

ARTICLE 58

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ARTICLE 58

TEXT OF ARTICLE 58

The Organization shall make recommendations for the coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

1. The structure of the present study is the same as that of the previous study of this Article in *Repertory Supplement No. 4*.

2. There were no new developments during the period under review requiring treatment under several headings in the General Survey, or under the two headings in the analytical summary of practice.

I. GENERAL SURVEY

A. Organs of the United Nations concerned in the coordination process

1. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

3. During the period under review, the General Assembly continued to deal primarily with the budgetary and administrative aspects of coordination, with the assistance of the Fifth Committee and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, in addition to the overall organizational and procedural aspects of coordination. The Assembly also addressed the question of coordination in substantive fields. With regard to the latter, the Assembly dealt with the various aspects of coordination, cooperation, the harmonization of measures and long-term plans of the specialized agencies related to the International Development Strategy for the United Nations Second Development Decade.¹ During the period under review, the General Assembly put in place new institutional arrangements for international cooperation and coordination in, for example, the fields of human settlements² and the environment.³

4. During the reporting period, the General Assembly considered general policy questions relating to the organizational and procedural aspects of coordination within the United Nations system. For example, at its twenty-fifth session, the Assembly adopted a resolution requesting its President to establish a Special Committee on the Rationalization of the Procedures and Organization of the General Assembly to study ways and means of improving the procedures and organization of the Assembly in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations. The specialized agencies were requested to provide any relevant information regarding the procedures applying to their respective organizations.⁴ A report⁵ entitled,

“A new United Nations structure for global economic cooperation,” submitted to the General Assembly at its seventh special session by the Group of Experts on the Structure of the United Nations System, contained a number of recommendations which would affect the shape and operation of the United Nations system. The Economic and Social Council, at its fifty-ninth session, recommended that the General Assembly should “initiate the process for the restructuring of the United Nations system in the economic and social fields and establish an intergovernmental committee to deal with such issues”.⁶ At its seventh special session, the General Assembly established⁷ the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System, which would use the report of the Group as part of its documentation.

5. During the period under review, the General Assembly continued to deal with the administrative and budgetary aspects of coordination. At its twenty-sixth session, the Assembly adopted a resolution concerning the harmonization and growth of programmes and budgets in the United Nations system.⁸ In the light of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade and the resulting growth in the activities undertaken by the United Nations system, the Assembly considered it important to achieve a better harmonization of the programming and budgetary policies in the United Nations system through the establishment of closer links between the action of bodies dealing with substantive issues and those dealing with financial and budgetary questions.⁹ The Assembly, aware that the machinery of the United Nations for administrative and budgetary control, investigation and coordination needed to be re-examined and eventually restructured in the interests of economy and greater efficiency, decided to review that machinery at its thirty-first session, and requested the views of the Secretary-General,

¹G A resolution 2626 (XXV).

²See G A resolution 32/162.

³G A resolutions 2997 (XXVII) and 32/172

⁴See G A resolution 2632(XXV).

⁵E/AC.62.9.

⁶E S C resolution 1980 (LIX).

⁷G A resolution 3362 (S-VII), sect. VII. B

⁸G A resolution 2884 (XXVI).

⁹G A resolution 2748 (XXV).

the specialized agencies, the Economic and Social Council, the Committee for Programme and Coordination, the Joint Inspection Unit itself, and ACABQ.¹⁰

6. By its resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977, the General Assembly endorsed the conclusions of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System. Regarding coordination, the Assembly would serve as the "principal forum for policy-making and for the harmonization of international action in respect of" problems in the international economic, social and related fields.¹¹ The Assembly would, *inter alia*:

"(b) ... concentrate on the establishment of overall strategies, policies and priorities for the system as a whole, in respect of international cooperation, including operational activities, in the economic, social and related fields. It may assign to other forums within the United Nations system, as necessary, the responsibility for negotiating and submitting recommendations for action in specific areas.

