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. During the period under review, the Economic and Social Council established no new commissions. The Council did establish several new committees, as well as subordinate bodies of commissions and committees, established with the Council's approval.

2. The current material is arranged under the same major headings as those appearing in the *Repertory* and its previous *Supplements*.

I. GENERAL SURVEY

3. During the period under review, the Economic and Social Council adopted a number of decisions with respect to its functional commissions in the context of the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields.[1] Several commissions were requested to review and sometimes revise their subsidiary structure by, for instance, establishing committees, bearing in mind the resolutions of the Council and General Assembly on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields.[2]

4. In its resolution 50/227, the Assembly decided, that the Council should undertake a review of the mandate, composition, functions and working methods of its functional commissions and expert bodies to ensure more effective and coordinated discussions and outcomes of their work.[3] It should also consider, as a matter of priority, the role, working methods and relationship with other bodies of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, the Committee for Development Planning, the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development and the Committee on Natural Resources.[4]

5. In its discussion on improving the working methods of its functional commissions, the Council, in its resolution 1998/46, noted that, bearing in mind the interlinkage of issues, there was a need for the functional commissions to strengthen their coordination, while paying careful attention to the mandates and terms of reference of each commission. The Council recommended that it should play a key role in that process and that adoption of a multi-year thematic programme for the functional commissions responsible for follow-up to the major conferences[5] would be helpful.[6]

6. The Assembly and the Council also made several recommendations with respect to regional commissions. The Council noted that the regional commissions provided an important forum for articulating regional perspectives on global issues and for building consensus within their respective regions

[1] E S C resolutions 1996/43, 1998/46, 1998/47, 1998/49, 1999/1 and 1999/51, and G A resolutions 50/227 and 52/12 B.

[2] Ibid.

[3] G A resolution 50/227.

[4] Ibid.

[5] The functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council entrusted with the follow-up to major United Nations conferences are the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Population and Development and the Commission on Human Settlements.

[6] E S C resolution 1998/46.

and that this capacity should be utilized more fully by United Nations bodies, funds and programmes, as appropriate.[7] The Council further stated that linking the activities of the regional commissions more effectively with the overall activities of the United Nations in the economic and social sectors should be pursued vigorously.[8]

7. In its resolution 50/227, the Assembly requested the Council to provide for a review of the regional commissions, with a view to strengthening and enhancing their effectiveness as action- and policy-oriented bodies in the economic and development fields with better response to the conditions and environments unique to the specific regions.[9] One of the major purposes of such reviews was to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of those bodies by eliminating unnecessary duplication or overlapping of work and by ensuring a better structural relationship among those bodies and with the Economic and Social Council.[10]

A. Types of organs established by the Council

**1. COMMISSIONS

2. OTHER ORGANS AND BODIES ESTABLISHED BY THE COUNCIL

8. During the period under review, the Economic and Social Council continued to make use of its power to set up various organs by establishing several committees within the regional commissions.

9. In revising the subsidiary structure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Council decided to establish five new committees, namely the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation; the Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas; the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development; the Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development; and the Committee on Statistics.[11]

10. The Council decided to establish four new committees within ESCWA: the Committee on Energy;[12] the Committee on Water Resources;[13] the Committee on Transport;[14] and the Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade and Economic Globalization in the Countries of the ESCWA Region.[15]

11. In 1997, the Council decided that six new committees within the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) should be established:[16] the Committee on Development Information; the Committee on Sustainable Development; the Committee on Human Development and Civil Society; the Committee on Industry and Private Sector Development; the Committee on Natural Resources and Science and Technology; and the Committee on Regional Cooperation and Integration.

12. In the same resolution, the Council established the Commission's Follow-up Committee on the Conference of Ministers Responsible for Economic and Social Development and Planning, composed of members of the incoming and outgoing bureaux of the Commission.[17]

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

13. During the period under review, the Council adopted a number of decisions authorizing its commissions and committees to establish or continue certain subordinate bodies, expert bodies, or sessional and intersessional working groups.

14. Throughout the period, the Council continued to act on resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights requesting the establishment of open-ended working groups.[18] The Council also decided to send a mission to assess the human rights situation in Guatemala.[19]

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[7] Ibid.
[8] Ibid.
[9] G A resolution 50/227.
[10] Ibid.
[11] E S C resolution 1997/4. See also E/ESCAP/1080.
[12] E S C resolution 1995/25. See also E/ESCWA/18/7, resolution 204 (XVIII).
[13] E S C resolution 1995/26. See also E/ESCWA/18/7, resolution 205 (XVIII).
[14] E S C resolution 1997/11. See also E/ESCWA/19/9, resolution 213 (XIX).
[15] E S C resolution 1997/12. See also E/ESCWA/19/9, resolution 214 (XIX).
[16] E S C resolution 1997/5. See also E/ECA/CM.2313, resolution 826 (XXXII).
[17] Ibid.
[18] E S C resolution 1995/32 (authorizing the establishment of the Working Group on the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples); E S C resolution 1995/33

