

ARTICLE 68

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ARTICLE 68

TEXT OF ARTICLE 68

The Economic and Social Council shall set up commissions in economic and social fields and for the promotion of human rights, and such other commissions as may be required for the performance of its functions.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

1. This Supplement deals with the new bodies set up by the Economic and Social Council, and with the bodies established with the authorization of the Council. It also examines the Council's decisions affecting existing bodies. The same major headings as those used in the previous Supplements have been retained. The subheadings under I A 2 have been discontinued. Three new subheadings have been added. The subheading I A 3 has been introduced to review the subordinate bodies of commissions and committees established with the Council's approval. The new subheadings, II.E.5, and II.F.5 have been included to reflect the establishment of the Economic Commission for Western Asia; however, no new material requires discussion under these subheadings in the present study. Material under the previous subsection II.L, "Conventions prepared under the auspices of the regional economic commissions", has been excluded from this Article.¹

¹See this *Supplement*, under Article 62(3).

I. GENERAL SURVEY

2. During the period under review, the Economic and Social Council continued to make extensive use of its power to set up subsidiary bodies in the economic and social fields, for the promotion of human rights and as required for the performance of its functions. It created numerous committees: both standing and ad hoc; as well as working parties composed of government representatives and experts, and authorized the appointment of special rapporteurs and working groups by its subsidiary bodies. In a number of cases, the new body replaced or succeeded an earlier subsidiary body established by the Council.

3. Over the reporting period, the Council became increasingly active in examining ways to improve the methods and organization of its work. In addition to setting up new subsidiary bodies, the Council enlarged the membership of certain bodies, reviewed their rules of procedure and made a number of decisions with regard to their sessions and meetings. The Council was also concerned to merge or eliminate subsidiary organs less relevant to its work.²

4. On 30 July 1971, the Economic and Social Council reaffirmed the need to enhance its role as a principal organ of the United Nations and improve its methods of work so as to be able to perform its functions more effectively. By its resolution 1621 (LI), the Council recommended the enlargement of the Council, and decided to enlarge the mem-

bership of its sessional committees. The Council stated that the participation of a larger number of Members States would strengthen the representative character, authority and dynamism of the Council.³

5. On 18 May 1973, the Economic and Social Council stated that both short and long-term measures were required to reorganize and reorient its own activities and those of its subsidiary organs. The Council stressed that such measures were required to strengthen the role of the United Nations in international economic and social co-operation, in particular during the Second United Nations Development Decade, so as to secure the implementation of the goals and policy measures of the International Development Strategy.⁴ The Council decided that the terms of reference of its subsidiary bodies should be reviewed against an assessment of their role in the implementation of the International Development Strategy, taking into account the work of other organs and agencies of the United Nations system. At its 1858th meeting, on 18 May 1973, the Council decided that its subsidiary bodies, with the exception of the regional economic commissions,

³E S C resolution 1621 (LI) A; see para. 60 below.

⁴E S C resolution 1768 (LIV) preamble. See General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, by which the Assembly proclaimed the Second United Nations Development Decade commencing from 1 January 1971, and adopted the International Development Strategy for the Decade. An overall appraisal of the progress in implementing the International Development Strategy was to be made by the Assembly through the Council.

²See E S C (LIII), decision at 1837th meeting on 28 July 1972.

could not create either standing or ad hoc inter-sessional subsidiary bodies without prior approval by the Council.⁵

6. By its resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977, the General Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System.⁶ The Committee recommended that the Council "to the maximum extent possible refrain from establishing new subsidiary bodies", and made a number of recommendations for the streamlining, redefinition and, as appropriate discontinuance, of its existing subsidiary bodies.⁷

A. Types of organs established by the Economic and Social Council

7. During the period under review, the Economic and Social Council established a new commission, the Economic Commission for Western Asia. The Council also established a number of other subsidiary bodies, including standing committees, sessional committees and other ad hoc committees and working groups composed of either government representatives, experts or members appointed in their individual capacity. In addition, the Council made decisions approving or authorizing the establishment of a subcommission, a number of working groups and the appointment of rapporteurs by some of its subsidiary bodies. The Council also made decisions affecting existing bodies.

1. COMMISSIONS

8. The Economic and Social Council established the Economic Commission for Western Asia.⁸ The Council decided that the permanent headquarters of the Commission would be located at Baghdad and that the Commission was to start its operations on 1 January 1974.⁹

2. OTHER ORGANS AND BODIES ESTABLISHED BY THE COUNCIL

9. During the period under review, the Economic and Social Council set up a variety of new ad hoc committees of government representatives. A number of them were established to make preparations for international conferences. Among these were the intergovernmental preparatory group to prepare for the United Nations/IMCO Conference on International Container Traffic¹⁰ and the preparatory committee for the World Food Conference.¹¹ Further examples include the intergovernmental working group of the Committee on Science and Technology for Development for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology¹² and the Preparatory Committee for the special session of the General Assembly devoted to development and international economic cooperation.¹³

10. The Economic and Social Council also established ad hoc committees of government representatives to work,

inter alia, on the drawing up of international agreements on various international economic and social matters. An ad hoc intergovernmental working group was established to examine the problem of corrupt practices in international commercial transactions by transnational and other corporations, and to elaborate an international agreement to prevent and eliminate illicit payments in connexion with international commercial transactions.¹⁴ The Council also established a Committee on an International Agreement on Illicit Payments for the purpose of working towards an international agreement on illicit payments.¹⁵

11. As in the past, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to set up ad hoc committees composed of experts or members appointed in their individual capacity. These included an intergovernmental panel of specialists to prepare proposals for a United Nations water conference;¹⁶ a group of experts to study the role of multinational corporations and their impact on the process of development;¹⁷ an intergovernmental working group to examine the problem of corrupt practices in international commercial transactions by transnational and other corporations;¹⁸ a Committee on an International Agreement on Illicit Payments;¹⁹ a group of experts for the quantification of scientific and technological activities related to development;²⁰ and a group of experts to prepare a report recommending a common set of definitions and terminology which might be used internationally for the purpose of reporting to the United Nations on mineral resources.²¹

12. The Economic and Social Council also acted to appoint special rapporteurs.²² At its sixty-second session, the Council decided to appoint a special rapporteur to prepare a study on the impact of the mass communication media on the changing roles of women and men.²³

13. During the period under review, the Economic and Social Council created a number of new standing committees and commissions. Among these were the Committee on Science and Technology for Development²⁴ and the Commission on Transnational Corporations.²⁵

14. In a number of cases, the Economic and Social Council set up new standing committees to replace or succeed earlier subsidiary bodies established by the Council. By its resolution 1978/1 of 13 January 1978, the Council decided to transform the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning into a Commission on Human Settlements in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 20 December 1977. Convinced that development of natural resources should be widened, accelerated and given more adequate intergovernmental leadership in the Second United Nations Development Decade, the Council decided to dissolve the Ad Hoc Committee on the Survey Programme for the Development of Natural Resources and

⁵E S C (LVI), Suppl. No. 1.