"(c) The Assembly should review and evaluate developments in other forums within the United Nations system and establish appropriate guidelines for further action."¹²

a. *The Main Committees*

7. During the period under review, the conclusions endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 32/197 included one whereby the Assembly would

"...organize its agenda and allocate the items thereon in such a way as to achieve a balanced and efficient distribution of items in the Second and Third Committees, taking due account of the respective functions of those Committees, the nature of the items concerned, their substantive interrelationships and the need to consider questions of economic and social development in a coordinated manner. The Chairmen of the Second and Third Committees should hold consultations with a view to assisting the General Assembly to that end. Steps should also be taken to improve coordination between the Second and Third Committees, on the one hand, and the Fifth Committee, on the other."¹³

8. During the period under review, the Fifth Committee continued to consider the administrative and budgetary coordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and IAEA as a separate item on its agenda, generally on the basis of reports submitted by ACABQ.

b. *The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions*

9. During the period under review, ACABQ continued to assist the General Assembly in its review of financial and budgetary arrangements with the specialized agencies, as well as the functioning of the central machinery for coordination¹⁴ through advice on a variety of issues concerning the administrative and budgetary coordination of the specialized agencies.¹⁵ The ACABQ reports to the

General Assembly included a comparative study of the administrative budgets or budget estimates for the given year of the IAEA and for those specialized agencies, excluding the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Monetary Fund, whose agreements with the United Nations did not provide for transmittal of their budgets for review by the General Assembly.¹⁶

10. During the reporting period, the Advisory Committee noted that "with the introduction of programme budgeting by most of the agencies in the United Nations system, the dividing line between administrative and budgetary coordination on the one hand and programme coordination on the other—and hence between the respective co-ordinating roles of the General Assembly (and its Fifth Committee) and the Economic and Social Council—has become blurred."¹⁷ The Advisory Committee noted that administrative and budgetary coordination was

"part and parcel of the entire programming and budgeting exercise. Coordination questions arise whenever Member States, in the General Assembly or a corresponding organ in one of the agencies, decide to establish a new organizational unit, expand an existing programme, determine conditions of service or approve the erection of new premises. It follows that coordination questions should be considered in the context of specific substantive items. Otherwise, a discussion of coordination in the abstract perforce becomes academic and leads to little action."¹⁸

11. During the thirtieth session of the General Assembly, the Advisory Committee outlined a new approach to system-wide coordination:¹⁹ the Advisory Committee proposed, *inter alia*, to dispense with its annual reporting to the Assembly on agency budgets, as most agencies had adopted biennial budgeting, and time otherwise did not permit the Assembly's detailed consideration.²⁰ It was the opinion of the Advisory Committee that it could best discharge its responsibility in the area of administrative and budgetary coordination if it tried to identify such issues of broader applicability and bring them to the attention of the Assembly, together with appropriate recommendations.²¹ In this light, the Advisory Committee provided policy advice and recommendations on such subjects as the administrative coordination of electronic data-processing and information systems within the United Nations organizations,²² the question of the rotation of staff between headquarters and the regions,²³ and coordination questions in the activities of UNEP.²⁴ The General Assembly decided to refer the observations of ACABQ to the organizations concerned and asked ACABQ to supplement its annual reports on agency budgets with reports on specific problems of administrative and budgetary coordination. It also decided to consider in depth the agenda item on administrative and budgetary coordination, normally in off-budget years, starting in 1976.²⁵

¹⁶See, e.g., A/8874, chap. IV; A/10360. See also G A resolution 2989 (XXVII).

¹⁷A/10360, chap. II, para. 3.

¹⁸*Ibid.*, para. 9.

¹⁹A/10360, chap. II, paras. 4-13.

²⁰*Ibid.*

²¹*Ibid.*, para. 12.

²²See A/33/304 paras. 63 and 65.

²³A/31/233, section IV.

²⁴A/10360, chap. II, para. 75; A/31/227.

²⁵G A (30), agenda item 98 (f), p. 146, A/10034.

¹⁰G A resolution 2924 (XXVII).

¹¹G A resolution 32/197, annex, para.1(a).

¹²*Ibid.* annex, para.1(b) and (c).

¹³G A resolution 32/197, annex, para. 3(a).

¹⁴See, e.g., A/8490, chap. II, A/8874 and A/9857.

