting States, upon their request: the Secretary-General should address those requests from States through technical cooperation, particularly in relation to law reform and the elaboration of criminal codes and improving national policies concerning crime prevention and criminal justice strategies and assisting with the practical implementation of United Nations standards norms and guidelines.²⁶⁴

²⁵⁸ See the Model Treaty on Extradition in G A resolution 45/116 and the Model Treaty on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, in its Optional Protocol, in G A resolution 45/117.

²⁵⁹ E S C resolution 1989/63.

²⁶⁰ E S C resolution 1990/21.

²⁶¹ E S C resolutions 1993/34 and 1994/18. The resolution in 1994 specifically mentioned joint activities with United Nations entities, institutes and non-governmental organizations.

²⁶² E S C resolution 1994/18.

²⁶³ G A resolution 46/152.

²⁶⁴ E S C resolution 1992/22.

114. The principal organs took decisions regarding the issue of assistance to States on the issue of new legal instruments and technical cooperation arrangements regarding urban crime. The Council, in 1993 and 1994, took note of the proposed guidelines for cooperation and technical assistance in the field of urban crime prevention (contained in the annex to both resolutions) which aimed at making urban crime prevention more effective.²⁶⁵ In this context, the Council in 1993 requested the Secretary-General to disseminate the proposed guidelines for cooperation and technical assistance in the field of urban crime prevention as widely as possible (with a view to their being examined by the Commission),²⁶⁶ and subsequently, in 1994, the Council transmitted the guidelines to the Ninth Congress for consideration.²⁶⁷ Through this same resolution in 1994 the Council requested the Commission to finalize the guidelines and called upon the UNDP and other United Nations organizations and international financial institutions to give appropriate consideration to the inclusion of urban crime prevention projects in their assistance programmes.²⁶⁸

115. The Proposed Guidelines for Cooperation and Technical Assistance in the Field of Urban Crime Prevention (the Proposed Guidelines) discussed many complex issues involving urban crime. The Proposed Guidelines noted that because of the multiplicity of factors and forms of urban crime, such an approach should involve: a local diagnostic survey of crime phenomena, their characteristics, factors leading to them, the form they take and their extent; the identification of all relevant actors could take part in compiling the information for the diagnostic survey would include public institutions, local elected officials, the private sector, the voluntary sector, and community representatives among others; establishment of consultation mechanisms promoting closer liaison, exchange of information, joint work and design of a coherent strategy; and the elaboration of possible solutions to these problems in a local context.²⁶⁹

116. The Proposed Guidelines went on to state that cooperation should include creating an integrated crime prevention action plan and that in order to be efficient this plan should: define the nature and types of crime problems to be tackled, taking into account all the factors that may directly or indirectly cause or contribute to such problems; define the objectives being pursued, and the time by which they should be attained; define the action envisaged and the responsibilities of those involved vis-à-vis the implementation of the plan; involve a range of actors from the social, community, economic and media sectors; consider the relevance of various factors to the plan; and consider providing action at various levels including primary prevention, prevention of recidivism, diversification of methods of treatment and of measures taken according to the nature and seriousness of the cases, systematic research on the reintegration of offenders through the implementation of non-custodial measures, socio-educational support within the framework of the sentence, aid and socio-educations support once the sentence had been served, and the protection of victims by practical improvements in their treatment. In addition, the Proposed Guidelines stated that competent authorities at all levels should be mindful and respectful of the fundamental principles of human rights in promoting these activities, encourage and implement appropriate training and information to support all professionals

²⁶⁵ E S C resolutions 1993/27 and 1994/20.

²⁶⁶ E S C resolution 1993/27.

²⁶⁷ E S C resolution 1994/20.

²⁶⁸ E S C resolution 1994/20.