⁶See GA resolution 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975, by which the GA established the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System.

⁷See GA resolution 32/197, annex, para. 2.

⁸E S C resolution 1818 (LV).

⁹E S C resolution 2045 (LXI).

¹⁰E S C resolution 1568 (L).

¹¹E S C resolutions 1831 (LV) and 1840 (LVI).

¹²E S C resolution 1897 (LVII).

¹³E S C resolution 1911 (LVII) III.

¹⁴E S C resolution 2041 (LXI); see also resolution 2122 (LXIII).

¹⁵E S C resolution 1978/71.

¹⁶E S C resolution 1673 (LII) E.

¹⁷E S C resolution 1721 (LIII).

¹⁸E S C resolution 2041 (LXI); see also resolution 2122 (LXIII).

¹⁹E S C resolution 1978/71.

²⁰E S C resolution 1822 (LV).

²¹E S C resolution 1954 (LIX).

²²See paras. 20 and 23 below.

²³E S C resolution 2063 (LXII); see also resolution 1978/79.

²⁴E S C resolution 1621 (LI). See resolution 1715 (LIII) for the terms of reference of the Committee on Science and Technology for Development.

²⁵E S C resolution 1913 (LVII).

establish a standing committee on natural resources.²⁶ On 21 May 1971, the Council decided to enlarge and rename the Advisory Committee of Experts on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders established under General Assembly resolution 415 (V). The body was renamed the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control.²⁷

15. With respect to its sessional committees of the whole, the Economic and Social Council re-established the Economic Committee at 16 of its sessions and the Social Committee at 8 of its sessions. The Council re-established the Coordination Committee at its forty-ninth, fifty-first, fifty-third, fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth sessions. At its fifty-seventh session, the Council decided that, pending a decision on the future machinery for programme and coordination, the remaining functions of the Committee for Programme and Coordination should be assumed during 1975 by the Council's Policy and Programme Coordination Committee.²⁸ That committee was re-established at the fifty-eighth, fifty-ninth, sixtieth and sixty-third sessions and at the second regular session of the Council in 1978. In addition, the Council established the Special Intersessional Committee at its fifty-seventh session, and the Special Economic Committee at its sixty-first session.

16. At its sixtieth session, the Economic and Social Council welcomed the entry into force of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and established a programme under which States parties to the Covenant were to provide reports as required under the Covenant. By its resolution 1988 (LX) of 11 May 1976, the Council decided that a sessional working group of the Council was to be established whenever reports were due for consideration by the Council, to assist the Council in the consideration of such reports.

17. During the period under review, the Economic and Social Council also established a number of ad hoc committees, drafting groups and working parties. Some of them were established to make preparations for international conferences. These include the preparatory committee for the World Population Conference,²⁹ the ad hoc committee for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women³⁰ and the preparatory subcommittee for the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.³¹

18. Other bodies were created for specific matters of concern to the Council. An ad hoc working group was established to examine and report to the Council on the agenda item entitled "Review of the rules of procedure of the Council and its subsidiary bodies".³² Another ad hoc group was set up to study appropriate measures related to the defence of the rights of migrant workers and their families.³³

3. SUBORDINATE BODIES OF COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES ESTABLISHED WITH THE COUNCIL'S APPROVAL

19. During the period under review, the Economic and Social Council made a number of decisions authorizing its commissions and committees to establish subordinate bodies, appoint rapporteurs and set up working groups.

20. By its resolution 1503 (XLVIII) of 27 May 1970, the Council authorized the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to appoint a working group to consider all communications, including replies of Governments, concerning situations appearing to reveal a consistent pattern of gross and reliably attested violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. In the same resolution, the Council requested the Commission on Human Rights to determine whether a situation referred to it by the Sub-Commission would require investigation by an ad hoc committee, which was to be appointed by the Commission.

21. At its 1977th meeting on 29 July 1975, the Economic and Social Council authorized the Information and Research Centre on Transnational Corporations to convene an expert group to explore the possibility of working out standard forms for the presentation of financial relations between transnational corporations and their associated enterprises.³⁴

22. By its resolution 1865 (LVI) of 17 May 1974, the Economic and Social Council authorized the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to designate a special rapporteur from among its members to carry out a detailed study on the right of peoples to self-determination.³⁵ By its resolution 1866 (LVI) of the same date, the Council approved the decision of the Commission on Human Rights to authorize the Sub-Commission to appoint a special rapporteur to analyse the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Implementation of the United Nations resolutions relating to the right of peoples under colonial and alien domination to self-determination".³⁶

23. At its fifty-sixth session, the Economic and Social Council authorized the Commission on Human Rights to establish a working group composed of five members of the Commission relating to the study of situations which revealed a consistent pattern of gross violations of human rights, as provided in Commission resolution 8 (XXIII), and Council resolutions 1235 (XLII) and 1503 (XLVIII).³⁷

24. At the same session, the Council authorized the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to establish a working group to review developments in the field of slavery and the slave trade in all their practices and manifestations, including the slavery-like practices of apartheid and colonialism, the traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others.³⁸

25. At its 1948th meeting, on 6 May 1975, the Economic and Social Council approved the decision of the Commis-

²⁶E S C resolution 1535 (XLIX).

²⁷E S C resolution 1584 (L).

²⁸E S C decision 41 (LVII).

²⁹E S C resolution 1484 (XLVIII) and E S C (XLIII), Suppl. No.3, chap. VIII, para.116.

³⁰E S C resolution 2062 (LXII).

³¹E S C resolution 1990 (LX).

³²E S C decision at its 1899th plenary mtg, 17 May 1974.

³³E S C resolution 1926 (LVIII).

³⁴E S C decision at its 1977th mtg, 29 July 1975.

³⁵E S C resolution 1865 (LVI); for terms of study, see resolution 5 (XXVI) (E/CN.4/1128), part B.

³⁶E S C resolution 1866 (LVI); see E/CN.4/1081.

³⁷E S C decision 15 (LVI), 1899th plenary mtg, 17 May 1974; see also E S C (LVI), Suppl. No. 5, chap. I sect. B.

³⁸E S C decision at its 1899th plenary mtg, 17 May 1974.

sion on Human Rights to set up a working group to examine situations referred to it by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.³⁹

26. On 6 May 1975, the Council approved the decision of the Commission to set up an Ad Hoc Working Group to inquire into the situation of human rights in Chile within the terms of Commission resolution 8 (XXXI).⁴⁰

**** B. Methods of establishment**

C. Functions and powers

1. COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

27. During the period under review, the Economic and Social Council assigned various functions and powers to its existing as well as its newly established bodies. The functions and powers reflect the Council's work in the promotion of human rights, its work in other matters of international economic and social concern, and the Council's responsibilities relating to the Second United Nations Development Decade.