¹⁵See, e.g., A/8131, A/8490 and A/31/233

c. *Special bodies*

12. During 1970, at its twenty-fifth session, the General Assembly decided to continue the Joint Inspection Unit on the existing experimental basis for a further period of two years until 31 December 1973, and to renew the question of the Unit at the end of that period.²⁶ Thereafter, the Assembly decided to continue JIU for a further period of four years beyond 31 December 1973, until 1977, and, to evaluate its work in conjunction with the overall review of the machinery of the United Nations and of its system for administrative and budgetary control, investigation and coordination.²⁷ At its thirty-first session, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee, the General Assembly approved the statute of the Joint Inspection Unit, by which it would report to the General Assembly and to the competent organs of other organizations, and could in addition propose reforms or recommendations aimed at improving management and achieving greater coordination between organizations.²⁸

13. At its twenty-fifth session, the General Assembly requested its President to establish a Special Committee on the Rationalization of the Procedures and Organization of the General Assembly, to study ways and means of improving the procedures and organization of the Assembly in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, and to report to the General Assembly in 1971. The specialized agencies were requested to provide any relevant information regarding the procedures applying to their respective organizations.²⁹

14. Another body added to the central machinery for coordination was the Special Committee for the Review of the United Nations Salary System.³⁰ The General Assembly requested the Special Committee to undertake a thorough review of the long-term principles and criteria which should govern the whole United Nations common system of salaries, allowances, grants, superannuation and other benefits and to report, inter alia, its conclusions and recommendations on specified issues. The Assembly asked the Secretary-General, inter alia, to invite and transmit to the Special Committee the comments and views on the salary system and possible modifications thereof of Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies in the common system, of the specialized agencies themselves and of the staff associations of the organizations.³¹

15. By its resolutions 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, the General Assembly established the Environment Coordination Board, to ensure cooperation and coordination among all bodies concerned in the implementation of environmental programmes, reporting annually to the governing Council of UNEP. Both the Environment Coordination Board and the Inter-Agency Consultative Board of UNDP, following the special session of ACC in 1978,

²⁶G A resolution 2735 A (XXV). JIU had originally been established for an initial period of four years, on the recommendations of the Assembly's Ad Hoc Committee of Experts to examine the finances of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, and was to be administratively attached to the Secretary-General as chief administrative officer of the United Nations, and as Chairman of ACC. See G A resolutions 2150 (XXI) and 2360 A (XXII).

²⁷G A resolution 2924 B (XXVII).

²⁸G A resolution 31/192.

²⁹G A resolution 2632 (XXV).

³⁰G A resolution 2743 (XXV).

³¹Ibid.

merged with the ACC, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977.³²

2. THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

16. In accordance with the established practice, the Economic and Social Council continued its consideration of the development and coordination of the activities of the organizations within the United Nations system as a separate item on its agenda on the basis of reports submitted by the Committee for Programme and Coordination, the Administrative Committee on Coordination, the specialized agencies, IAEA, and the annual Joint Meetings of ACC and CPC. During its fifty-third, fifty-seventh and sixty-first sessions, the Economic and Social Council conducted in-depth reviews³³ of FAO, ITU,³⁴ WHO, WMO³⁵ and IMCO.³⁶ There was an ongoing process of review of the activities of the specialized agencies and their relationship to the United Nations. At its fifty-third session, the Economic and Social Council called for a review of the activities of the specialized agencies in view of the Second United Nations Development Decade³⁷ and, at its sixtieth session, decided to review the agreements between the United Nations and the specialized agencies as well as the terms of reference of its subsidiary machinery, including CPC.³⁸ At its fifty-fourth session, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the relationship between the United Nations and the specialized agencies.³⁹

17. At its fifty-fourth session, the Economic and Social Council called upon the specialized agencies to co-operate with the Secretary-General in the preparation of data relevant to the review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade.⁴⁰ During 1977, the Economic and Social Council put in place institutional arrangements for international cooperation and coordination, in the field of human settlements.⁴¹

18. During the period under review, the Council held an ongoing review of its co-ordinating machinery with a view to strengthening the coordination role of the Council. The review was considered in the context of various agenda items, including those entitled "Organization of the work of the Council", "Rationalization of the work of the Council" and "Machinery for programme and coordination." The Council created several bodies to review these items: with regard to the rationalization of the work of the Council, at its fifty-third session, the Council established a working group to review and consider, inter alia, the terms of reference of all the Council's committees, commissions

³²G A resolution 32/197, annex, para. 54.