²⁶⁹ E S C resolution 1994/20.

involved in crime prevention, compare experiences and exchanges of know-how, and also provide a means of evaluating regularly the effectiveness of the strategy and provide for the possibility of revising it.²⁷⁰

117. Regarding the legal aspect of combating transnational organized crime, Council' resolution 1992/23 contained the Recommendation of the Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Strategies to Deal With Transnational Crime (the Recommendation)²⁷¹ in its annex, stating, *inter alia*, that efforts should be made to gather information on corruption and anti-corruption strategies with a view to assisting Governments to combat corruption and providing a basis for formulating more effective policies to deal with corruption. The Recommendation also noted that training and technical assistance were needed regarding corruption control through not only repression but also prevention and education.

118. The Recommendation stated that the Programme should develop new mechanisms, procedures, conventions and institutions to combat crime and assist Governments in the reduction of domestic crime. This assistance to States could include: gathering and analyzing data on the incidence of crime and the efficacy of the response to crime; preventing crime and assisting victims; enhancing the criminal justice process, through improved methods for the investigation of crime and developing pre-trial, trial and appellate review procedures; and improving the administration of sentences the reintegration of offenders and the control of recidivism. The assistance to States could also include the intensification of technical cooperation and the development of technical assistance projects benefiting developing countries. The Recommendation further stated that special consideration should be given to strengthening the operational capacity of the Programme and its interregional advisory services to ensure the use of modern technology by all Member States and that efforts should be made to create regional advisers on crime prevention and criminal justice in close contact with the regional institutes.

119. Further to the issue of organized crime, the Council, in 1993, addressed the issue of the proceeds of transnational organized crime. In this vein, the Council requested the Branch, in cooperation with other United Nations bodies and relevant entities, to consider responding to requests for assistance from states in developing guidelines for the detection, investigation and prosecution of those who launder the proceeds of crime and also provide information to assist financial institutions in detecting, monitoring and controlling suspicious transactions, thereby prohibiting the proceeds of crime from entering the legitimate economy.

120. Further to this issue, the Council, through the same resolution, suggested the elaboration of training material (for use in providing practical assistance to States) and the provision of technical assistance to States in: drafting, revising and implementing relevant legislation; in organizing special investigation teams; and in training law enforcement, investigative and prosecutorial judicial personnel.²⁷² In this context, in 1994, the Council invited States to avail themselves of the advisory services and practical assistance available through the Programme and requested the Secretary-General, in cooperation with interested States and other organizations, to assist States

²⁷⁰ E S C resolution 1994/20.

²⁷¹ Held at Smolenice, Czechoslovakia from 27 to 31 May 1991.

²⁷² E S C resolution 1993/30.

in elaborating model curricula and manuals for legal education regarding various aspects of prevention and control of the laundering of the proceeds of crime and the control of such proceeds.²⁷³

121. In further regard to the issue of organized crime, the Council, in 1994, stated that technical assistance was indispensable in the prevention of organized crime and it therefore requested the Secretary-General to provide, upon request, advisory services and practical assistance to States in adopting legislation, amendments or other measures, and also to upgrade the skills of their criminal justice personnel, in order to prevent and control organized transnational crime.²⁷⁴ The Council furthermore requested the Assembly to conduct regional workshops and training programmes on specific aspects of organized transnational crime in accordance with Member States' needs.²⁷⁵

I. Technical assistance in the field of population activities

122. With regard to the provision of services in the field of population activities, the principal organs of the United Nations took several decisions on assistance in the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action. Steps were also taken in the provision of United Nations support to countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific.

123. In the context of the World Population Plan of Action,²⁷⁶ adopted by the International Conference on Population,²⁷⁷ the Council, in its session of 1989, requested the Secretary-General to continue to strengthen interdisciplinary technical cooperation activities in the field of population, including technical cooperation among developing countries, as appropriate, in the following areas:

- (i) Training in demography and matters related to population and development, including courses to upgrade knowledge and skills, particularly in the use of microcomputer software;
- (ii) Evaluation and analysis of basic population data, particularly from the 1990 round of population censuses, dissemination and utilization of the results and use of computer technology, ensuring technical coordination at the national level in the process;
- (iii) Formulation and implementation of population policies and programmes in the context of national development plans, with special attention to cultural and socio-economic conditions at the sub-national level.²⁷⁸

²⁷³ E S C resolution 1994/13.