28. By its resolution 1503 (XLVIII) of 27 May 1973, the Council authorized the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to appoint a working group to consider communications received by the Secretary-General under Council resolution 728 F (XXVIII) of 30 July 1959 relating to violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Council decided that the Sub-Commission should: (a) devise appropriate procedures for dealing with the question of the admissibility of the communications; and (b) consider in private meetings the communications brought before it with a view to determining whether to refer particular situations to the Commission on Human Rights. The Council requested the Commission on Human Rights to determine, upon examination of any situation referred to it by the Sub-Commission, (a) whether the situation required a thorough study by the Commission and a report and recommendations thereon to the Council according to Council resolution 1235 (XLII); and (b) whether the situation might be the subject of an investigation by an ad hoc committee appointed by the Commission.

29. At its fiftieth session, the Economic and Social Council expressed its grave concern regarding allegations of continued suppression of trade union rights in South Africa, Namibia, Angola, Mozambique and Southern Rhodesia. It requested the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts established under resolution 2 (XXIII) of the Commission on Human Rights to investigate thoroughly the system of recruitment of African workers in Namibia, Southern Rhodesia and the Territories under Portuguese domination, and to report to the Council.⁴¹

30. In some cases, the Economic and Social Council approved the decision of a subsidiary body to extend the mandate of its own subsidiary body, and assigned additional tasks to that body. At its sixtieth session, the Council approved the decision of the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 3 (XXXII) to extend the mandate of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Situation of Human

Rights in Chile within the terms of that resolution. The Working Group was requested to report to the General Assembly and to the Commission on the situation of human rights in Chile. The Group was to pay particular attention to any developments which had occurred to re-establish respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in implementation of General Assembly resolution 3448 (XXX) of 9 December 1975, and all other relevant resolutions and decisions of United Nations bodies.⁴² At its sixty-second session, the Council approved the decision of the Commission on Human Rights to extend the mandate of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on Southern Africa. It decided that the Working Group, in conjunction with the Special Committee against Apartheid, should examine: (a) the treatment of prisoners in South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe; and (b) police brutality during peaceful demonstrations against apartheid in South Africa since the Soweto massacre of 16 June 1976.⁴³

31. In a number of instances, the Economic and Social Council assigned additional functions to existing bodies. At its fifty-second session, it assigned to the Population Commission the additional function of preparing for the World Population Conference and the World Population Year.⁴⁴ At its sixtieth session, the Council requested the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control to study the application of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and to formulate a set of implementing procedures for the Rules.⁴⁵ At its sixty-second session, the Council requested the Commission on the Status of Women to give high priority to the item entitled "Preparatory work for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, 1980", and to study the proposals concerning the substantive and organizational arrangements for the Conference.⁴⁶

32. At its fifty-first session, the Economic and Social Council invited the Secretary-General to convene in late 1972 two working groups of interested Member States to consider export credits as an instrument for the promotion of exports from developing countries. The first working group was to deal with arrangements regarding a multinational export credit insurance scheme at the subregional or regional level among developing countries. The second working group was to deal with the harmonization of the terms of financing export credits for engineering and similar capital goods and related services in developing countries.⁴⁷

33. The functions assigned to a number of the Council's subsidiary bodies reflect the Council's responsibilities with regard to the Second United Nations Development Decade. On 30 July 1971, the Council established the Committee on Review and Appraisal to assist the Council in discharging the responsibilities entrusted to it by the General Assembly in the overall review and appraisal of the Second United Nations Development Decade, as provided for in General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV)⁴⁸ of 24 December 1970. With regard to the Committee for De-

³⁹E S C decision 79 (LVIII); see also E/5635, resolution 7 (XXXI).

⁴⁰E S C decision 80 (LVIII).

⁴¹E S C resolution 1599 (L).

⁴²E S C decision 145 (LX). See also this *Supplement*, under Article 62(2).

⁴³E S C resolution 2082 (LXII).

⁴⁴E S C resolution 1673 (LII).

⁴⁵E S C resolution 1993 (LX).

⁴⁶E S C resolution 2062 (LXII).

⁴⁷E S C resolution 1630 (LI).

⁴⁸E S C resolution 1621 (LI) C.

velopment Planning, the Council requested the Committee to prepare comments and recommendations relating to the biennial appraisals of progress in implementing the International Development Strategy of the Second United Nations Development Decade.

2. REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS

34. The functions and powers of the Economic Commission for Western Asia were spelled out by the Council in the resolution establishing ECWA and containing its terms of reference.⁴⁹ To a large extent, the terms of reference are very similar to those of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Latin America, and the Economic Commission for Africa. As with those regional commissions, the terms of reference of ECWA include provisions for: (a) dealing with the social aspects of economic development and the inter-relationship of economic and social factors, and (b) the establishment of appropriate liaison and cooperation with other regional economic commissions.⁵⁰

35. At its forty-ninth session, the Economic and Social Council amended the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East by replacing paragraph 18 with the following text: "The headquarters of the Commission shall be located at Bangkok, Thailand."⁵¹

36. At its fifty-first session, the Council, having considered the question of renaming the regional economic commissions as recommended by the General Assembly,⁵² decided to retain the names⁵³ of the commissions as they currently stood.

37. At its fifty-seventh session, the Economic and Social Council decided to change the name of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE) to "Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific" (ESCAP). In doing so, the Council observed that the Commission had devoted equal attention to both economic and social fields, and that the geographical term "Far East" emanated from the viewpoint of countries outside the Asia/Pacific region.⁵⁴

38. By its resolution 1950 (LIX) of 22 July 1975, the Economic and Social Council recommended that the General Assembly approve the adoption of Arabic as an official and working language of the Economic Commission for Africa, in addition to English and French.⁵⁵

39. At its fifty-ninth session, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General, in initiating the operations of the Information and Research Centre on Transnational Corporations, to establish joint liaison and support units in each of the regional commissions. The Council considered that the activities of transnational corporations had different characteristics in different regions, and that the regional commissions could make an important contribution to the work of the Centre.⁵⁶

D. Membership

1. COMMISSIONS

a. Functional commissions

40. At its 1722nd meeting, on 31 July 1970, the Economic and Social Council decided to lengthen the term of office of the members of the Commission on the Status of Women to four years, effective as from 1 January 1971.⁵⁷

41. At its fifty-second session, on 1 June 1972, the Economic and Social Council decided to enlarge the Commission on Narcotic Drugs from 24 to 30 members, effective as from 1 January 1973, taking into account the special criteria used for election to that Commission as well as the principle of equitable geographical representation.⁵⁸

b. Subcommissions

42. By its resolution 1776 (LIV) of 18 May 1973, the Economic and Social Council authorized the establishment by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of a Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East. The representatives of the members of the Sub-Commission and its working groups were to be nominated by their Governments, in consultation with the Secretary-General, and were subsequently to be confirmed by the Council.⁵⁹

c. Regional economic commissions

43. The terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Western Asia define the criteria for membership of the Commission, and are found in Economic and Social Council resolution 1818 (LV) of 9 August 1973, by which the Council established the Commission.⁶⁰ As of that date, the members of the Commission were to be States Members of the United Nations situated in Western Asia, which at the time called on the services of the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut. Future applications for membership by Member States were to be decided upon by the Council upon the recommendation of the Commission. At its sixty-third session, the Council decided to admit the Arab Republic of Egypt as a member of the Commission⁶¹ and decided to amend paragraph 2 of the Commission's terms of reference to include the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) as a member of the Commission.⁶²

44. During the period under review, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolutions and decisions amending the terms of reference of its other four regional economic commissions with regard to (a) the admission of new members and associate members and (b) the definition of their respective geographical scopes.