³³See this *Supplement*, under Article 64.

³⁴E S C resolution 1728 (LIII).

³⁵E S C resolution 1888 (LVII).

³⁶E S C decision 176 (LXI).

³⁷See E S C resolution 1729 (LIII).

³⁸See E S C decision 153 (LX).

³⁹See E S C resolution 1768 (LIV).

⁴⁰See E S C resolution 1748 (LIV). See also E S C resolution 1827 (LV), which contains the working paper on the first review and appraisal, and E S C decision 20 (LVI) by which the Council decided that the joint meetings of CPC and ACC would deal with the role of the organizations of the United Nations system in the evolution of a new economic and social world order.

⁴¹E S C decisions 262 (LVIII) and 263 (LXIII).

and other subsidiary bodies.⁴² At its fifty-sixth session, the Council established an Ad hoc Committee on the Rationalization of the Work of the Council whose mandate, similar to that of the working group, included a review of the machinery for programme and coordination.⁴³ The Council also entrusted the task of review to a number of its existing bodies and instructed CPC to review the sphere of activities and competence of ACC so that the Council might achieve more effective coordination of the social, economic and technical activities of the United Nations system.⁴⁴

19. By its resolution 1623 (LI) of 30 July 1971, the Council considered that its role as a principal organ of the United Nations should be reaffirmed and that its authority should be enhanced to enable it to discharge more effectively the functions conferred upon it by the Charter of the United Nations in the formulation of general economic and social policies. In the same resolution, the Council reaffirmed that, because of the expansion of the activities of the United Nations system during recent years, the functions of the Council had assumed greatly increased importance, as set out in its resolution 1156 (XLI) of 4 August 1966.

20. At its fifty-fourth session, the Council adopted resolution 1768 (LIV) of 18 May 1973 on the rationalization of its work. The Council decided, *inter alia*, to annually discharge its coordination responsibilities under the Charter, further deciding that the Council organ to which the functions of programming and coordination were delegated would:

“(a) Examine and co-ordinate the programme objectives submitted by the Council’s subsidiary bodies, in the light of the system of medium-term planning and programme budgeting;

(b) Consider, on a sector-by-sector basis, the activities and programmes of the agencies of the United Nations system in order to perform its function effectively as coordinator of the system and to enable it to ensure that the work programmes of the United Nations and its agencies were compatible and mutually complementary;

(c) Make recommendations for the adoption of programmes of the United Nations, taking into account the relevant policy decisions and the need to avoid overlapping duplication;

(d) Recommend guidelines for the agencies of the United Nations system on their programmes and activities, taking into account their respective functions and responsibilities and the need for coherence and coordination throughout the system.”

21. At its mid-1976 session, the Economic and Social Council reviewed the machinery of the United Nations and of its related agencies for administrative and budgetary control, investigation and coordination. The Council took into account, *inter alia*, the full exchange of views at the joint meetings of ACC and CPC on the financial situation of the system and the management practices of the various organizations, including programme budgeting and me-

dium-term planning.⁴⁵ By its resolution 2039 (LXI) of 5 August 1976, the Council recommended to the General Assembly that it consider at its 1976 session the improvement of the qualitative internal evaluation of the performance of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and IAEA as executing agencies, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System.

22. The Economic and Social Council endorsed the arrangements among secretariats for strengthening the machinery for prior consultations on work programmes among the organizations of the United Nations system and requested the Secretary-General to ensure that the procedures were carried out in all parts of the United Nations Secretariat and among all organizations of the United Nations system.⁴⁶ The Council requested CPC to pay particular attention to the observance of the arrangements for prior consultation and ACC to ensure close control over all inter-agency meetings called for purposes of consultations and coordination and to inform the Council thereon.⁴⁷