²⁷⁴ E S C resolution 1994/12.

²⁷⁵ E S C resolution 1994/12.

²⁷⁶ Report of the United Nations World Population Conference, Bucharest, 19-30 August 1974 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.XIII.3), chap. I.

²⁷⁷ Report of the International Conference on Population, Mexico City, 6-14 August 1984 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.XIII.8 and corrigenda), chap. I, sect. B.

²⁷⁸ E S C resolution 1989/93.

124. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to continue to evaluate and analyze experience with technical cooperation activities in the field of population and publish studies thereon.²⁷⁹

125. At its forty-fifth session, the Assembly reaffirmed that assistance to developing countries in the area of population should be substantially increased during the 1990s and that developing countries should also intensify their efforts to allocate adequate resources to population programmes.²⁸⁰ In this regard, it urged Governments of developed countries, as well as concerned international, regional and non-governmental organizations, to strengthen their financial and technical support in the areas of health and education, to respond positively to requests for population assistance and to increase significantly the proportion of their development assistance destined for population activities.²⁸¹ It also stressed the desirability of concentrating the United Nations Population Fund resources, in accordance with the criteria established by the Fund, on countries most in need of assistance in the population field in view of their population problems.²⁸²

126. In its session of 1991, the Council repeated the above-mentioned requests to the Secretary-General and added the following:

(iv) Integration of population variables in planning for sustainable at the national, subnational and sectoral levels, including the use of demographic-economic models and related microcomputer software;

(v) Further development of training materials and quantitative methodologies for the identification and treatment of women's issues in population and development.²⁸³

127. In addition, the Council requested him to further strengthen multilateral technical cooperation in order to meet the urgent need to train an adequate number of population specialists over the next five years and to stimulate female enrollment in training courses.²⁸⁴

128. Moreover, the Council re-emphasized the importance of maintaining the scope, effectiveness and efficiency of the global population programme and of continuing to strengthen coordination and collaboration among the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development, the regional commissions, the United Nations Population Fund, the World Bank and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to strengthen coordination and collaboration with Member States, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental and national organizations, as appropriate.²⁸⁵ In this light, the Council, at its session of 1994, requested the Secretary-General

²⁷⁹ Ibid.

²⁸⁰ G A resolution 45/216.

²⁸¹ Ibid.

²⁸² Ibid.

²⁸³ E S C resolution 1991/92.

²⁸⁴ Ibid.

²⁸⁵ Ibid.

to continue to work on the provision of technical cooperation support in response to requests from developing countries and economies in transition.²⁸⁶

129. During the period under review, support in the field of population was also provided to individual Member States and regions. In its session of 1989, the Council reaffirmed the need for technical assistance and financial resources for training additional personnel in African countries so as to ensure that those countries are able to effectively implement policies to harmonize population growth with economic and environmental capacities.²⁸⁷ It also welcomed the proposed programme of work for the biennium 1990-1991 in technical cooperation in the field of population²⁸⁸ and requested the Secretary-General to ensure the continued availability of funds for technical cooperation in the field of population, particularly for fellowships for training in the United Nations-supported Cairo Demographic Centre, the Regional Institute for Population Studies in Accra, the *Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques* at Yaounde and other United Nations demographic programmes serving African countries.²⁸⁹

J. Technical assistance in the field of public infrastructure and sanitation

130. During the period under review, the principal organs of the United Nations took decisions with regard to assistance to Member States in the field of public infrastructure and sanitation. Technical support was provided mainly in the field of water supply, both in the context of International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (1981-1990) and the World Day for Water. Decisions were also taken to help the African countries to enhance their infrastructure.

131. Assistance in this area was also provided to individual States. In 1989, the Council appealed to the international community, the States, members of the specialized agencies, and non-governmental organizations to increase their cooperation and assistance to enhance the efforts made by the African countries to establish or improve their infrastructure, through the creation of a favorable economic environment.²⁹⁰

²⁸⁶ E S C resolution 1994/2.