(authorizing an open-ended working group of the Commission to meet for a period of two weeks in order to continue the elaboration of a draft optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (G A resolution 39/46, annex)); E S C resolution 1995/35 (authorizing an open-ended intersessional working group of the Commission to elaborate with the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography); E S C resolution 1995/37 (authorizing a meeting of the working group on a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (G A resolution 44/25, annex) on the involvement of children in armed conflicts); E S C resolution 1995/38 (authorizing an open-ended working group in order to elaborate on a draft declaration on the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms); E S C resolution 1996/22 (authorizing the establishment of an open-ended working group to continue the elaboration of a draft protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (G A resolution 39/46, annex)); E S C decision 1996/271 (endorsing the establishment, in accordance with the conclusions of the fourth workshop on regional human rights arrangement in the Asian and Pacific region, held in Kathmandu (E/CN.4/1996/Add.1) of an open-ended team composed of representatives of interested Governments of the region and the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat, which could consult with non-governmental organizations and national institutions to ensure the effective preparation of the next workshop and to facilitate the development of regional arrangements); E S C decision 1996/289 (endorsing the establishment of an open-ended working group of the Commission to meet for a period of one week to elaborate, on the basis of the preliminary set of basic policy guidelines on structural adjustment programmes and economic, social and cultural rights and in close cooperation with the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, policy guidelines on the subject matter, and requesting the Secretary-General to provide all the assistance necessary to enable the working group to carry out its work); E S C resolution 1997/49 (authorizing the establishment of an open-ended working group of the Commission to meet for a period of two weeks in order to continue the elaboration of a draft optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (G A resolution 39/46, annex)); E S C resolution 1997/51 (authorizing the establishment of an open-ended working group of the Commission to meet for a period of eight days in order to finalize its elaboration of a draft declaration on the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms); E S C decision 1997/243 (endorsing the establishment of a working group consisting of five intergovernmental experts, to gather all relevant information from Governments, non-governmental organizations and any other relevant sources on the obstacles existing to the effective and full protection of the human rights of migrants); E S C resolution 1998/35 (authorizing the establishment of an open-ended working group of the Commission to meet for a period of two weeks in order to continue or conclude the elaboration of a draft optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (G A resolution 39/46, annex)); E S C decision 1998/247 (endorsing the establishment of an open-ended intersessional ad hoc working group to elaborate and consider further proposals for the possible establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people in the United Nations system); E S C decision 1998/251 (endorsing the creation of an open-ended working group of the Commission to meet in order to review and formulate proposals for consideration by the Commission and possible forwarding to the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance at its first session); E S C decision 1998/276 (endorsing the creation of the open-ended working group on structural adjustment programmes and economic, social and cultural rights to meet for one week); E S C decision 1999/237 (authorizing the Open-ended Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights to meet for a period of two weeks in order to continue or conclude the elaboration of a draft optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (G A resolution 39/46, annex)); E S C decision 1999/242 (endorsing the re-establishment of the open-ended intersessional ad hoc working group with a view to completing its task, one or more concrete proposals on the establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people in the United Nations system for consideration by the Commission at that session); E S C decision 1999/256 (endorsing the establishment of an intersession open-ended working group, under the agenda item entitled “Rationalization of the work of the Commission”, on enhancing the effectiveness of the mechanisms of the Commission to continue the comprehensive examination of the report submitted by the Bureau as well as other contributions in that connection).

[19] E S C decision 1997/261 (approving the sending of a mission to Guatemala at the end of 1997 to submit a report to the Commission at its fifty-fourth session on the evolution of the situation of human rights in

15. As in the previous *Supplement* of the *Repertory*, the Council continued to act on the recommendations of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities[20] and the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.[21] The Council adopted decisions authorizing the establishment of working groups of the Commission on Human Rights which had been referred to it by the two Subcommissions.

16. During the period under review, the Council requested or acted on the recommendations of the Commission on the Status of Women,[22] the Commission on Sustainable Development[23] and the Commission for Social Development[24] to establish working groups and groups of experts.

17. In 1996, ECLAC decided, in its resolution[25] on the reform of the United Nations and its impact on the Commission,[26] to establish an ad hoc working group open to all its member countries; that group was empowered, inter alia, to recommend to the Commission strategic directions for its future activities in the context of the ongoing process of reform of the United Nations.[27]

18. During its organizational session in 1998, the Council established an open-ended working group on the right to development[28] as a follow-up mechanism to the Declaration on the Right to Development.[29] The open-ended working group succeeded two previous bodies: a working group on the right to development mandated to identify obstacles to the implementation of the Declaration[30] and an intergovernmental group of experts with a mandate to elaborate a strategy for the implementation and promotion of the right to development.[31]

19. The Council requested its President to convene an ad hoc open-ended working group on informatics to make appropriate recommendations on the need to harmonize and improve United Nations information systems for optimum utilization and accessibility by all States.[32]

20. Recalling its decision 1995/226, approving the establishment of an ad hoc open-ended intergovernmental panel on forests to pursue consensus and formulate coordinated proposals for action towards the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests, the Council decided to establish in 1997, under the aegis of the Commission on Sustainable Development, an ad hoc, open-ended intergovernmental forum on forests as envisaged above, replacing the panel on forests which

Guatemala in the light of the implementation of the Peace Agreements).

[20] E S C resolution 1995/31 (authorizing the establishment of the Intersessional Working Group of the Subcommission on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities); E S C decision 1998/256 (approving the appointment of an expert to prepare a revised version of the basic principles and guidelines elaborated by the former Special Rapporteur of the Subcommission, Mr. Theo van Boven, taking into account the views and comments provided by States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations).

[21] E S C decision 1999/241 (authorizing the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission).

[22] E S C resolution 1995/29 (authorizing the establishment of an in-session open-ended working group for a two-week period to consider a report with a view to elaborating a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women).

[23] E S C decision 1995/226 (approving the establishment of an open-ended ad hoc intergovernmental panel on forests); E S C resolution 1999/60 and decision 1999/285 (establishing an ad hoc open-ended intergovernmental group of experts on energy and sustainable development).