23. By its resolution 1622 (LI) of 30 July 1970, the Economic and Social Council recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution inviting the Council to take appropriate measures with a view to the regulation and improved coordination of economic, social scientific and technical activities within the United Nations system. In addition, the Council called attention to the need for greater precision and efficiency in the exercise of its functions and powers as defined in Article 63 of the Charter. Consideration of the item was deferred by the Assembly until its twenty-ninth session, when it adopted resolution 3341 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974, in which it, *inter alia*, emphasized the Council’s responsibilities for coordination under the Charter of the United Nations, and expressed the conviction that the Council should reorganize its work, including modifications as might be necessary in the existing pattern of inter-agency cooperation.⁴⁸ At its thirty-second session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977, by which it endorsed and annexed to the resolution the conclusions and recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System. The provisions relating to inter-agency coordination recommended that, at the intergovernmental level, coordination should be governed by policy guidelines, directives and priorities established by the Assembly and, under its authority, by the Economic and Social Council. The machinery for inter-agency coordination at the inter-secretariat level should assist in the preparatory work for decisions for their implementation and should conform to objectives and priorities of Governments, but should be centred within ACC. The Environment Coordination Board, the Inter-Agency Consultative Board and the Advisory Committee of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization should be merged with ACC. The agenda, func-

⁴²E S C resolution 1730 (LIII). By the time of its 1974 organizational session, the Ad hoc Working Group had been renamed as the Ad hoc Committee on the Rationalization of the Work of the Council. See E S C (57), Suppl. 1, p. viii, item 11; E S C decision 21 (LVI).

⁴³E/L.1587, para. 2.

⁴⁴See E S C resolution 1547 (XLIX).

⁴⁵E/5188

⁴⁶E S C resolution 1549 (XLIX).

⁴⁷*Ibid.*

⁴⁸G A resolution 3341 (XXIX). The Assembly decided at that same session that the substance of Council resolution 1622 (LI) had been resolved through the adoption of Assembly resolution 3341 (XXIX). G A (29), p. 78, agenda item 12, A/9601.

tioning and reporting systems of ACC should be adjusted to respond to the priorities and work programme of the Assembly and the Council.

***a. Coordination Committee of the Council*

b. Committee for Programme and Coordination

24. During the period under review, CPC underwent several changes in its structure and terms of reference. At its forty-ninth session, the Economic and Social Council, pursuant to a request by the General Assembly,⁴⁹ decided to reconstitute CPC, such that the Committee would be composed of 21 States Members elected by the Council,⁵⁰ and, under its new terms of reference, would, inter alia:

“...advise and assist the Council in discharging its coordination functions under Articles 58, 63 and 64 of the Charter of the United Nations, and in particular, [to] keep under review the activities of the United Nations and its related agencies and programmes, study the present procedures for coordination and cooperation and submit its conclusions to the Council on the issues and problems arising thereon.”⁵¹

25. In addition, CPC, which was responsible to the Economic and Social Council and through it to the General Assembly, would be concerned with the review of programme planning, implementation of programmes, their evaluation and the effectiveness of coordination machinery. It would also develop processes for carrying out long-term planning and programme formulation and would carry out functions relating to the United Nations work programme in the economic, social and human rights fields.⁵²

26. At its fifty-sixth session, the Economic and Social Council decided not to hold the fifteenth session of CPC before the fifty-seventh session of the Council, allocating instead the agenda item entitled “Committee for Programme and Coordination,” directly to its Coordination Committee.⁵³ At its fifty-seventh session, the Economic and Social Council invested its Policy and Programme Coordination Committee with the remaining functions of CPC.⁵⁴

27. At its sixtieth session, in its resolution 2008 (LX) of 14 May 1976, the Economic and Social Council approved the consolidated terms of reference of CPC, as annexed to the resolution, and decided that the terms of reference would be reviewed by the Economic and Social Council in the light of the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System.⁵⁵ By those terms, CRC would function as the main subsidiary organ of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly for planning, programming and coordination. In particular, it would review the programmes of the United Nations as defined in the medium-term plan, and assist the Council in the performance of its coordination functions within the United Nations system.⁵⁶ It would also consider on a sec-

tor-by-sector basis the activities and programmes of the agencies of the United Nations system, in order to enable the Council to perform its coordination function effectively, and to ensure the compatibility of work programmes within the United Nations system.⁵⁷

28. At its fifty-fourth session, with regard to the rationalization of its work, the Economic and Social Council decided that the Policy Programme Coordination Committee (PPCC), which had been delegated the functions of programming and coordination,⁵⁸ would examine and coordinate the programme objectives submitted by the Economic and Social Council’s subsidiary bodies, consider the activities and programmes of the agencies of the United Nations system, make recommendations for the adoption of the programmes of the United Nations, and recommend guidelines for the agencies of the United Nations system on their programmes and activities.⁵⁹