45. With regard to the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,⁶³ the Economic and Social Council amended the Commission's terms of reference to admit as

⁴⁹E S C resolution 1818 (LV).

⁵⁰E S C resolution 1818 (LV), paras. 1(f) and 8.

⁵¹E S C resolution 1522 (XLIX).

⁵²G A resolution 2686 (XXV).

⁵³E S C resolution 1610 (LI).

⁵⁴E S C resolution 1895 (LVII).

⁵⁵E S C resolution 1950 (LIX) para. 5.

⁵⁶E S C resolution 1961 (LIX).

⁵⁷See ESC (XLIX).

⁵⁸E S C resolution 1663 (LII).

⁵⁹See also resolution 6 (XXV) of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs; ESC (XIV), Suppl. No. 3, para. 487.

⁶⁰E S C resolution 1818 (LV).

⁶¹E S C resolution 2088 (LXIII).

⁶²E S C resolution 2089 (LXIII).

⁶³The name "Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East" was changed by the Council at its fifty-seventh session. It subsequently became the "Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific".

associate members of the Commission the Territory of Papua and New Guinea,⁶⁴ the British Solomon Islands Protectorate,⁶⁵ the Cook Islands,⁶⁶ Bangladesh,⁶⁷ the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands⁶⁸ and the Gilbert and Ellice Islands,⁶⁹ and included them within its geographical scope.

46. On 5 August 1976, the Economic and Social Council further amended ECAFE's terms of reference by replacing the term "Gilbert and Ellice Islands" with the term "Gilbert Islands", and also added Tuvalu to the list of associate members.⁷⁰

47. The Economic and Social Council admitted to full membership, and included in the geographical scope of the Commission the Kingdom of Tonga, the Republic of Nauru,⁷¹ Bhutan⁷² and the Maldives.⁷³

48. At its sixty-third session, the Council noted that Papua New Guinea had become a member of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and amended the Commission's terms of reference accordingly.⁷⁴

49. With regard to the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic and Social Council amended the Commission's terms of reference by adding the Swiss Confederation to its list of members at its fifty-first session.⁷⁵ At its fifty-third session, the Council again amended the terms of reference of ECE by adding the German Democratic Republic to the list of members,⁷⁶ and at its fifty-fifth session, the Council further amended the terms of reference by adding Canada to the list of members.⁷⁷

50. With regard to the Economic Commission for Africa, on 5 August 1976, the Economic and Social Council decided to amend the Commission's terms of reference by adding the names of the following States as members of the Commission: Botswana, Cape Verde, Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe, Swaziland and Zambia.⁷⁸ On 25 July 1977, the Council noted that Angola and the Seychelles had become members of the United Nations and decided to add them to the list of member countries contained in paragraph 5 of the terms of reference of ECA.⁷⁹

51. By its resolution 1978/68 of 4 August 1978, the Economic and Social Council decided to add Djibouti to the list of member countries of ECA following upon Djibouti's admission to membership in the United Nations on 20 September 1977. The Council also amended the terms of reference of the Commission, deleting the passage reading "provided that States which shall cease to have any territorial responsibilities in Africa shall cease to be members of the Commission" from paragraph 5 of the terms of reference.⁸⁰

⁶⁴ E S C resolution 1523 (XLIX).

⁶⁵ E S C resolution 1603 (LI).

⁶⁶ E S C resolution 1699 (LIII).

⁶⁷ E S C resolution 1735 (LIV).

⁶⁸ E S C resolution 1811 (LV).

⁶⁹ E S C resolution 1812 (LV).

⁷⁰ E S C decision 184 (LXI), 2032nd meeting, 5 August 1976.

⁷¹ E S C resolutions 1604(LI) and 1605(LI).

⁷² E S C resolution 1654 (LII).

⁷³ E S C resolution 2044 (LXII).

⁷⁴ E S C resolution 2092 (LXIII).

⁷⁵ E S C resolution 1600(LI).

⁷⁶ E S C resolution 1732 (LIII); see paras. 95-96 below.

⁷⁷ E S C resolution 1810 (LV).

⁷⁸ E S C decision 186 (LXI).

⁷⁹ E S C resolution 2091 (LXIII).

⁸⁰ E S C resolution 1978/68.

2. COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES ESTABLISHED BY THE COUNCIL

52. At its forty-eighth session, the Economic and Social Council decided that the reconstituted Committee for Programme and Coordination should be composed of 21 States Members of the United Nations on the basis of equitable geographical distribution. The decision was taken in accordance with the recommendation of the Enlarged Committee for Programme and Coordination. Although the Enlarged Committee had discussed the possibility of transforming CPC into a smaller, more full-time and professional expert committee on programmes, with members acting in their personal capacity as experts, the Enlarged Committee recommended that the previous intergovernmental character of CPC be retained. The Council decided that the seats would be distributed as follows: five from African States, four from Asian States, four from Latin American States, three from Socialist States of Eastern Europe and five from Western European and other States. The Council decided that, except for the initial period, the term of office of members of the Committee would be for three years.⁸¹

53. At the same session, the Economic and Social Council decided that the Group of Experts on Explosives would continue to function as a subsidiary body of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and that the Committee might alter the composition of its subsidiary bodies as required. The Council further decided that the membership of the Committee of Experts could be raised to 10 should further Governments of Member States wish to make available, at the request of the Secretary-General and at their own expense, experts to serve on the Committee.⁸² On 30 July 1975, the Council decided to enlarge the composition of the Committee of Experts by adding a further five members, to come from developing countries, so as to ensure the adequate participation of such countries.⁸³

54. At its resumed forty-eighth session, the Economic and Social Council referred to the power of the Commission on Human Rights to appoint an ad hoc committee to investigate situations appearing to reveal a consistent pattern of gross and reliably attested violations of human rights. The Council decided that if the Commission appointed an ad hoc committee, the Commission should determine its composition and that its members should be independent persons whose competence and impartiality would be beyond question. Furthermore, the appointment of the members of the ad hoc committee would be subject to the consent of the Government concerned.⁸⁴

55. The Committee on Natural Resources, established by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1535 (XLIX) of 27 July 1970, was to be composed of 27 Member States elected by the Council on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, the representatives on the Committee being, as far as possible, experts in the field of natural resources.⁸⁵ At its 1731st meeting, on 13 November 1970, the Council decided to increase the membership of the Committee from 27 to 38. For the initial period, 19 of

⁸¹ E S C resolution 1472 (XLVIII).

