
ARTICLE 66 (2)

CONTENTS

	<i>Paragraphs</i>
Text of Article 66 (2)	
Introductory note	1–2
I. General survey	3–7
**A. How the Economic and Social Council performs services	
**B. Approval of the General Assembly	
C. Services	4–6
1. Services provided through technical cooperation programmes	5
2. Technical assistance services	6
**3. Services outside the scope of technical assistance	
**D. Eligibility for services	
**1. Member States	
**2. Non-member States	
**3. Territories	
**4. Others	
**E. Requests	
**1. Formal requests	
**2. Scope of requests	
**3. Obligations connected with requests	
F. Some characteristics of services provided to Governments by the United Nations	7
**G. Services at the request of specialized agencies	
II. Analytical summary of practice	8–44
**A. United Nations Children’s Fund	
B. Advisory welfare services	8–13
**C. World Food Programme	
D. Programmes of technical cooperation for economic and social development . . .	14–19
1. United Nations Development Programme	14–16
**2. Provision of operational, executive and administrative personnel	
**3. United Nations Volunteers	
4. United Nations Environment Programme	17

5. Habitat and Human Settlements	18–19
**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.	20
F. Technical assistance in certain fields relating to human rights.	21
G. Technical assistance in the field of narcotics control.	22–23
H. Technical assistance in the field of crime prevention and control	24–27
I. Technical assistance in the field of international law	28
J. Technical assistance in the field of population activities.	29
K. Technical assistance in the field of public infrastructure and sanitation	30
L. Technical assistance in the field of science and technology	31–33
M. Technical assistance in the field of transport and communications	34–37
N. Technical assistance in the field of statistical services	38
O. Technical assistance in the field of industrial development	39–40
P. Technical assistance in the field of trade and development.	41
Q. Technical assistance in the field of energy and natural resources.	42
R. Technical assistance in the field of consumer protection	43–44

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 the present study follows the revised format instituted in *Repertory, Supplement No. 6*. During the period under review, several decisions of the Economic and Social Council were related to the provisions of Article 66 (2). However, there were no important changes affecting the arrangements by which the Council performs services at the request of the Members of the United Nations and the specialized agencies that would necessitate a change in the format of coverage in the present study. The subheadings below follow those established in *Supplement No. 8*, with the addition of subheadings on international law and consumer protection.

2. In dealing with those decisions of the Economic and Social Council that related 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, the present study provides relevant material concerning the context, origin and development of various measures taken by the General Assembly and the 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) in the resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council. The practice of the Council did not depart from that described in the *Repertory* or its previous *Supplements*. Some decisions continued the economic and social development policies identified by the General Assembly and the Council during the period covered in *Supplement No. 8*, while others were taken in the context of newly identified development policies.

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

****B. Approval of the General Assembly**

C. Services

4. As in the past, the types of services rendered during the period under review included the following: technical and financial assistance; formulation of policies and programmes; practical exchange of

information and experience among countries; studies of various measures at the national, regional and international levels; and assistance to Governments in adapting legislation, policies and practices and in the development of national machinery.

1. SERVICES PROVIDED THROUGH TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMMES

5. During the period under review, it was reaffirmed that the objective of capacity-building and its sustainability should continue to be (a) an essential part of the operational activities of the United Nations system at the country level, (b) country-driven and situation-specific and (c) based on the programme approach, to the extent possible, consistent with national development plans and priorities.¹ It was also reaffirmed that operational activities for development within the United Nations system had a critical and

¹ See, e.g., E S C resolution 1997/59.

unique role to play in enabling developing countries to take the lead in the management of their own development process and that the United Nations funds and programmes constituted important vehicles for advancing international development cooperation.²

2. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES

6. At its substantive session of 1999, in a resolution entitled “Poverty eradication and capacity-building”,³ the Economic and Social Council recognized that formulating, coordinating, implementing, monitoring and assessing integrated poverty eradication strategies, through capacity-building initiatives, was the primary responsibility of the Governments of recipient countries and called on the United Nations system to support those efforts at the request of national Governments. The Council also stressed that national Governments had the primary responsibility for their country’s development and for coordinating development assistance, as well as enhancing its effectiveness.