29. At its fifty-seventh session, by its resolution 1906 (LVII), the Economic and Social Council called for an inter-sessional meeting of PPCC with instructions: (a) to review the agreements between the United Nations and the specialized agencies and (b) to make recommendations with a view to making the United Nations system a more effective instrument of world economic and social cooperation and of cooperation in the human rights field.⁶⁰

30. During the period under review, the Council entrusted CPC with the review of the sphere of activities and competence of ACC, in the light of the discussion in the Council at that session in order to achieve more effective coordination within the Council,⁶¹ which CPC completed at the Council’s fifty-first session.⁶²

31. Throughout the period under review, CPC and ACC continued the practice of holding joint meetings, pursuant to the mandate by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1171 (XLI) of 5 August 1966. In its resolution 1771 (LIV) of 18 May 1973, the Council recommended that the formal group dialogue between ACC and CPC should develop into a more active working discussion of questions currently on the agenda of the Council, particularly those with system-wide implications and those where problems of coordination between the agencies and organs of the United Nations system had arisen or might arise. In addition, the Council considered that joint informal discussions between CPC and ACC would be a useful method of exchanging experience and of promoting system-wide compatibility.⁶³

c. Administrative Committee on Coordination

32. During the period under review, ACC continued its main function of ensuring the coordination of activities in the programme and administrative sectors of inter-agency concern, “in the light of the increasingly multisectoral implications of programme decisions.”⁶⁴ ACC continued to

⁴⁹G A resolution 2579 (XXIV).

⁵⁰E S C resolution 1472 (XLVIII).

⁵¹Ibid., annex, para. 29.

⁵²Ibid. See also G A resolution 31/93.

⁵³E S C decision 20 (LVI).

⁵⁴E S C decision 41 (LVII).

⁵⁵E S C resolution 2008 (LX).

⁵⁶Ibid., annex, A, paras. 1 and 2.

⁵⁷Ibid., para. 3.

⁵⁸E S C decision 41 (LVII).

⁵⁹See E S C resolution 1768 (LIV).

⁶⁰E S C resolution 1906 (LVII).

⁶¹E S C resolution 1547 (XLIX).

⁶²E S C (50), Suppl. 5, chap. II, E/4989, and E S C (51), Suppl. 9, chap. III, E/5038.

⁶³See E S C resolution 1472 (XLVIII); E S C (55), Suppl. 1, agenda item 17b, II, p. 31. See also *Repertory, Supplement No. 4*, under Article, 63, para. 12.

⁶⁴E/5892, para. 7.

carry out coordination through its Preparatory Committee, subcommittees, working groups, various bilateral and multilateral arrangements outside ACC machinery proper, other institutions within the ACC framework, through day-to-day contacts among the officials concerned⁶⁵ and ad hoc inter-agency meetings.⁶⁶ New programme sectors entailing inter-agency coordination included the environment, through the Environment Coordination Board; outer space, through the ACC subcommittee established on the initiative of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space; and the activities of the system concerned with transnational corporations. In addition, the Committee reviewed inter-agency coordination in programme sectors such as nutrition, human settlements, marine affairs, rural development, water resources development, science and technology, and activities of transnational corporations. ACC assisted in the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade:⁶⁷ for example, the ACC Subcommittee on the Second United Nations Development Decade reviewed the inter-secretariat preparatory work for the first review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy.⁶⁸ ACC and its subsidiary bodies assisted the General Assembly in the preparation of the Assembly's seventh special session on development and international economic cooperation,⁶⁹ and in the implementation of the new international economic order and of Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975.⁷⁰ With regard to the latter, ACC established an ad hoc task force to identify the action required of the United Nations system under the provisions of resolution 3362 (S-VII) dealing with development and international economic cooperation, to identify the organizations involved and to establish target dates for implementation.⁷¹