⁸² E S C resolution 1488 (XLVIII).

⁸³ E S C resolution 1973 (LIX).

⁸⁴ E S C resolution 1503 (XLVIII).

⁸⁵ E S C resolution 1535 (XLIX).

the members were to serve for two years and 19 for four years, the term of office to be determined by lot.

56. At its 1722nd meeting on 31 July 1970, the Economic and Social Council decided to request the Secretary-General to consider a modest increase in the membership of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Tax Treaties between Developed and Developing Countries, and to take into account the interest expressed by the Government of Ceylon in becoming a member of the group.⁸⁶

57. At its fiftieth session, the Economic and Social Council decided to enlarge the membership of the Advisory Committee of Experts on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and to rename it the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control. The membership of the Committee was enlarged from 10 to 15 members, in order to provide the variety of professional expertise needed on social defence questions spread over a wider geographical area. The Council decided that the members of the Committee should be appointed for three-year terms by the Council on the recommendation of the Secretary-General.⁸⁷

58. At its fifty-first session, the Economic and Social Council decided to enlarge the membership of the Committee for Development Planning from 18 to 24 members, with effect from 1 January 1972, in order to permit the Committee to carry out its tasks.⁸⁸

59. On 30 July 1971, at its fifty-first session, the Economic and Social Council recommended that the General Assembly amend the Charter of the United Nations so as to ensure an early enlargement of the membership of the Council to 54 members; the additional 27 seats were to be allocated according to the current geographical distribution in the Council. The Council also decided to enlarge, in the interim period, the membership of its sessional committees and the Committee on Natural Resources to 54 members as from 1 January 1972. It further requested the General Assembly to elect, at its twenty-sixth session, in addition to the 9 new members of the Council, 27 States Members to serve on the sessional committees in accordance with the current geographical distribution of seats in the Council.⁸⁹

60. At its 1949th meeting, on 6 May 1975, the Economic and Social Council decided that the term of office of members of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control and of the Committee on Science and Technology for Development should thenceforth be four years rather than three years.

61. Economic and Social Council resolution 2041 (LXI) of 5 August 1976, by which the Council established an Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Working Group on corrupt practices in international commercial transactions, provided that the working group was to be composed of 18 members selected on the basis of equitable geographical distribution. Five members were to be selected from African States, four from Asian States, three from Latin American States, two from Socialist States of Eastern Europe and four from Western Europe and other States.⁹⁰

62. At its 2044th plenary meeting, on 14 January 1977, the Economic and Social Council decided to enlarge the

membership of the Committee acting as the Preparatory Subcommittee for the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination from 16 to 23 members. It authorized the President of the Council to appoint members of the Committee on the basis of the following geographical distribution: six from African States; four from Asian States; four from Latin American States; four from Socialist States of Eastern Europe and five from Western European and other States.

63. At its sixty-third session, the Economic and Social Council decided to continue the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Working Group on the Problem of Corrupt Practices and expand its membership to include all interested States, provided that the Working Group would only meet if a quorum of four States from each interested geographical group were represented.⁹¹

E. Duration and termination

64. At its forty-ninth session, the Economic and Social Council decided to dissolve the Ad Hoc Committee on the Survey Programme for the Development of Natural Resources.⁹²

65. The mandate of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development, which was to expire on 31 December 1971, was maintained by a decision of the Economic and Social Council on 30 July 1971.⁹³

66. At its fifty-fourth session, the Economic and Social Council requested the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Tax Treaties between Developed and Developing Countries to continue its work on guidelines for tax treaties and to study the implementation of tax agreements in such areas as income allocation, international tax evasion and avoidance, and tax incentives.⁹⁴

67. At its fifty-eighth session, the Economic and Social Council decided that the Population Commission should continue its status as a functional commission of the Council, preserving its character as an expert governmental body on all population matters representing all geographical regions of the world.⁹⁵

68. On 12 January 1978, the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning was transformed by the Council into the Commission on Human Settlements.⁹⁶

F. Sessions or meetings

69. At its forty-eighth session,⁹⁷ the Economic and Social Council confirmed its decision, in resolution 1171 (XLI) of 5 August 1966, to follow the practice of having joint meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination.

70. At its resumed forty-ninth session, the Economic and Social Council decided to suggest that its members continue discussions among themselves of measures designed to improve the organization of its work. It also invited its President to convene, at his discretion, informal meetings of the Council with a view to achieving a consensus of

⁸⁶See ESC (XLIX), Suppl. No. 1, p. 7.

⁸⁷E S C resolution 1584 (L).

⁸⁸E S C resolution 1625 (LI).

⁸⁹E S C resolution 1621 (LI) A.

⁹⁰E S C decision 197 (LXI).

⁹¹E S C resolution 2122 (LXIII).

⁹²E S C resolution 1535 (XLIX); see para. 15 above and para. 89 below.

⁹³E S C resolution 1621 (LI) B.

⁹⁴E S C resolution 1765 (LIV).

⁹⁵E S C decision 88 (LVIII).

⁹⁶E S C resolution 1978/1; see para. 15 above.

members on the subject to enable him to submit a consolidated statement of the conclusions and recommendations at the organizational meeting of the fiftieth session.⁹⁸

71. On 15 December 1969, the General Assembly in a resolution on the matter urged the Economic and Social Council to reconsider its decision of 8 August 1969 so that the Commission on the Status of Women might continue to meet annually.⁹⁹ At its resumed forty-ninth session, the Council reaffirmed the decision taken at its forty-seventh session that the Commission on the Status of Women should meet biennially, with effect from 1 January 1971.¹⁰⁰

72. At its resumed forty-ninth session, the Economic and Social Council decided that a special one-week session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should be held at Geneva beginning 28 September 1970 to consider short- and long-term policy recommendations for integrated international action against drug abuse.¹⁰¹

73. At its fifty-first session, the Economic and Social Council decided to provide for an additional session of the Committee for Development Planning for each of the years of biennial overall appraisal of progress in the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV) of 24 October 1970.¹⁰²

74. At its fifty-third session, the Economic and Social Council reaffirmed the principle that its subsidiary organs should not meet more frequently than every other year, and invited those bodies meeting more frequently to consider whether biennial meetings would not be feasible. It also decided that there should be strict enforcement of the six-weeks rule for the circulation of documents before meetings in all working languages. Items would be automatically dropped from the agenda when the rule were violated, unless the Council decided otherwise.¹⁰³

75. At its 1845th meeting, on 17 November 1972, the Economic and Social Council decided that the Population Commission should meet at approximately six-month intervals in the period between the conclusion of its special session (August 1972) and the World Population Conference, 1974.