**3. SERVICES OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

**D. Eligibility for services

**1. MEMBER STATES

**2. NON-MEMBER STATES

**3. TERRITORIES

**4. OTHERS

**E. Requests

**1. FORMAL REQUESTS

**2. SCOPE OF REQUESTS

**3. OBLIGATIONS CONNECTED WITH REQUESTS

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

7. Following past practice, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council continued to inform Governments of facilities for technical assistance and advisory services, recommending such services to countries, regions or groups of States. Recommendations of the Council were addressed to the Secretary-General, organizations of the United Nations system, including United Nations funds and programmes, regional commissions, Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and voluntary agencies.

**G. Services at the request of specialized agencies

² See, e.g., E S C resolution 1998/26 entitled “Advancement of women: implementation of the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the role of operational activities in promoting, in particular, capacity-building and resource mobilization for enhancing the participation of women in development”, and E S C resolution 1999/6 entitled “Progress on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 53/192”, which concerned the triennial review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system.

³ E S C resolution 1999/5.

II. ANALYTICAL SUMMARY OF PRACTICE

**A. United Nations Children’s Fund

B. Advisory welfare services

8. At its fiftieth session, the General Assembly adopted a resolution entitled “Observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and proclamation of the first United Nations Decade for the

Eradication of Poverty”.⁴ In that resolution, the Assembly called on States, the United Nations system, relevant international organizations and all other actors concerned with the Decade to participate actively in the financial and technical support of the Decade, in particular with a view to translating all measures and

⁴ G A resolution 50/107.

recommendations into operational and concrete poverty eradication programmes and activities.

9. As regards the field of older persons, the Economic and Social Council, at its substantive sessions in 1995 and 1997, recommended⁵ to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft resolution entitled "International Year of Older Persons: towards a society for all ages", which was subsequently adopted.⁶

10. At its fiftieth session, the General Assembly decided⁷ to adopt the programme of activities for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, which was annexed to the resolution and included a component on operational activities of the United Nations system.

11. During the period under review, decisions of the General Assembly⁸ and the Economic and Social Council⁹ with regard to the policies on the advancement of women were focused on follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action.¹⁰

12. At its substantive session of 1997, the Council requested the Secretary-General to invite appropriate United Nations bodies to provide advisory services to support Governments in their efforts to develop disability policies based on the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities.¹¹

13. At the same session, the Council recommended¹² to the Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution on follow-up to the International Year of the Family. The Secretary-General was requested to facilitate the exchange of experiences and information among Governments on effective policies and strategies, to facilitate technical assistance, with a focus on the least developed and developing countries, and to encourage the organization of subregional and interregional

meetings and relevant research. The Assembly adopted¹³ the resolution at its fifty-second session.

****C. World Food Programme**

D. Programmes of technical cooperation for economic and social development

1. UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

14. At its fiftieth session, the General Assembly¹⁴ welcomed the decision of the Executive Board of UNDP and UNFPA to increase the allocation of resources for technical cooperation among developing countries and also called on Governments and relevant United Nations organizations, including the multilateral financial institutions, to consider increasing allocations for economic and technical cooperation among developing countries and to identify new funding modalities to promote South-South cooperation.

15. At its substantive session of 1995, in the context of the triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, the Economic and Social Council adopted¹⁵ measures on overall guidance for those activities with regard to the United Nations funds and programmes. At its fiftieth session, the General Assembly endorsed¹⁶ that resolution and emphasized that recipient Governments had the primary responsibility for coordinating, on the basis of national strategies and priorities, all types of external assistance, including that provided by multilateral organizations, in order to integrate effectively such assistance into their development process. The Assembly also stressed the need for the United Nations system to take full account of the interests and concerns of all recipient countries and also stressed the need for it to give serious consideration to ways of ensuring a more coherent response by the system to the national plans and priorities of recipient Governments.

16. At its substantive session of 1996, the Council stressed¹⁷ that the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities of the United Nations system should be, inter alia, their universal, voluntary and

⁵ E S C resolutions 1995/21 and 1997/18.