33. During the period under review, ACC continued to review and endeavoured to improve its machinery for coordination. In this light, both the Economic and Social Council and CPC⁷² examined the role of ACC in the coordination efforts of the United Nations.⁷³ At its April 1970 session, ACC reported that it had completed a review aimed at rationalizing the various consultative arrangements operating under its aegis in programme and administrative fields with a view to avoiding duplication and maintaining flexibility and adaptability.⁷⁴ Pursuant to a request by the Council to give priority to the study of coordinated methods "to enable the United Nations system to achieve greater productivity and efficiency through economies of scale and related advantages",⁷⁵ ACC reported the results of a comprehensive review of the functioning of inter-secretariat machinery for coordination. The inter-secretariat machinery was to be streamlined by merging or discontinuing a number of existing consultative bodies, calling ad hoc meetings in their place.⁷⁶ In addition,

pursuant to a Council request that the Committee submit annually a list of possible topics for in-depth consideration,⁷⁷ with a system-wide coverage, and, upon approval of the list by the Council, a report on each topic, ACC decided to set up functional groups consisting of ACC members to study key issues in depth,⁷⁸ and submitted its recommendations regarding topics for in-depth consideration by the Council.⁷⁹

34. The 1972 report of ACC emphasized the concern felt in some quarters concerning the need to reappraise budgetary and administrative policies of the United Nations system. In this connection, ACC informed the Economic and Social Council that it had set up a net functional group of its members to deal with employment policy in the Second United Nations Development Decade, under the chairmanship of the Director-General of the International Labour Organization.⁸⁰

35. Efforts within the reporting period focused to a large extent on prior consultation and programme planning in its various contexts. In the context of the joint meetings of CPC and ACC, CPC expressed the view that it was essential that the ACC bodies ensure coordination at the planning stage, as well as concerted action at the programme implementation stage.⁸¹ The Economic and Social Council, at its fifty-first session, urged ACC to continue to arrange for prior consultations among the interested secretariats of the United Nations system before proposals on draft programmes were presented to the legislative bodies and before changes were made in the implementation of approved programmes.⁸² At its fifty-fourth session, the Council requested ACC to extend the prior consultation procedure to the medium-term plans of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, utilizing the technique of programme budgeting.⁸³ In this light, ACC endeavoured to devise satisfactory arrangements for prior consultations with regard to short- and medium-term programmes, utilizing them, in addition, to identify areas in which joint or concerted action would be appropriate or where action by one organization could usefully complement that of another.⁸⁴ Formal procedures thus were put in place for prior consultations on draft work programmes and budgets covering one budget cycle. The ACC reported that some organizations had governing bodies, sitting permanently, which could review and adjust work programmes to avoid overlap and duplication, or generate time-tables for the preparation of their budgets allowing for the consideration of comments by other organizations before final approval of work programmes. ACC indicated the importance, in terms of the exchange of information, of the meetings of the ACC subcommittees and ad hoc groups. At the departmental and divisional level, organizations would keep each other informed through consultation and correspondence with regard to thinking about new programme proposals under consideration for formal submission to their governing bodies. Periodic meetings of programme officers were held to keep under review procedures of prior consulta-

⁶⁵Ibid.

⁶⁶See, e.g., E/1978/43, with regard to the coordinated efforts of the United Nations organizations in the implementation of anti-apartheid programmes during the International Anti-Apartheid Year.

⁶⁷E/5133 and Corr.2, chap. II, C

⁶⁸E/5289, part I, chap. I, F, E/5488, chap. I, B.

⁶⁹E/5675, part II, para. 1.

⁷⁰E/5973, para. 2.

⁷¹E/5803/Add.1, part II, paras. 2 and 3.

⁷²Pursuant to Council resolution 1547 (XLIX).

⁷³See E S C (50), Suppl. 5, chap. II, and E S C (51) Suppl. 9, chap. III.

⁷⁴E/4840, paras.12 and 13.

⁷⁵E S C resolution 1643 (LI).

⁷⁶See E/4840, paras.12 and 13; E/5012, part II.

⁷⁷E S C resolution 1643 (LI).

⁷⁸E/5012, part II.

⁷⁹See, e.g., E/5488, para. 23.

⁸⁰E/5133 and Corr.2, chap. I.A.

⁸¹E/5892, paras. 16 and 23.

⁸²E S C resolution 1643 (LI).

⁸³E S C resolution 1768 (LIV).