76. At its fifty-fourth session, the Economic and Social Council expressed the need to take measures to strengthen the role of the United Nations in international economic and social cooperation, particularly during the Second United Nations Development Decade, so as to secure the implementation of the goals and policy measures of the International Development Strategy. With regard to the meetings of its subsidiary organs, the Council decided that the Council body responsible for coordination, the Committee for Development Planning, the Commission on Human Rights and its Sub-Commission, and the regional economic commissions should meet every year unless any of the organs decided otherwise with the concurrence of the Council. The Council decided that all other subsidiary and

expert or advisory bodies should meet biennially, unless the Council decided otherwise.¹⁰⁴

77. At its 1858th meeting, on 18 May 1973, the Economic and Social Council took note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 20 (XXIX) concerning the periodicity of the sessions of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies. In the resolution, the Commission had recommended to the Council that it continue to authorize the Commission to meet annually for a period of not less than four and not more than six weeks. It had also recommended that the Council should maintain its decision that the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities should meet at least once a year for three weeks.¹⁰⁵

78. By its resolution 1778 (LIV) of 18 May 1973, the Economic and Social Council noted that biennial sessions did not permit the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to fulfil certain of its responsibilities. The Council decided that, pending further study by the Commission of the question of holding its regular sessions annually with a view to fulfilling its responsibilities more effectively, the Commission would hold a special session in 1974 in addition to its session scheduled for 1975.

79. At its 1919th meeting, on 1 August 1974, the Economic and Social Council decided to authorize the Secretary-General, in consultation with the President of the Council, to change the place and/or the dates of meetings of subsidiary bodies of the Council, if exceptional circumstances so warranted, provided that the change could be absorbed within the existing budget.¹⁰⁶

80. At its 1937th meeting, on 15 January 1975, the Economic and Social Council commended to all its subsidiary bodies the practice of holding informal discussions on items on their agenda as frequently as possible during their sessions.¹⁰⁷ The Council also authorized a number of its subsidiary bodies to provide summary records for discussions when needed, but only in relation to items for which records were deemed essential.

81. At the same meeting, the Economic and Social Council decided to request the Secretary-General to explore the possibility of scheduling more meetings of the functional commissions and expert bodies of the Council during the second half of the year, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3350 (XXIX) of 18 December 1974, and to submit appropriate recommendations to the Council at its fifty-ninth session in the context of the calendar of meetings.¹⁰⁸

82. At its sixtieth session, the Economic and Social Council noted that the Commission for Human Rights was experiencing difficulties in considering all items on its agenda and was making efforts to improve its methods of work. The Council authorized officers elected by the Commission to meet for three days before the opening of its thirty-third session to consider ways to enable the Commission to carry out its functions to the best of its ability. The Council stressed that attention should be paid to: (a) the establishment of a proper and balanced long-term programme of work in the field of human rights; (b) the rationalization of the work by grouping of items, and through

⁹⁷E S C resolution 1472 (XLVIII).

⁹⁸See ESC (XLIX), Suppl. No. 1.

⁹⁹GA resolution 2587 (XXIV).

¹⁰⁰See ESC (XLIX), Suppl. No. 1.

¹⁰¹E S C resolution 1532 (XLIX).

¹⁰²E S C resolution 1625 (LI).

¹⁰³1837th meeting, 28 July 1972 (agenda item 16).

¹⁰⁴E S C resolution 1768 (LIV) VIII.

¹⁰⁵ESC (LIV), Suppl. No. 6.

¹⁰⁶E S C decision 52 (LVII), para. (d).

¹⁰⁷E S C decision 65 (ORG-75), paras (e) - (f).

¹⁰⁸Ibid., para.(i).

advance planning of various sessions; and (c) recourse to the use of sessional working groups and informal consultations.¹⁰⁹

83. At its 2005th plenary meeting, on 14 May 1976, the Economic and Social Council decided that at the 1st meeting of each session of a subsidiary body of the Council, the Chairman should propose, and the subsidiary body should decide on, a limited number of substantive items for which summary records would be required.

84. By its resolution 2033 (LXI) of 4 August 1976, the Economic and Social Council decided that the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development and its regional and working groups, should be exempt from the obligation to adhere to the biennial cycle of meetings endorsed by the Council in its resolution 1768 (LIV) of 18 May 1973 during the preparatory

¹⁰⁹E S C resolution 1992 (LX).

period for, and for the purposes of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development.

G. Method of reporting

85. By its resolution 1623 (LI) of 30 July 1971, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to take urgent steps to reform the nature, scope and form of documentation submitted to the Council. The Council decided, *inter alia*, that the reports of its functional commissions and subsidiary bodies should contain, in addition to a resume of the discussions, a concise summary of recommendations and a statement of issues requiring action by the Council. By its resolution 1894 (LVII) of 1 August 1974, the Council decided to consider no report exceeding 32 pages with the exception of the World Economic Survey and the Report on the World Social Situation, unless the Council authorized that the application of the guidelines set out in resolution 1623 (LI) could be waived.

II. ANALYTICAL SUMMARY OF PRACTICE

**A. Types of organs which Article 68 empowers the Economic and Social Council to set up

B. The need for commissions and committees to assist the Council in carrying out its functions

86. The question of the need for commissions and committees to assist the Economic and Social Council arises not only with respect to its work in matters of international economic and social concern, but also in the light of the Council's efforts to rationalize its work and that of its subsidiary bodies.

87. As seen in the general survey above, the Council established numerous bodies to assist it in the performance of its functions. In a number of cases, standing committees were established so as to provide, *inter alia*, "greater inter-governmental leadership", an "institutional framework" or "permanent machinery" to assist the Council in particular areas of its work.

88. On 27 July 1970, the Council expressed the need for greater intergovernmental leadership and guidance in the development of natural resources during the Second United Nations Development Decade. By its resolution 1535 (XLIX), the Council dissolved the Ad Hoc Committee on the Survey Programme for the Development of Natural Resources and established a Standing Committee on Natural Resources.¹¹⁰ The Committee was established to provide the Council with assistance in the programming and implementation of activities in the United Nations system for the development of natural resources, particularly with regard to water, energy and mineral resources. The Committee was also to assist with regard to, *inter alia*, planning for the Second United Nations Development Decade, the protection of the human environment and new technological developments in the field of natural resources.¹¹¹

89. On 30 July 1971, the Economic and Social Council, recognizing the need for an adequate institutional frame-

work to ensure the increasing application of science and technology to development, established the Committee on Science and Technology.¹¹² Expressing its awareness of the continuing need for global evaluation, analysis, planning and policy guidance regarding the application of science and technology in favour of development, the Council established the Committee as the focal point among the subsidiary bodies of the Council, to assist the Council in that field.¹¹³

90. At its fifty-seventh session, the Economic and Social Council expressed the need for the establishment of permanent machinery to deal with the full range of issues relating to transnational corporations on a continuous basis, and decided to establish a Commission on Transnational Corporations and an information and research centre on transnational corporations. By its resolution 1913 (LVII) of 5 December 1974, the Council decided that the Commission was to assist the Council in the following ways: (a) by acting as the forum within the United Nations system for the consideration of issues relating to transnational corporations; (b) in promoting the exchange of views among Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, trade unions, businesses, consumers and other relevant groups; (c) by providing guidance to the Information and Research Centre on Transnational Corporations¹¹⁴ on rendering advisory services to interested Governments and promoting programmes of technical cooperation; (d) by conducting inquiries and making studies on the activities of transnational corporations; (e) in evolving a set of recommendations to provide a basis for a code of conduct or agreements dealing with transnational corporations; and (f) in recommending priorities and programmes of work to be carried out by the Information and Research Centre on Transnational Corporations.¹¹⁵

¹¹²E S C resolution 1621 B (LI); see also resolution 1715 (LIII) for the Committee's terms of reference.