[24] E S C decision 1995/251 (deciding to establish an open-ended working group on youth to complete the formulation of the draft world programme of action for youth to the year 2000 and beyond); E S C decision 1996/242 (deciding to establish an ad hoc informal open-ended support group to assist the Commission for Social Development in the preparations for the International Year of Older Persons in 1999.

[25] E C L A C resolution 553 (XXVI).

[26] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 17* (E/1996/37), chap. III, sect. F.

[27] E C L A C resolution 553 (XXVI). See also E S C resolution 1997/54.

[28] E S C decision 1998/269.

[29] A/RES/41/128.

[30] H R Commission resolutions 1993/22 and 1996/15.

[31] E S C decision 1996/258 and H R Commission resolution 1998/72.

[32] E S C resolution 1995/61.

would report to the Commission on Sustainable Development.[33]

4. CHANGES AFFECTING EXISTING SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE COUNCIL

21. During the period under review, the Council adopted several decisions by which it affected existing subsidiary bodies.

(a) *Commissions*

22. During its organizational session in 1995, the Economic and Social Council, in taking note of General Assembly resolution 49/128, endorsed the decision of the Assembly that the Population Commission should be renamed the Commission on Population and Development.[34]

23. In noting that ESCAP had recommended that, in its terms of reference, the name "Hong Kong" be changed to "Hong Kong, China", with the objective of enabling that region to continue thereafter as an associate member of the Commission, the Council decided to amend paragraphs 2 and 4 of the terms of reference of ESCAP accordingly.[35] Similarly, in noting that ESCAP had recommended that the name "Macau" should be changed to "Macau, China" with the objective of enabling that region to continue thereafter as an associate member of the Commission, the Council decided also to amend paragraphs 2 and 4 of the terms of reference of ESCAP accordingly.[36]

24. In noting that Palau had become a full member of ESCAP, the Council decided to amend paragraphs 3 and 4 of the terms of reference of the Commission accordingly.[37] Similarly, in noting that the Commission had recommended the admission of Turkey as a member within the geographical scope of the Commission, the Council decided to amend paragraphs 2 and 3 of the terms of reference of ESCAP accordingly.[38]

(b) *Other organs and bodies*

25. In wishing to avoid possible confusion between the name of the present Technical Committee and the names of the sectoral technical committees of ESCWA, the Council decided to change the name of the Technical Committee to Preparatory Committee.[39]

26. In noting that the Coordinating Group for the Harmonization of Chemical Classification Systems of the Inter-Organization Programme for Sound Management had prepared proposals for the implementation of the globally harmonized system, consisting of reconfiguring the present Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and extending its mandate to cover not only transport of dangerous goods but also implementation and updating of the globally harmonized system, the Council decided to reconfigure the Committee and its Subcommittee into the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, with a Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and a Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals.[40]

27. In its resolution 1998/46 on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, the Council decided to merge the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development into a single expert body to be named the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development. The Committee was to comprise two sub-groups, one to deal with issues relating to energy and the other to deal with issues relating to water resources.[41]

28. In the same resolution, following the review by the General Assembly of the subsidiary bodies of the Council,[42] the Council decided that the Committee for Development Planning should be renamed Committee for Development Policy.[43]

29. In its resolution on reform of ECA, the Council decided that the Africa Regional Coordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in

[33] E S C resolution 1997/65.
[34] E S C decision 1995/209.
[35] E S C resolution 1996/3.
[36] E S C resolution 1999/38.
[37] E S C resolution 1996/3. (The name "Macau, China" was changed for "Macao, China" in 2000.)
[38] Ibid.
[39] E S C resolution 1999/42.
[40] E S C resolution 1999/65.
[41] E S C resolution 1998/46.
[42] G A resolution 50/227.
[43] E S C resolution 1998/46.

Development would be renamed the Committee on Women and Development.[44]

(c) *Subordinate bodies of commissions and committees*

30. In noting that, of its total membership of 24 States, 6 of them, namely Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, use Russian as the working lingua franca of their drug law enforcement agencies, the Council decided that the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East should use Arabic, English and Russian as its working languages for future sessions.[45]

31. During its substantive session of 1999, the Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on Human Rights,[46] changed the title of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.[47]

32. In 1997, the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities decided to change the title of the Working Group on the Administration of Justice and the Question of Compensation to the Working Group on the Administration of Justice.[48]

**B. Methods of establishment

C. Functions and powers

33. As in the past, the Council assigned various functions and powers to both its existing and its newly established bodies. On various occasions, the Council decided to expand or alter the terms of reference or mandate of a particular body or incorporate certain subject matter into its programme of work.

1. COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

34. During the period under review, pursuant to the recommendation of the Council on adopting multi-year programmes contained in its resolution 1998/46, four of the five functional commissions responsible for follow-up to the major conferences, namely the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Commission on Population and Development and the Commission on the Status of Women, adopted and implemented multi-year programmes.[49] The programmes were however not all synchronous, and their formulation was not carried out in a consultative or coordinated manner in all cases.[50] The Commission on Human Rights found it difficult to adopt a multi-year programme, because of the range, scope and political nature of its work, as well as unforeseen changes in emphasis and priorities of subject matters.[51]

35. The terms of reference for the newly established Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals stated that the Committee should deal with strategic issues rather than technical issues. However, it was not envisaged that it would review, change or revisit technical recommendations of the Subcommittees.[52]

36. In the same resolution, the Council mandated the Committee with, inter alia, the following tasks:[53]

(a) To approve the programmes of work for the Subcommittees in the light of available resources;

(b) To coordinate strategic and policy directions in areas of shared interest and overlap;

(c) To give formal endorsement to the recommendations of the Subcommittees and provide the mechanism for channelling them to the Council.