²⁸⁷ E S C resolution 1989/94.

²⁸⁸ Ibid.

²⁸⁹ Ibid.

²⁹⁰ E S C resolution 1989/46.

K. Technical assistance in the field of science and technology

132. With respect to the provision of technical assistance in the field of science and technology, the principal organs called upon the United Nations system to support Member States, mainly developing countries, in their efforts to build endogenous capacity and apply nuclear technology. Attention was also given to the provision of technical assistance by the Economic Commission for Africa in information systems development.

133. At its forty-fourth session, the Assembly called upon the United Nations system to provide sustained support to the process of building the endogenous capacities of developing countries in science and technology, including their capacity for assessment of technology.²⁹¹ Therefore, it decided to entrust to the Centre for Science and Technology for Development of the Secretariat, through the Advance Technology Alert System and in cooperation with other United Nations bodies, to serve as the focal point for technological assessment within the United Nations system and, where possible, for relations with Governments and non-governmental organizations concerning technological assessment activities in Member States.²⁹² It also requested the Centre to study ways and means of assisting developing countries in enhancing their capacity to assess new technologies, and recommended that a study be undertaken regarding new materials and the processing of raw materials, making use of the results of the Centre's ongoing programme on materials technology.²⁹³

134. At its session of 1993, the Council expressed its approval of the activities undertaken so far by the United Nations system to assist the developing countries in enhancing their national capacities in the field of science and technology.²⁹⁴ It also stressed the critical importance of supporting countries, in particular the developing countries, in harnessing the potential of science and technology with a view to achieving the objectives set forth by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.²⁹⁵

135. With respect to the provision of assistance in strengthening information systems for Africa's recovery and sustainable development, the Council, at its session of 1994, noted with satisfaction the efforts being made by the development information system of the Economic Commission for Africa in the delivery of technical assistance to member States and the large number of requests pending in this area.²⁹⁶ It also urged Member States to formulate their needs for technical assistance in information systems development by:

- (a) Giving priority to information systems development in the use of their United Nations Development Programme country indicative planning figures, utilizing the Technical Support Services mechanism where applicable;

²⁹¹ G A resolution 44/14 B. See also G A resolution 38/179.

²⁹² G A resolution 44/14 E.

²⁹³ Ibid.

²⁹⁴ E S C resolution 1993/71.

²⁹⁵ E S C resolution 1993/72.

²⁹⁶ E S C resolution 1994/42.

- (b) Considering development information activities in their pledges to the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development;
- (c) Using, where appropriate, the financial provisions under the Fourth Lome Convention for this purpose.²⁹⁷

L. Technical assistance in the field of transport and communications

136. During the period under review, the principal organs took decisions on the provision of technical assistance in the field of transport and communications, mainly in the context of the Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa and the Second Phase of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific. Decisions were also taken with regard to the provision of services in the transport and communications sectors of land-locked developing countries and communication infrastructures and capabilities in developing countries.

137. In the context of the Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, the Council, at its session of 1991, appealed to the United Nations agencies and other international organizations to provide all the necessary technical and other assistance to African Governments and work closely with the Economic Commission for Africa, the Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee and African regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations in order to implement effectively the programme and projects for the Second Decade.²⁹⁸ It also appealed to the United Nations Development Programme to provide African countries with the technical assistance needed to coordinate the preparation and implementation of the programme at the national, subsectoral and subregional levels.²⁹⁹

138. With respect to the land-locked developing countries, the Assembly emphasized that assistance for the improvement of transport and transit facilities and services should be integrated into their overall economic development strategy and that donor assistance should consequently take into account the requirement for long-term restructuring of their economies, including, as appropriate, the promotion of import-substituting industries producing high-bulk, low-value goods and developing high-value, low-bulk goods for export.³⁰⁰ In this light, it urged the international development bodies, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the regional commissions, to expand further their support to the land-locked developing countries, including technical assistance programmes in the transport and communications sectors of those countries. It also requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue to carry out and intensify further the technical co-operation activities of the secretariat of the Conference in the area of transit and transport, in accordance with paragraph 9 of Conference resolution 137 (VI) and paragraph 10 of Trade and Development Board resolution 319 (XXXI) and to continue to seek adequate resources and voluntary contributions to enable him, if requested

²⁹⁷ Ibid.