⁶ See G A resolutions 50/141 and 52/80.

⁷ G A resolution 50/157. See also E S C resolution 1992/255.

⁸ See G A resolution 50/203.

⁹ See E S C resolution 1996/6.

¹⁰ See A/CONF.177/20 and Add.1.

¹¹ E S C resolution 1997/19. See also G A resolution 52/82.

¹² E S C resolution 1997/21.

¹³ G A resolution 52/81.

¹⁴ G A resolution 50/119.

¹⁵ E S C resolution 1995/51.

¹⁶ G A resolution 50/120.

¹⁷ E S C resolution 1996/43.

grant nature, their neutrality and their multilateralism, as well as their ability to respond to the needs of developing countries in a flexible manner, and that they should be carried out for the benefit of the developing countries at the request of those countries and in accordance with their own policies and priorities for development.

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

****3. UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS**

4. UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

17. At its substantive session of 1996, the Economic and Social Council recommended¹⁸ to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution on institutional arrangements for the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities. The Assembly adopted it as a resolution¹⁹ at its fifty-first session. The Assembly stressed the need for international cooperation in capacity-building, technology transfer and cooperation and the mobilization of financial resources, including support, in particular for developing countries, especially the least developed countries, countries with economies in transition and small island developing States, and called on bilateral donors and international, regional and subregional financial institutions and mechanisms, including the Global Environment Facility, and other competent development and financial institutions to assist with capacity-building in the preparation and implementation of national programmes and identifying ways and means of funding them.

5. HABITAT AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

18. During the period under review, decisions taken by the General Assembly and by the Economic and Social Council concerned the implementation of the resolutions adopted at the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in Istanbul from 3 to 14 June 1996.²⁰

19. At its fifty-first session, the General Assembly stressed²¹ that the full and effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda,²² in particular in all developing countries, especially those in Africa and the least developed countries, would require the mobilization of additional financial resources from various sources at the national and international levels and more effective development cooperation in order to promote assistance for activities related to shelter and human settlements activities.

****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

20. At its fiftieth session, the General Assembly acknowledged²³ that the role of United Nations activities and programmes in public administration and development was to assist Governments, at their request, to improve their responsiveness to meet the basic needs of all, as well as to achieve sustainable development in all countries, and that the United Nations should focus its activities in this field on (a) strengthening government capacity for policy development, administrative restructuring, civil service reform, human resources development and public administration training; (b) improving performance in the public sector; (c) financial management; (d) public-private interaction; (e) social development; (f) developing infrastructure and protecting the environment; (g) government legal capacity; (h) post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction of government machinery; and (i) management of development programmes.

F. Technical assistance in certain fields relating to human rights

21. During the period under review, the Economic and Social Council adopted²⁴ a number of decisions on advisory services, technical cooperation and the United

¹⁸ E S C resolution 1996/1.

¹⁹ G A resolution 51/189.

²⁰ See G A resolutions 51/177, 52/190, 53/180, 54/208 and 54/209.

²¹ G A resolution 51/177.

²² A/CONF.165/14, chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

²³ G A resolution 50/225.

²⁴ See, e.g., E S C decision 1997/257.

Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights.

G. Technical assistance in the field of narcotics control

22. During the period under review, the decisions of the General Assembly²⁵ and the Economic and Social Council²⁶ in this field took their impetus from the Political Declaration and Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session devoted to the question of international cooperation against the illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic and psychotropic substances.

23. At its substantive session of 1999, the Council recommended²⁷ to the Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution to which was annexed the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction. Included under each objective of the Action Plan was an element of international cooperation and technical assistance. At its fifty-fourth session, the General Assembly adopted²⁸ the draft resolution.