37. The functions of the Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods included:[54]

(a) To act as custodian of the globally harmonized system of classification and labelling of chemicals, managing and giving direction to the harmonization process;

(b) To make the system available for worldwide use and application;

(c) To prepare programmes of work and submit recommendations to the Committee.

38. The Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of

[44] E S C resolution 1997/5.
[45] E S C resolution 1997/64.
[46] See E/CN.4/1999/SR.61 and corrigendum.
[47] E S C decision 1999/256.
[48] E/CN.4/SUB.2/DEC/1997/102.
[49] E/1999/101.
[50] Ibid.
[51] Ibid.
[52] E S C resolution 1999/65, annex.
[53] E S C resolution 1999/65.
[54] Ibid.

Chemicals replaced the existing Committee and its Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods[55] with the same terms of reference.[56]

39. The newly established open-ended working group on the right to development was, inter alia, given the following mandate:[57]

(a) To monitor and review progress made in the promotion and implementation of the right to development as elaborated in the Declaration on the Right to Development,[58] at the national and international levels, providing recommendations thereon and further analysing obstacles to its full enjoyment, focusing each year on specific commitments in the Declaration;[59]

(b) To review reports and any other information submitted by States, United Nations agencies, other relevant international organizations and non-governmental organizations on the relationship between their activities and the right to development.

40. The renamed Committee of Development Policy was, inter alia, given the following functions:[60]

(a) To continue the triennial review of the status of least developed countries;

(b) To consider issues identified by the Council;

(c) To submit a report to the Council's substantive session, including the outcome of its deliberations on the theme(s) identified by the Council and proposals concerning its programme of work for the following year.

41. During its substantive session of 1995, the Council decided that the Commission for Social Development, as a functional commission of the Council, in promoting the integrated treatment of social development issues in the United Nations system, should review, on a periodic basis, issues related to the follow-up and implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action,[61] in a manner consistent with the functions and contributions of other relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and to that end the Commission should:[62]

(a) Make recommendations regarding social development to the Economic and Social Council;

(b) Elaborate practical measures aimed at furthering the recommendations of the World Summit for Social Development;[63]

(c) Adapt its mandate so as to ensure an integrated approach to social development, taking into account the relationship between social and economic development as defined in the recommendations of the World Summit for Social Development.[64]

42. The following year, the Council decided[65] that the Commission should have the primary responsibility for the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development[66] and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development.[67]

43. On the subject of the follow up to the Summit and the future role of the Commission, the Council added to its terms of reference, deciding that the Commission should assist the Council in monitoring, reviewing and appraising the progress achieved and problems encountered in the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration[68] and should advise the Council thereon, and that the Commission should, inter alia:[69]

(a) Integrate, within the framework of the follow-up to the Summit, consideration of issues relating to the situation of social groups, including a

[55] Ibid.
[56] E/1996/97, paras. 166-175.
[57] E S C decision 1998/269.
[58] A/RES/41/128.
[59] Ibid.
[60] E S C resolution 1998/46.
[61] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I. A/CONF.166/9.
[62] E S C resolution 1995/60. See also G A resolution 50/161.
[63] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II. A/CONF.166/9.
[64] Ibid.
[65] E S C resolution 1996/7.
[66] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II. A/CONF.166/9.
[67] Ibid.
[68] Ibid.
[69] E S C resolution 1996/7.

review of relevant United Nations programmes of action related to such groups, and consideration of other sectoral issues;

(b) Identify emerging issues affecting social development that required urgent consideration and make substantive recommendations thereon;

(c) Elaborate practical measures aimed at furthering recommendations of the Summit.

44. The functions of the Committee were to be as follows:[70]

(a) Continue the triennial review of the status of least developed countries;

(b) Consider issues identified by the Council;

(c) Submit a report to the Council's substantive session, including the outcome of its deliberations on the theme(s) identified by the Council and proposals concerning its programme of work for the following year.

45. During its substantive session of 1996, on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women,[71] the Council modified the terms of reference of the Commission on the Status of Women by adding that the Commission should, inter alia:[72]

(a) Assist the Council in monitoring, reviewing and appraising progress achieved and problems encountered in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration[73] and Platform for Action[74] at all levels, and should advise the Council thereon;

(b) Continue to ensure support for mainstreaming a gender perspective into United Nations activities and develop further its catalytic role in that regard in other areas;

(c) Identify emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men that required consideration, and make substantive recommendations thereon.

46. In its resolution 52/192, the Assembly reaffirmed that the Commission on Human Settlements should have a central role in monitoring, within the United Nations system, the implementation of the Habitat Agenda[75] and advising the Council thereon. The Assembly decided that the Commission, in fulfilling its mandate, should assist the Council in monitoring, reviewing and assessing the progress made in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, inter alia, through analysis of relevant inputs from Governments, local authorities and their associations, relevant non-governmental organizations and the private sector. The Assembly also decided that the Commission should identify issues on which system-wide coordination needed to be improved and modalities for promoting such coordination in order to assist the Council in its coordination function.[76]

47. During its substantive session of 1996, the Council requested that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs act as a preparatory body for the special session of the General Assembly devoted to combating the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities, and to be open to the participation of all States Members of the United Nations and of observers.[77]

48. In the report on its twenty-eighth session,[78] the Council endorsed the terms of reference proposed by the Commission on Population and Development and decided that, in addition to those terms of reference, the Commission should review the findings of research and analysis pertaining to the interrelationship between population and development at the national, regional and global levels and advise the Council thereon.[79] The Commission was to have the primary responsibility for reviewing the follow-up to and implementation of the

[70] E S C resolution 1998/46.