²⁹⁸ E S C resolution 1991/83.

²⁹⁹ Ibid.

³⁰⁰ G A resolution 44/214.

by the Governments concerned, to assist land-locked and transit developing countries in those efforts.³⁰¹

139. At its forty-eighth session, the Assembly invited UNDP further to promote, as appropriate, subregional, regional and interregional projects and programmes and to expand its support in the transport and communications sectors to the land-locked and transit developing countries and its technical cooperation for development geared towards promoting national and collective self-reliance among them.³⁰² It also invited the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation with the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, to take appropriate measures to enhance the capacity of the Conference, within existing resources for the biennium 1994-1995, in the area dealing with land-locked developing countries so as to ensure the effective implementation of the activities called for above and of existing measures in support of them.³⁰³

140. Regarding the provision of assistance related to information, during the period under review, the Assembly urged that all countries, organizations of the United Nations system as a whole and all others concerned,

“reaffirming their commitment to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to the principles of freedom of the press and freedom of information, as well as to those of the independence, pluralism and diversity of the media, deeply concerned by the disparities existing between developed and developing countries and the consequences of every kind arising from those disparities that affect the capability of the public, private or other media and individuals in developing countries to disseminate information and communicate their views and their cultural and ethical values through endogenous cultural production, as well as to ensure the diversity of sources of and their free access to information, recognizing the call in this context for what in the United Nations and at various international forums has been termed "a new world information and communication order, seen as an evolving and continuous process", should:

”(a) Co-operate and interact with a view to reducing existing disparities in information flows at all levels by increasing assistance for the development of communication infrastructures and capabilities in developing countries, with due regard for their needs and the priorities attached to such areas by those countries, and in order to enable them and the public, private or other media in developing countries to develop their own information and communication policies freely and independently and increase the participation of media and individuals in the communication process, and to ensure a free flow of information at all levels;

...

“(e) Aim, in addition to bilateral co-operation, at providing all possible support and assistance to the developing countries and the media, public, private or other, in the developing countries, with due regard to their interests and needs in the field of information and to action already adopted within the United Nations system, including:

...

³⁰¹ Ibid.

³⁰² G A resolution 48/169.

³⁰³ Ibid.

“(iii) Assistance in establishing and promoting telecommunication links at the subregional, regional and interregional levels, especially among developing countries.”³⁰⁴

141. In respect of United Nations public information policies and activities, the Assembly called upon the Secretary-General, to expedite his consultations regarding the provision of appropriate technical and financial assistance to those States which are broadcasting or willing to broadcast to South Africa in order to enable their radio transmitters to be heard inside South Africa, as identified in his report on questions relating to information,³⁰⁵ in fulfillment of the mandate of the General Assembly reflected in paragraph 1 of that report, and to report to the Committee on Information at its thirteenth session.³⁰⁶

M. Technical assistance in the field of statistical services

142. During the period under review, the Assembly and the Council took decisions with respect to the provision of technical assistance to Namibia and Western Asia in the field of statistical services. With respect to Namibia, the Assembly, in the context of the dissolution of the United Nations Council for Namibia as a result of the country's attainment of freedom and independence, requested the Secretary-General to provide assistance as may be requested by the Government of Namibia in the preparation of a comprehensive national census in order to determine accurate demographic and other relevant socio-economic statistics on Namibia.³⁰⁷ As for the provision of advice on the statistical training requirements of the States members of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the Council, at its session of 1993, decided to establish a Statistical Committee of the ESCWA.³⁰⁸

****N. Technical assistance in the field of industrial development**

O. Technical assistance in the field of trade and development

143. In the context of trade and development the Council and Assembly, during the period under review, took a number of decisions regarding the issues of: the role and functions of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); transnational corporations; foreign direct investment; global competitiveness of developing States and their integration into the global market, with special consideration of the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).³⁰⁹

144. In reference to UNCTAD, at its 11th session of 1992, the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Restrictive Business Practices agreed that the UNCTAD secretariat should provide

³⁰⁴ G A resolution 45/76. See also G A resolutions 47/73 and 48/44.