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

24. During the period under review, the decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in the field of crime prevention and control²⁹ concerned primarily the implementation of the resolutions adopted at the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held in Cairo from 29 April to 8 May 1995.³⁰ Specific topics for the provision of advisory services and technical assistance to requesting Member States included guidelines for cooperation and technical assistance in the field of urban crime prevention,³¹ criminal justice action to combat the organized smuggling of illegal migrants across national boundaries,³² the implementation of the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against

Organized Transnational Crime,³³ action against corruption³⁴ and the administration of juvenile justice.³⁵

25. In all those resolutions the Secretary-General was requested to provide increased advisory services and technical assistance to requesting Member States in needs assessment, capacity-building and training and in drafting and implementing appropriate national legislation. States were encouraged to make use of the technical assistance offered by the United Nations programmes of advisory services and technical assistance.

26. At its fiftieth session, the General Assembly reaffirmed³⁶ the high priority attached to technical cooperation and advisory services as a means for the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme to respond to the needs of the international community in the face of both national and transnational criminality and to assist Member States in achieving the goals of preventing crime within and among States and improving the response to crime.

27. At its substantive session of 1999, the Council called on³⁷ the Centre for International Crime Prevention to reinforce its efforts to focus its technical cooperation activities on priority issues and concerns in crime prevention and criminal justice, to pursue a comprehensive approach in carrying out its operational activities, to coordinate more fully its activities with recipient and donor countries and to interact with other relevant United Nations entities and with the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network.

I. Technical assistance in the field of international law

28. At its substantive session of 1996, the Economic and Social Council requested³⁸ the Secretary-General to establish and maintain close cooperation with Member States and intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations active in the field of

²⁵ See G A resolution 50/148.

²⁶ See E S C resolution 1995/20.

²⁷ E S C resolution 1999/29.

²⁸ G A resolution 54/132.

²⁹ See E S C resolutions 1995/8 and 1995/15, and G A resolution 50/145.

³⁰ See A/CONF.169/16.

³¹ See E S C resolution 1995/9.

³² See E S C resolution 1995/10.

³³ See E S C resolutions 1995/11 and 1996/27. See also E S C resolutions 1997/22 and 1998/14, and G A resolutions 52/85 and 53/111.

³⁴ See E S C resolution 1996/8, and G A resolution 51/59.

³⁵ See E S C resolution 1997/30, in particular section II.D of its annex.

³⁶ G A resolution 50/146.

³⁷ E S C resolution 1999/23.

³⁸ E S C resolution 1996/10.

environmental protection, in particular in the area of technical cooperation and assistance, including the formulation and implementation of joint projects on enforcement of environmental criminal law and other relevant activities concerned with legal matters within the United Nations system.

J. Technical assistance in the field of population activities

29. During the period under review, the decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council with regard to the provision of advisory services and technical assistance in this field concerned follow-up to and implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.³⁹

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

30. At its substantive session of 1995, the Economic and Social Council recommended⁴⁰ to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution whereby Governments, multilateral financial and development institutions and non-governmental organizations would be urged to give favourable and appropriate consideration to requests for grants and concessional financing, particularly with regard to environmental sanitation and sewerage and to waste-water treatment projects. At its fiftieth session, the General Assembly adopted the resolution.⁴¹

L. Technical assistance in the field of science and technology

31. At its substantive session of 1995, the Economic and Social Council,⁴² in recognizing the unique role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development as a global forum for the examination of questions on science and technology, for improving understanding of science and technology policies for development and for the formulation of recommendations and guidelines on science and technology matters within the United Nations system,

all in relation to development, requested the relevant United Nations bodies and donor organizations to assist interested countries to implement, evaluate and improve efforts for the application of science and technology in helping to satisfy basic needs and to support the implementation of projects specially designed to foster technological capacity-building in interested countries, including the least developed countries.

32. At its fiftieth session, the General Assembly,⁴³ reaffirming the continuing validity of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development,⁴⁴ reaffirmed that capacity-building in science and technology in developing countries should remain a priority issue on the United Nations agenda and urged that international cooperation efforts be intensified and strengthened towards the endogenous capacity-building of developing countries in the field of science and technology, including their capacity to utilize scientific and technological developments from abroad and to adapt them to suit local conditions.

33. At the same session, the General Assembly adopted a resolution⁴⁵ on United Nations system support for science and technology in Africa.