[71] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I. A/CONF.177/20/Rev.1.

[72] E S C resolution 1996/6. See also G A resolution 50/203.

[73] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I. A/CONF.177/20/Rev.1.

[74] Ibid.

[75] A/CONF.165/14, chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[76] G A resolution 52/192.

[77] E S C resolution 1996/17.

[78] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 7* (E/1995/27), chap. I, sect. B.

[79] E S C resolution 1995/55.

ICPD Programme of Action,[80] in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/128.[81]

49. In 1997, the newly established ad hoc open-ended Intergovernmental Forum on Forests was given a focused and time-limited mandate to work under the aegis of the Commission on Sustainable Development in an open, transparent and participatory manner, inter alia:[82]

(a) To promote and facilitate the implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests;

(b) To review, monitor and report on progress in the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests;

(c) To consider matters left pending with regard to the programme elements of the Intergovernmental Panel, in particular trade and environment in relation to forest products and services, transfer of technology and the need for financial resources.

2. REGIONAL COMMISSIONS

50. The newly established committees within ESCAP were mandated to, inter alia, undertake the tasks described below:

51. The Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation was mandated: [83]

(a) To review and analyse global and regional trends and developments that have an impact on areas such as intraregional trade, investment, technology and financial flows;

(b) To serve as a mobilizer of ideas and a catalyst for action to promote regional economic cooperation by identifying and addressing major development issues and regional concerns.

52. The Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas was mandated: [84]

(a) To review and analyse the global and regional trends and developments that have an impact on the poverty situation in the region;

(b) To accelerate follow-up to the decisions and recommendations of global conferences at the national, subregional and regional levels.

53. The Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development was mandated:[85]

(a) To review and identify priority issues, assess progress and promote regional and subregional cooperation in the development and management of water, mineral and energy resources and in the application of space technologies;

(b) To encourage the setting of standards and the strengthening of legal frameworks for the development and management of natural resources.

54. The Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development was mandated:[86]

(a) To review and analyse global and regional trends and developments that have an impact on transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development;

(b) To promote liaison with international financing institutions, concerned private sector organizations and non-governmental organizations to assist in the development of transport, communications, tourism and electric power infrastructure and services.

55. The Committee on Statistics was mandated:[87]

(a) To assist in the strengthening of the statistical infrastructure in the countries of the region, promote improvement in the quality of statistics, the international comparability of data and the appropriate application of new techniques;

(b) To participate actively in the initiation, development, revision, testing and implementation of international statistical standards.

56. The Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission was mandated:[88]

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[80] *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. A/CONF.171/13/Rev.1.

[81] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 7* (E/1995/27), chap. I, sect. B.

[82] E S C resolution 1997/65 and G A resolution S-19/2, annex, para. 40 (a)-(c).

[83] E S C resolution 1997/4.

[84] Ibid.

[85] Ibid.

[86] Ibid.

[87] Ibid.

[88] Ibid.

(a) To maintain close cooperation and consultation between the members and the secretariat of the Commission;

(b) To advise and assist the Executive Secretary in drawing up proposals for the medium-term plan, programme budget and priorities, consistent with the guidelines provided by the Commission.

57. In recalling General Assembly resolutions 45/264, 46/235, 48/162 and 50/227 on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, the Council called for the enhancement of the function of ESCWA as a basic forum for coordinating the economic and social policies of its member States and for the development of its role in supporting regional and subregional projects aimed at expanding economic and social cooperation among member States at both the regional and subregional levels. The Council called for the granting to the Commission, within the framework of reform of the United Nations system, of a broader mandate for carrying out its activities, including those related to regional technical cooperation projects, and for the strengthening of its role in coordinating the activities of the agencies and organizations of the United Nations system and those of the regional and national organizations concerned in the region in which it operates so as to ensure that the United Nations objectives of development, freedom and peace are achieved.[89]

58. The newly established committees within ESCWA were mandated to, inter alia, undertake the tasks described below:

59. The Committee on Energy was mandated:[90]

(a) To participate in the establishment and formulation of priorities for the programme of work and medium-term plan in the field of energy;

(b) To follow up international and regional conferences, participation of member States in them and coordination of regional efforts relating to the implementation of resolutions and recommendations.

60. The Committee on Water Resources was mandated:[91]

(a) To participate in the establishment and formulation of priorities for the programme of work and medium-term plan in the field of water resources;

(b) To monitor developments in the field of water resources in the States members of the Commission.

61. The Committee on Transport was mandated:[92]

(a) To participate in the establishment and formulation of priorities for programmes of work and medium-term plans in the field of transport;

(b) To monitor the progress achieved in the activities of the secretariat of the Commission in the field of transport.

62. The Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade and Economic Globalization in the Countries of the ESCWA Region was mandated:[93]

(a) To monitor international developments in global trade negotiations and the creation and development of economic and trade blocs;

(b) To establish joint programmes with countries of the ESCWA region and in cooperation with other regional and international organizations for training, exchange of information and studies.