³⁰⁵ A/45/533.

³⁰⁶ G A resolution 45/76.

³⁰⁷ G A resolution 44/243/A.

³⁰⁸ E S C resolution 1993/2.

³⁰⁹ In September 1986, the GATT Ministerial Meeting held in Punte Del Este of Uruguay launched the 8th round of multilateral trade negotiations, known as Uruguay Round.

technical assistance, advisory and training services to developing countries, and countries in transition, in the realm of competition policy. Furthermore, at this time the Intergovernmental Group stated that UNCTAD should review States' and international organizations' technical cooperation activities in cooperation policy in order to improve the effectiveness of UNCTAD's technical assistance activities.³¹⁰ In the context of this decision, the UNCTAD secretariat continued to provide the services mentioned in the decision.³¹¹

145. In addition, during the period under review, UNCTAD provided assistance to island developing States. Specifically, at its forty-fifth session, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General of the UNCTAD to provide technical advisory services to assist these States in the following areas: (a) periodic review of their socio-economic performance; (b) assessment and explanation of marine potential; (c) development of inter-island transport services; (d) development of the statistical socio-economic data base to improve planning capacities.³¹²

146. At its forty-ninth session the Assembly urged the UNCTAD, in collaboration with the regional commissions of the United Nations, to expand its technical assistance to developing countries in the area of mineral resources. Also at this time, the Assembly called for financial and technical assistance to be provided to developing countries for the research and development of natural products with environmental advantages, which could promote sustainable consumption and production patterns.³¹³

147. Also in the context of trade, during the period under review the Assembly and the Council took a number of decisions regarding the provision of assistance regarding the role of transnational companies and specifically the role of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations (the Centre). In 1989, the Council requested the Secretary-General continue to mobilize resources for increased support of the technical assistance requirements of African States in order to enable these States to increase their capacities to deal with these corporations and take advantage of the investment opportunities through transnational corporations.³¹⁴ In 1992 the Council requested the Secretary-General to enhance technical cooperation activities in order to assist all interested States in attracting foreign direct investment and transnational corporations in order to contribute to the implementation of privatization programmes.³¹⁵

148. In that light, the Council, in 1993, requested the Secretary-General to strengthen technical cooperation to developing countries in order to enhance their capacity to create a favourable investment climate and further requested the Secretary-General to provide advice on the interrelationship between this investment and interregional, regional and subregional economic integration and technical and economic cooperation among developing countries. Through this same resolution, the Council emphasized the importance of foreign direct investment, in

³¹⁰ TD/B/39 (2)/7, paragraph D of the agreed conclusions.

³¹¹ TD/B/RBP/97.

³¹² G A resolution 45/202.

³¹³ G A resolution 49/104.

³¹⁴ E S C resolution 1989/26.

³¹⁵ E S C resolution 1992/36.

particular that of transnational corporations, in the privatisation process and, therefore, invited the Secretary-General to enhance studies on technical cooperation programmes in this area.³¹⁶

149. Regarding the Centre, in 1989 the Council affirmed the need to enlarge the Centre's role in promoting technical cooperation and assistance to interested developing countries.³¹⁷ Also in 1989, the Council emphasized that the Centre should provide assistance to the least developed States, upon their request, in various areas pertaining to foreign direct investment by transnational corporations, as outlined in the report of the Secretary General,³¹⁸ in order to increase corporations' contribution to developing countries.³¹⁹ In 1990 the Council took note of the suggestion³²⁰ that the Centre should undertake country-specific studies on the contribution of foreign direct investment to development, with a view to identifying proposals for technical assistance, and further noted that these studies should be taken only upon the request of Governments.³²¹