¹¹³E S C resolutions 1715 (LIII) and 1826 (LV).

¹¹⁴Established under Council resolution 1908 (LVII); see also resolution 1913 (LVII), para. 4, for terms of reference.

¹¹⁵E S C resolution 1913 (LVII).

¹¹⁰See para. 14 above.

¹¹¹*Ibid.*

91. In its resolution establishing the Centre on Transnational Corporations, the Economic and Social Council emphasized the need to ensure that the activities of transnational corporations contributed effectively to the acceleration of the process of development, in particular of the developing countries, and to the strengthening of international economic cooperation.¹¹⁶

92. In establishing the Economic Commission for Western Asia,¹¹⁷ the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-fifth session stated that it believed that membership in a regional economic commission would be an important factor in accelerating the economic and social development of the countries of Western Asia.

93. At its fifty-third session, the Economic and Social Council stressed its continuing obligation to consider improved working methods, the need to strengthen and consolidate its coordinating machinery and the need to reconsider the division of work among the subsidiary bodies as a whole. In order to review the terms of reference, configuration and reorganization of its subsidiary bodies, the Council established a Working Group on the rationalization of the work of the Council and its subsidiary organs.¹¹⁸ By its resolution 1730 (LIII) of 28 July 1972, the Council decided to refrain from creating any new subsidiary organs until the accomplishment of the mandate of the aforementioned working group.¹¹⁹

****C. Character of membership of the functional commissions and subcommissions**

****D. Distribution of membership in functional commissions and other subsidiary organs of the Council**

E. Question of membership in the regional economic commissions

1. ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

94. As in previous sessions, the question of the representation of the German Democratic Republic in the Commission was raised during the period under review. Delegations speaking in favour of the official participation of the German Democratic Republic in ECE stressed that in the years since the creation of the Commission, many changes had occurred in the economic, technological and political fields, and consequently many provisions of the Commission's terms of reference had become obsolete. At the same time, opposition was maintained to any change of the German Democratic Republic's status within the Commission.¹²⁰ Delegations in favour stressed the need to observe the principle of universality in the United Nations system of organizations, including ECE, both because of the necessity of respecting the sovereign equality of all countries and in order to ensure that all opportunities for cooperation were fully used on a world scale, as well as on a regional basis.¹²¹

95. On 13 December 1972, at its fifty-third session, the Economic and Social Council decided to change the terms

of reference of ECE by adding the German Democratic Republic to the list of members of the Commission, on the condition that it offer itself as a candidate and agree to pay an equitable contribution to the budget of the United Nations.¹²² In deciding to change the Commission's terms of reference, the Council stated that it considered that the German Democratic Republic could actively contribute to the work of the Commission and that its presence would further the economic co-operation among the countries in that region, thus facilitating the implementation of the Commission's responsibilities.

****2. ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE FAR EAST**

****3. ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA**

****4. ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

****5. ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA**

**** F. Question of the representation of a Member State in the organs established by the Council**

G. Power of subsidiary organs of the Council to adopt rules of procedure

96. During the period under review, the Economic and Social Council continued to give subsidiary organs the power to adopt rules of procedure. With regard to the newly established Economic Commission for Western Asia, the Council gave the Commission the power to adopt its own rules of procedure, including the method of selecting its chairman. This is consistent with the Council's approach regarding the other regional economic commissions.¹²³

97. In another instance, the Economic and Social Council decided that if the Commission on Human Rights appointed an ad hoc committee to investigate a situation of gross and reliably attested violations of human rights, the committee would establish its own rules of procedure and would be subject to the quorum rule.¹²⁴

98. At its January 1974 organizational session, the Economic and Social Council decided to review at its fifty-sixth session, under the item entitled "Rationalization of the work of the Council", the terms of reference and rules of procedure of its subsidiary bodies.¹²⁵ Consideration of these matters was subsequently deferred to the fifty-eighth session.¹²⁶

99. At its fifty-eighth session, upon consideration of (i) report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and the report of the Chairman of the informal consultations, the Council adopted the rules of procedure as annexed to its resolution 1949 (LVIII) of 8 May 1975.¹²⁷

¹¹⁶E S C resolution 1908 (LVII).

¹¹⁷E S C resolution 1818 (LV); see paras. 9 and 35 above.

¹¹⁸E S C resolution 1730 (LIII).

¹¹⁹Idem, para. 5.

¹²⁰E/4822, paras. 10-15.

¹²¹E/5001, paras. 19-29, and E/5136, paras. 14-16 and 38-39.

¹²²E S C resolution 1732 (LIII); see para. 50 above.

¹²³E S C resolution 1818 (LV).

¹²⁴E S C resolution 1503 (XLVIII).

¹²⁵E S C decision 1 (LVI).

¹²⁶E S C decision 21 (LVI).

¹²⁷See this *Supplement*, under Article 72

Chapter V of the revised rules of procedure concerns the sessional bodies and subsidiary organs of the Council.

100. In the same resolution, the Economic and Social Council drew the attention of the regional commissions to the rules of procedure annexed to the resolution, stating that they might wish to take them into account in connection with their own rules of procedure. The Council also decided to consider at its sixtieth session the question of the review of the rules of procedure of its functional commissions.¹²⁸

101. At its 2041st plenary meeting, on 13 January 1977, the Economic and Social Council decided to review the rules of procedure of the functional commissions at its sixty-second session in the context of the agenda item entitled "Restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system". The Council set 15 March 1977 as the deadline for the submission of corrections or formal amendments to the draft revised rules of procedure of the functional commissions, without prejudice to the right of delegations to make further proposals during the discussion of the question.¹²⁹

102. At its 2053rd plenary meeting, on 26 April 1977, the Economic and Social Council adopted without a vote the revised rules of procedure of its functional commissions as proposed by the Secretariat,¹³⁰ as orally revised at the meeting.¹³¹

H. Participation in the work of the subsidiary organs of the Council, of other organs of the United Nations, specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations

103. As in the case of the other regional economic commissions, the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Western Asia provide for the participation, in a consultative capacity, of specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, in accordance with the practice of the Economic and Social Council.¹³²

1. PARTICIPATION OF MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

104. At its 2078th meeting, on 22 July 1977, the Economic and Social Council decided to recommend that ECA, ECLA, ECWA and ESCAP invite the Holy See, a non-member State, to attend the sessions of those commissions on a basis similar to that provided for in the relevant terms of reference applicable to States Members of the United Nations not members of the commissions.¹³³

2. PARTICIPATION OF OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES

105. During the period under review, there were numerous occasions upon which the Economic and Social Council requested particular subsidiary bodies to participate in the work of other subsidiary bodies. The nature of the participation varied from case to case.