63. The newly established committees within ECA were mandated to, *inter alia*, undertake the tasks described below:[94]

64. The Committee on Women and Development was mandated:

(a) To review and evaluate the activities carried out in the region in the framework of the relevant programmes for the advancement of women;

(b) To harmonize and coordinate the subregional programmes on women in development approved within the subregions.

65. The Committee on Development Information was mandated:

(a) To review and advise on the implementation of the African Information Society Initiative, an action framework for national information and

[89] E S C resolution 1997/14.
[90] E S C resolution 1995/25.
[91] E S C resolution 1995/26.
[92] E S C resolution 1997/11.
[93] E S C resolution 1997/12.
[94] E S C resolution 1997/5.

communications infrastructure, with a view to suggesting measures to accelerate its implementation;

(b) To identify and suggest techniques for the application of geographical information for natural resource exploitation and management.

66. The Committee on Sustainable Development was mandated:

(a) To consider and make recommendations on a multidisciplinary approach to the implementation of the relevant programmes of action;

(b) To promote the formulation of policies and measures for environmental protection, food security, improved human settlements and integration of population variables into development planning.

67. The Committee on Human Development and Civil Society was mandated:

(a) To assist Member States in promoting measures to follow up the implementation of the regional and global programmes of action in social and human development and popular participation;

(b) To encourage the integration of social and human dimensions into development policies, plans and programmes at both the macroeconomic and sectoral levels.

68. The Committee on Industry and Private Sector Development was mandated:

(a) To assist the Commission in the articulation of strategies and programmes for private sector development;

(b) To provide the Commission with advice on orienting its work programme to give support to Member States in fostering private sector development.

69. The Committee on Natural Resources, Science and Technology was mandated:

(a) To promote measures to facilitate cooperation among African countries in the areas of natural resources, science and technology;

(b) To assist the Commission in the formulation of programmes for the development and application of science and technology.

70. The Committee on Regional Cooperation and Integration was mandated:

(a) To undertake periodic review and assessment of Africa's trading position in the global economy;

(b) To enhance the African trade sector through the adoption of appropriate measures, policies and strategies for the expansion of regional and external trade.

71. In 1996, ECLAC updated its mandate in order to increase the relevance of activities. The Commission was to assist Member States in the analysis of the development process, by, inter alia, formulating, evaluating and following up on public policies, as well as providing assistance in areas of specialized information.[95]

D. Membership

72. During the period under review, the Economic and Social Council increased as well as decreased the membership of certain subsidiary organs. The membership of the Council included, according to the resolutions or decisions establishing those organs, representatives of regional groups, States Members of the United Nations and experts serving in their personal capacity.

1. COMMISSIONS

(a) *Functional commissions*

73. During the period under review, the Council changed the membership of several of its commissions.

74. In its resolution 1998/46 on further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, the Council reduced the membership of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development from 53 to 33 members.[96]

75. At its sixtieth plenary meeting, the Council decided that the membership of the Commission on Population and Development should be increased from 27 to 47 members.[97]

76. On recommendation of the General Assembly,[98] the Council decided, during its substantive session of 1996, that the membership of the Commission for

[95] E C L A C resolution 553 (XXVI).
[96] E S C resolution 1998/46.
[97] E S C decision 1995/320. See also G A resolution 50/124.
[98] G A resolution 50/161.

Social Development should be increased from 32 to 46 members.[99]

**(b) *Regional commissions*

2. COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES ESTABLISHED BY THE COUNCIL

77. Having taken note of the report of the Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Arrangements for Consultations with Non-Governmental Organizations,[100] the Economic and Social Council decided to increase, on the basis of equitable geographical representation, the membership of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations and to implement that decision after the completion of its review.[101] In 1997, in recalling its decision 1995/304, the Council requested the Committee to present its views on the enlargement of the Committee and decided to adopt a decision on this matter in 1998.[102] However, during its organizational session of 1998, the Council decided not to pursue consideration of that question until the year 2000, given that the Committee was in a period of transition following the adoption of Council resolution 1996/31.[103]

78. In taking note of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs,[104] the Council decided to approve the application for membership in the Sub-commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East that had been made by Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.[105]

79. Having considered the note by the Secretary-General[106] on the question of membership in the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, the Council endorsed the decision of the Secretary-General to approve the application of the Czech Republic for full membership in the Committee.[107]

80. Having considered the note by the Secretary-General on the question of membership in the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods,[108] the Council endorsed the decision to approve the applications of Australia and Spain for full membership in the Committee.[109]

81. The newly established Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation was to be composed of all members and associate members of ESCAP.[110]

E. Duration and termination

82. During the period under review, the Council did not terminate or discontinue any of its commissions or committees, but it did terminate a working group.

83. In welcoming a series of reviews that the Statistical Commission had carried out since 1993 on its role and functioning and that of its Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination and taking into account General Assembly resolution 50/227 on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, the Council decided that, with immediate effect, that working group should cease to function.[111]

F. Sessions or meetings

84. During the period under review, the Council adopted several decisions on the scheduling of sessions or meetings of its subsidiary bodies.

85. In noting that the number of States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights had increased by more than 50 per cent since the Council decided to establish the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and that there were now 131 States parties, the Council authorized the holding of two annual sessions by the Committee, in addition to a pre-session working group of five members to meet for five days immediately after each session to prepare the list of issues for consideration at the subsequent session.[112]

86. During its substantive session of 1999, concerned that existing meeting arrangements for the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights no longer permitted the Committee to fully discharge its responsibilities in an efficient and timely manner under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and

[99] E S C resolution 1996/7.
[100] E/1995/83 and Add.1 and 2.
[101] E S C decision 1995/304.
[102] E S C resolution 1997/57.
[103] E S C decision 1998/231.
[104] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 7*, para. 93 (E/1996/27).
[105] E S C decision 1996/248.
[106] E/1999/5.
[107] E S C decision 1999/217.
[108] E/1996/94.
[109] E S C decision 1996/311.
[110] E S C resolution 1997/4.
[111] E S C resolution 1999/8.
[112] E S C resolution 1995/39.