150. Furthermore, in 1991 the Council stressed the importance that the Centre's technical cooperation activities should benefit developing States equally and requested the Centre to continue developing training programmes and advisory projects directed towards helping these States promote their interests and properly benefit from the activities of transnational corporations.³²² In 1992 the Council recognized the importance of the research, technical cooperation, advisory services, training programmes and information services provided by the former United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations to States and affirmed that these activities should be maintained and improved.³²³ To this end, the Council, at this time, requested the Transnational Corporations and Management Division of the Department of Economic and Social Development (the Division) to assist developing States to create a favorable investment climate and make their endogenous capacity conducive to foreign direct investment. In this light, the Council, in 1992, further requested the Division to continue to include advice on the interrelationship between foreign direct investment and interregional, regional and subregional economic integration in its technical cooperation activities. The Council also requested the Division to examine ways and means of assisting States in attracting foreign investment through setting up joint ventures and free economic zones.³²⁴

P. Technical assistance in the field of energy and natural resources

151. During the period under review, the principal organs of the United Nations took numerous decisions concerning the provision of technical cooperation to developing countries aimed at the exploration, development, and efficient utilization of the energy resources as well as the to support of mineral resources exploration and development.

³¹⁶ E S C resolution 1993/49.

³¹⁷ E S C resolution 1989/21.

³¹⁸ E/C.10/1989/6.

³¹⁹ E S C resolution 1989/23.

³²⁰ See Secretary-General's report E/C.10/1990/3 and E S C (1990), Supp. No. 6, (E/1990/26), para. 140.

³²¹ E S C resolution 1990/71.

³²² E S C resolution 1991/55.

³²³ E S C resolution 1992/35.

³²⁴ E S C resolution 1992/35.

152. In 1989, the Council decided that the Committee on Natural Resources shall give priority consideration to energy resources, emphasizing the need to intensify technical cooperation programmes aimed at the exploration, development, and efficient utilization of the energy resources of the developing countries.³²⁵ In this light, the Council acknowledged the need to facilitate access for developing countries to energy-efficient technologies and research and called upon the United Nations system and developed countries to support the development of national endeavors of developing countries, as well as regional and interregional cooperation.³²⁶

153. In 1991, the Council acknowledged the important role that the United Nations system could play in the field of mineral resources through, *inter alia*, its technical cooperation activities and advisory services in support of mineral resources exploration and development in the developing countries.³²⁷ It also encouraged the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development of the Secretariat to continue to play an active role in providing advisory services to Governments, at their request, to support them in exercising their inalienable right of permanent sovereignty over their natural resources, *inter alia*, in exploring for, developing and managing their natural resources, as well as advisory services for policy and planning, legislation and management, and investment promotion and financing, and encourages the Department to continue to organize seminars that bring together experts and representatives of international companies and developing countries.³²⁸

154. In this context, the Assembly endorsed an increase in the general share of resources for activities in the field of natural resources and energy, considered by the regional commissions under the United Nations regular programme of technical cooperation, from approximately 40-60 per cent in the 1994-1995 biennium.³²⁹ In this light, the Assembly endorsed proposals for decentralization in the field of natural resources and energy.³³⁰ According to the Secretary-General, the “decentralization in natural resources and energy is intended to lead to a single, integrated technical cooperation programme, with participation by both Department for Development Support and Management Services and the regional commissions, with DDSMS as a focal point for technical cooperation in the Secretariat.”³³¹

³²⁵ E S C resolution 1989/6.

³²⁶ E S C resolution 1991/86

³²⁷ E S C resolution 1991/87.

³²⁸ E S C resolution 1991/88.

³²⁹ G A resolution 48/228.

³³⁰ G A resolution 48/261.

³³¹ DP/1994/26.