M. Technical assistance in the field of transport and communications

34. During the period under review, the decisions of the Economic and Social Council in this field concerned the implementation of phase II of the Programme for the Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa.

35. At its substantive session of 1995, the Council⁴⁶ invited Member States and intergovernmental organizations to involve the subregional and subsectoral working groups in the design of regional action programmes concerning transport and communications and to provide them with all the assistance necessary to participate effectively in the implementation of the programme for that Decade. It called on development banks and participating financial institutions to continue to work with the

³⁹ *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex, and E S C resolution 1995/55 and G A resolution 50/124.

⁴⁰ E S C resolution 1995/46.

⁴¹ G A resolution 50/126.

⁴² E S C resolution 1995/4.

⁴³ G A resolution 50/101.

⁴⁴ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, Vienna, 20-31 August 1979* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.I.21 and corrigenda), chap. VII.

⁴⁵ G A resolution 50/102.

⁴⁶ E S C resolution 1995/23.

programme machinery of the Decade to furnish coordinated and efficient support for the development of transport and communications in Africa.

36. At its substantive session of 1997, the Council established⁴⁷ the Committee on Transport of ESCWA.

37. At the same session, the Council invited⁴⁸ Governments, the public and business sectors, academia and non-governmental organizations in industrialized countries to engage in technological cooperation activities with their counterparts in developing countries and countries with economies in transition in order to facilitate their access to and encourage the use, production and development of information and communication technologies and to ensure their effective participation in building the global information infrastructure.

N. Technical assistance in the field of statistical services

38. At its substantive session of 1997, the Economic and Social Council urged⁴⁹ both the Statistics Division and the Population Division of the Secretariat, along with the regional commissions, other relevant United Nations and intergovernmental organizations and Governments providing technical assistance in statistics, to collaborate in the dissemination of a new set of recommendations on statistics on international migration and to provide, at the request of Governments, technical assistance in implementing those recommendations.

O. Technical assistance in the field of industrial development

39. During the period under review, decisions taken by the relevant bodies concerned the implementation of the Programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (1993-2002).⁵⁰

40. At its fifty-fourth session, the General Assembly called on⁵¹ the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to strengthen its close working relationship with WTO and other relevant multilateral institutions, with the participation of their secretariats and the States Members of the United Nations and

observer States, for the provision of technical assistance to African countries, particularly the least developed among them, so as to enhance their capacity to overcome technical barriers to trade in industrial and other products, including improving quality standards to alleviate supply side constraints, and to promote industrial competitiveness within the context of the integrated framework initiative in order to enable them to integrate fully into the global economy.

P. Technical assistance in the field of trade and development

41. At its substantive session of 1997, the Economic and Social Council established⁵² the Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade and Economic Globalization in the countries of the ESCWA region.

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

42. At its substantive session of 1995, the Economic and Social Council decided⁵³ to establish the Committee on Energy within ESWCA and set out the terms of reference of that Committee.

R. Technical assistance in the field of consumer protection

43. At its substantive session of 1995, the Economic and Social Council requested⁵⁴ the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the development funds and programmes of the United Nations, the regional commissions and other relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to continue to provide Governments with assistance, at their request, in implementing the guidelines for consumer protection, to elaborate guidelines in the area of sustainable consumption patterns and to examine the possible extension of those guidelines to other areas.

At its substantive session of 1999, the Council decided⁵⁵ to transmit to the General Assembly for its consideration the draft United Nations guidelines for consumer protection expanded to include sustainable consumption. At its fifty-fourth session, the Assembly decided⁵⁶ to adopt the expanded Guidelines.

⁴⁷ E S C resolution 1997/11.

⁴⁸ E S C resolution 1997/62.

⁴⁹ E S C resolution 1997/2.

⁵⁰ G A resolution 50/94.

⁵¹ G A resolution 54/203.

⁵² E S C resolution 1997/12.

⁵³ E S C resolution 1995/25.

⁵⁴ E S C resolution 1995/53.

⁵⁵ E S C resolution 1999/7.

⁵⁶ G A decision 54/449.