Cultural Rights[113] and Council resolution 1985/17, the Council approved the holding of two additional three-week extraordinary sessions of the Committee.[114]

87. During its substantive session of 1995, the Council decided that the Commission for Social Development should hold a special session the following year to, inter alia, review its mandate, terms of reference, scope of work and the frequency of its meetings and make recommendations thereon to the Council.[115] In the same year, the Council decided that the Commission, at that special session, should consider in particular the theme entitled "Strategies and actions for the eradication of poverty, including the formulation of integrated strategies, meeting the basic human needs of all and the promotion of self-reliance and community-based initiatives".[116] The following year, the Council decided that the Commission on Social Development should meet annually for a period of eight-working days.[117]

88. The Council decided that the newly established Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development would meet biennially, the Committee for Development Planning would meet once every three years[118] and the Commission on Population and Development would meet annually.[119]

89. The newly established committees of ESCWA, the Committee on Energy[120] and the Committee on Transport, would meet every two years.[121]

90. The frequency of sessions for the newly established committees of ESCAP was as follows: the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation would meet biennially; the Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas would meet annually; the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development would also meet annually; the Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development would meet annually; and the Committee on Statistics would meet biennially.[122]

91. In its resolution 1997/5, the Council decided that all the newly established committees of ECA were to meet biennially.[123]

92. During the period under review, the Council decided that, for different reasons, several commissions should hold annual meetings rather than the biennial meetings that they had been assigned at their establishment to hold.

93. For instance, in view of the rapid developments taking place in the field of water resources, the Council authorized the Committee on Water Resources of ESCWA to hold its sessions annually[124] rather than biennially as had been agreed earlier.[125] Similarly, the Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade and Economic Globalization in the Countries of the ESCWA Region would hold its sessions annually.[126]

94. During its substantive session of 1995, the Council, having taken note of the report of the Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Arrangements for Consultations with Non-Governmental Organizations[127] on its second session, decided that, starting in 1996, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations should meet annually rather than biennially and, as required, on an ad hoc basis, should that be necessary for the prompt discharge of its duties.[128]

95. In recognizing the need to provide for more continuity of the Statistical Commission's decision-making and oversight of the global statistical process, the Council decided that the Statistical Commission should meet annually instead of biennially, beginning in 2000, for a period of four working days.[129]

**G. Method of reporting

[113] See G A resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[114] E S C decision 1999/287.
[115] E S C resolution 1995/60.
[116] E S C decision 1995/324.
[117] E S C resolution 1996/7.
[118] E S C resolution 1998/46.
[119] E S C decision 1995/209.
[120] E S C resolution 1995/25.
[121] E S C resolution 1997/11.
[122] E S C resolution 1997/4.
[123] E S C resolution 1997/5.
[124] E S C resolution 1997/10 and E S C resolution 1999/41.
[125] E S C resolution 1995/26.
[126] E S C resolution 1997/12 and E S C resolution 1999/41.
[127] E/1995/83 and Add.1 and 2.
[128] E S C decision 1995/304.
[129] E S C resolution 1999/8.

II. ANALYTICAL SUMMARY OF PRACTICE

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

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

96. As in the past, this section deals with the criteria that the Council employed in its decisions to set up or abolish its subsidiary bodies.[130] Typically, the Council has stipulated the reasons for the creation of its bodies in the preamble of the resolution establishing a body, which includes its terms of reference.

97. During the period under review, all the regional commissions establishing new committees dealt with the issue of the need to establish those committees in the preamble of the resolutions creating the committees.

98. When establishing the Committee on Energy, ESCWA noted that it was aware of (a) the importance of coordinating activities in the field of energy with efforts to protect the environment in States members of the Commission and (b) related issues pertaining to the development, transport and use of energy sources, the rationalization of their use and the impact of their use on the environment and on the sustainable development of those States.[131]

99. Similarly, when establishing the Committee on Water Resources, the Commission was conscious of the importance of water security in view of the scarcity of water resources in the States members of the Commission.[132] With regard to the Committee on Transport, the Commission stated that it was aware of the vital role of transport infrastructure in national socioeconomic development.[133] Regarding the need for the newly established Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade and Economic Globalization, the Commission mentioned that it was aware of the steadily growing trend towards liberalization of foreign trade and economic globalization, the conclusion of a series of multilateral trade agreements within the framework of WTO and the emergence of a large number of economic blocs that would transform the international trading system in the future.[134]

100. When establishing its new committees,[135] ESCAP noted that the Council decided to revise its subsidiary structure because it had recognized the increased responsibilities of the Commission, comprising a geographical area accounting for 62 per cent of the population of the world, including many developing country members and associate members, among which are least developed, landlocked and island developing countries and countries with economies in transition, all of which had special needs. Furthermore, the Council had recognized that the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary would provide a historic opportunity for members and associate members to sharpen the focus of its work to enable it to respond more effectively to the evolving economic and social needs of the members and associate members within a rapidly changing global paradigm.[136]

101. The establishment of six new committees[137] within ECA came as a result of the new policy and programme orientation of the Commission as well as steps being taken to restructure the secretariat.[138] The Council was conscious of the need to reform the intergovernmental machinery of the Commission in order to enable the Commission to address the emerging challenges and priorities of the region effectively.[139]

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[130] See *Repertory*, para. 120.