106. By its resolution 1621(LI), of 30 July 1971, the Economic and Social Council decided to maintain the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development. The Advisory Committee was to furnish expertise to the Standing Committee established by the same resolution, and it might receive instructions from the Standing Committee as necessary to provide it with scientific, technological and innovative ideas in that field.

107. In the same resolution, the Economic and Social Council requested the Committee for Development Planning to assist the Committee on Review and Appraisal by reviewing all relevant material concerning the overall progress made in implementing the International Development Strategy, and by conveying to that Committee its comments and recommendations.¹³⁴

108. At its fifty-second session, the Economic and Social Council requested the Committee on Review and Appraisal and the Committee for Development Planning to draw on work of the Commission for Social Development in order to ensure their integration in overall development planning, and in the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy.¹³⁵ The Council also requested the two committees to transmit to the Commission on Human Rights information regarding the realization of the economic, social and cultural rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, taking into account the special problems relating to human rights in developing countries.¹³⁶

109. At its fifty-third session, the Economic and Social Council requested that arrangements be made for the Executive Secretaries of the regional economic commissions and the Director of the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut to take part in the meetings of ACC and the joint meetings of CPC and ACC.¹³⁷

110. At its fifty-fourth session, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to organize regional inter-secretariat meetings under the authority of the intergovernmental bodies of the regional economic commissions with a view to improving cooperation and coordination of economic and social activities at the regional level. All interested specialized agencies and concerned United Nations organizations were invited to participate.¹³⁸

3. PARTICIPATION OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

111. At its forty-eighth session, the Economic and Social Council authorized the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts to cooperate with the International Labour Organization, other specialized agencies and the major international trade-union organizations, to investigate conditions of: (a) African producers of primary products in the Portuguese colonies in Africa; (b) the sector of unorganized labour such as farm labour in the Portuguese colonies in Africa; and (c) workers from Mozambique and Angola employed in South Africa, Namibia and Southern Rhodesia. The Council further authorized the above mentioned bodies to investigate factors leading to discrimination in the social field in the areas specified.¹³⁹

¹²⁸E S C resolution 1949 (LVIII), paras. 3-4.

¹²⁹E S C decision 209 (ORG 77).

¹³⁰(E/5899).

¹³¹E S C decision 216 (LXII).

¹³²E S C resolution 1818 (LV).

¹³³E S C decision 244 (LXIII).

¹³⁴E S C resolution 1621 (LI).

¹³⁵E S C resolution 1666 (LII).

¹³⁶E S C resolution 1689 (LII).

¹³⁷E S C resolution 1724 (LIII).

¹³⁸E S C resolution 1757 (LIV).

¹³⁹E S C resolution 1509 (XLVIII).

112. At its fifty-second session, the Economic and Social Council invited the ILO and UNESCO to consider the question of the effective methods and means to be used for the realization of economic, social and cultural rights and to forward their suggestions to the Commission on Human Rights for consideration at its twenty-ninth session.¹⁴⁰

113. At its fifty-fourth session, the Economic and Social Council endorsed the view of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs that an expert review of the body of scientific research on drug abuse, in advance of its sessions, would enable it to carry out its responsibilities in the field more effectively. The Council invited the World Health Organization to assist the Commission by preparing timely analytical reports on the epidemiological pattern of drug abuse for the use of the Council.¹⁴¹

4. PARTICIPATION OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

114. At its fiftieth session, the Economic and Social Council approved recommendations made by the Secretary-General in his report on relations with non-United Nations intergovernmental organizations. The Council decided that the Council of Europe, the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, the European Economic Community and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development would be entitled to participate without the right to vote in the Council's debates on questions of concern to them. In addition, it was approved that the Council should authorize the Secretary-General to propose that certain other intergovernmental organizations might be invited to be represented by observers at individual sessions when the Council discussed questions of direct concern to them. It was also agreed that the Secretary-General should arrange for invitations to all sessions of the Council to be extended to the League of Arab States, OAU, OAS, OPEC, Regional Cooperation for Development and WIPO, without informing the Council thereof. It was also approved that the functional commissions and standing committees should continue to invite to their meetings intergovernmental organs in fields of direct concern to them, and keep the Council informed thereof. Those organizations would be entitled to participate, without the right to vote, in debates on questions of concern to them.¹⁴²

115. At its fifty-sixth session, the Economic and Social Council invited the International Narcotics Control Board to participate as an observer at the regional meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee for the Far East Region. The Council also authorized the Secretary-General to invite observers from the International Police Organization-Interpol, the Customs Cooperation Council and other competent international organizations to participate in the regional meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee.¹⁴³

116. At its fifty-ninth session, the Economic and Social Council amended the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Africa by adding the following new paragraph between paragraphs 9 and 10:

"The Commission shall invite any national liberation movement recognized by the Organization of African Unity to send observers to participate in its consideration

of any matter of interest to that movement. Such observers shall have the right to submit proposals, which may be voted upon at the request of any member of the Commission. The Commission shall defray all travel and other related expenses of representatives of the national liberation movements invited to attend such proceedings".¹⁴⁴

117. Also at its fifty-ninth session, the Economic and Social Council decided to designate the following organizations to participate on a continuing basis in the work of the Council under rule 79 of its rules of procedure: Council of Europe, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, Regional Cooperation for Development, International Criminal Police Organization-Interpol, World Tourism Organization and Council of Arab Economic Unity. The Economic and Social Council also decided to designate the International Secretariat for Volunteer Service and the International Civil Defence Organization as being able to participate on an ad hoc basis in the deliberations of the Council under rule 79 of its rules of procedure.¹⁴⁵

**5. PARTICIPATION OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

****I. Delegation of power to and by organs established by the Council**

****J. The binding quality of decisions of organs established by the Council**

****K. Question of the approval by the Council of studies to be undertaken by a functional commission**

****L. Conventions prepared under the auspices of the regional economic commissions**

¹⁴⁰E S C resolution 1689 (LII).

¹⁴¹E S C resolution 1781 (LIV).

¹⁴²E/4961. See this *Supplement*, under Article 70.

¹⁴³E S C resolution 1845 (LVI).

¹⁴⁴E S C resolution 1950 (LIX).

¹⁴⁵E S C decision 109 (LIX), 1973rd mtg., 23 July 1975.

ARTICLE 69

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