[131] E S C resolution 1995/25. See also E/ESCWA/18/7, resolution 204 (XVIII).

[132] E S C resolution 1995/26. See also E/ESCWA/18/7, resolution 205 (XVIII).

[133] E S C resolution 1997/11. See also E/ESCWA/19/9, resolution 213 (XIX).

[134] E S C resolution 1997/12. See also E/ESCWA/19/9, resolution 214 (XIX).

[135] The Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation, the Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas, the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development, the Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development and the Committee on Statistics.

[136] E S C resolution 1997/4.

[137] The Committee on Development Information, the Committee on Sustainable Development, the Committee on Human Development and Civil Society, the Committee on Industry and Private Sector Development, the Committee on Natural Resources and Science and Technology and the Committee on Regional Cooperation and Integration.

[138] E C A resolution 809 (XXXI).

[139] E S C resolution 1997/5.

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

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

102. The Council adopted several decisions regarding the distribution of membership in functional commissions and subcommissions and other subsidiary organs of the Council.

103. In enlarging its Commission on Population and Development from 27 to 47 members, the Council specified that its membership should be distributed according to the following pattern:[140] 12 members from African States, 11 members from Asian States, 5 members from Eastern European States, 9 members from Latin American and Caribbean States and 10 members from Western European and other States.

104. By increasing the membership of the Commission for Social Development from 32 to 46 members, the Council stipulated that its membership should be distributed according to the following pattern: 12 seats for African States, 10 seats for Asian States, 9 seats for Latin American and Caribbean States, 5 seats for Eastern European States and 10 seats for Western European and other States.[141]

105. In reducing the membership of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development from 53 to 33 members, the Council distributed its seats according to the following regional allocation of seats: 8 seats for African States, 7 seats for Asian States, 6 seats for Latin American and Caribbean States, 4 seats for Eastern European States and 8 seats for Western European and other States.[142]

E. Question of membership in regional commissions

106. During the period under review, the Council adopted a decision with regard to ESCAP.

**1. ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

2. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

107. In noting that ESCAP had recommended the inclusion of the Russian Federation within the geographical coverage of the Commission, with the objective of enabling the appropriate programme activities of the Commission to be extended to that country, in particular its Siberian and easternmost areas, the Council decided to amend paragraph 2 of the terms of reference of the Commission.[143]

** 3. ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

** 4. ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

** 5. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL 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

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

108. During the period under review, the Economic and Social Council discussed the participation of other organs of the United Nations, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in the work of the subsidiary organs of the Council.

**1. MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

2. MEMBERS OF OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES

109. In its resolution 1998/46 on further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, the Council noted that effective coordination should be established between the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and all other functional commissions; that Commission should concentrate in particular on working closely with the Commission on Sustainable Development.[144]

[140] E S C decision 1995/320. See also G A resolution 50/124.

[141] E S C resolution 1996/7.

[142] E S C resolution 1998/46.

[143] E S C resolution 1995/22.

[144] E S C resolution 1998/46.

**3. SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

4. INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

110. At its organizational session for 1995, the Council decided to grant the European Community full participation in the Commission on Sustainable Development. The Council noted that the European Community, while not being a member of the Commission on Sustainable Development, would be entitled to participate fully, within its areas of competence, in the work of the Commission or any subsidiary body thereof. Full participation would include the right to speak and the right of reply, as well as the right to introduce proposals and amendments. The Community would not have the right to vote but could submit proposals that would be put to a vote if any member of the Commission so requested. The participation of the representatives of the European Community in the Commission should in no case entail an increase in the representation to which the member States of the Community would otherwise be entitled.[145]

111. At the same session in 1995, the Council decided[146] that a footnote should be added to rule 74 of the rules of procedure of the Council's functional commissions,[147] reading: "The participation of the European Community and other regional and subregional economic integration organizations in the Commission is governed by Economic and Social Council decision 1995/201".

[145] ESC decision 1995/201.

[146] Ibid.

[147] E/5975/Rev.1.

5. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

112. In 1996, the Council decided that, in view of the traditional importance of non-governmental organizations in the advancement of women, such organizations should be encouraged to participate in the work of the Commission on the Status of Women[148] and the Commission for Social Development.[149] The Council requested the Secretary-General to make appropriate arrangements[150] to ensure full utilization of existing channels of communication with non-governmental organizations in order to facilitate broad-based participation and dissemination of information.[151]

113. In the same year, the Council decided to invite, on an exceptional basis, all non-governmental organizations that had been accredited to participate in the Fourth World Conference on Women[152] and the World Summit for Social Development.[153] It invited those which were not in consultative status with the Council to participate in sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women and special sessions of the Commission for Social Development. The Council also decided that the participation of non-governmental organizations from developing countries should be encouraged and facilitated, in particular through adequate funding from appropriate voluntary national and international sources.[154]

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

****J. Binding quality of the decisions of organs established by the Council**

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

[148] E S C resolution 1996/6.

[149] E S C resolution 1996/7.

[150] Ibid.

[151] See also the discussion in *Repertory, Supplement No. 9*, vol. IV, under Article 71.

[152] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), A/CONF.177/20/Rev.1, chap. II, para. 10.

[153] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), A/CONF.166/9, chap. II, para. 21.

[154] E S C decisions 1996/208, 1997/298, 1998/301 and 1999/206.