⁸⁴E/5133, para. 35.

tions to medium-term programmes on a system-wide basis.⁸⁵

36. At its fifty-ninth session, the Council endorsed ACC's initiative for harmonization of programme budget presentation and coordination within the United Nations system.⁸⁶ ACC reported that the new programme planning techniques being developed within the system provided a programming instrument for promoting a unified approach by United Nations organizations to their development activities. It noted that work on the harmonization of the programme budget presentation was being undertaken by a task force of programme plans and commented that the harmonization of the presentation of programme planning documents would have to be accompanied by the more challenging task of harmonizing the substance of the programmes themselves in all areas of inter-agency concern.⁸⁷ ACC continued its work on the harmonization of programme budgets and medium-term plans through the end of the period under review.⁸⁸ At ACC's 1977 session, the task force met under the auspices of the ACC Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions, reporting on progress made by organizations in implementing decisions on harmonization of concepts relating to medium-term plans, including: the framing of objectives; techniques of performance reporting and evaluation; agreed definitions in the programme budgeting and financial fields; revision of the ACC interorganizational programme classification; and procedures for prior consultations on medium-term plans and programme budgets.

37. In its resolution 32/197,⁸⁹ the General Assembly endorsed the following recommendation:

"[T]he machinery for inter-agency coordination at the inter-secretariat level should centre on the Administrative Committee on Coordination under the leadership of the Secretary-General. Subject to the guidance and supervision of the Economic and Social Council, that machinery should be streamlined and reduced to a minimum; except where the discharge of permanent functions necessitates the retention of continuing machinery, maximum use should be made of flexible, *ad hoc* arrangements designed to meet the specific requirements of intergovernmental bodies concerned and geared to the policy-making and programming processes of the General Assembly and the Council. In the light of these considerations, steps should be taken to merge the Environment Coordination Board, the Inter-Agency Consultative Board and the Advisory Committee of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization with the Administrative Committee on Coordination, which should assume their respective functions."⁹⁰

38. Subsequently, ACC proposed certain measures to strengthen the analytical and technical support it provided to the United Nations intergovernmental bodies concerned with long-term development planning, including the replacement of the ACC Subcommittee on the Development Decade with a new Task Force on Long-term Development Objectives.⁹¹ The Committee implemented several provisions of the resolution to restructure its machinery: for ex-

ample, it reported that new intersecretariat structures would avoid rigid mechanisms and procedures, to implement flexible structures which could be more easily adjusted to specific needs and changing circumstances.⁹² It noted that it would increasingly resort to brief, subject-oriented sessions at which the executive heads principally concerned would participate and agree on action to be taken. Moreover, the Environment Coordination Board and the Inter-Agency Consultative Board merged with ACC.⁹³

39. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 1978/70 of 4 August 1978, ACC submitted a report⁹⁴ dealing with the restructuring of its subsidiary machinery, wherein it stated that it had set up an ad hoc high-level working group to review the functioning and structure of the machinery. The new structures adopted by ACC centred on a new senior-level Organizational Committee and two main consultative committees: the existing Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (CCAQ) and a new Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (CCSQ). The functions of the Organizational Committee, open to all organizations members of ACC, would include: elaborating a biennial programme of work for the inter-agency machinery reflecting the Council's own work programme and schedule; monitoring the follow-up given to the work programme; and organizing inputs to ACC emanating from its subsidiary machinery. The new CCSQ would have two distinct components, dealing with programme and related policy matters and operational activities, respectively.⁹⁵

d. *The Governing Council and the Inter-Agency Consultative Board of the United Nations Development Programme*

40. During the period under review, the main work of the UNDP Governing Council related to the capacity of UNDP to undertake a greatly enlarged development programme. In June 1970, the Governing Council approved a consensus which included a series of basic principles and guidelines for strengthening and reforming the United Nations development system, subsequently approved by the Economic and Social Council.⁹⁶ Central to this concept was the idea of country programming of UNDP assistance. The distinction between the Special Fund and the Technical Assistance components of UNDP would be eliminated. The main provisions of the new system of the UNDP country programming included the following: (a) UNDP programming would be carried out within the framework of indicative planning figures on the basis of which each Government would decide on the projects to be undertaken within the context of its national development plans; (b) formulation of the country programme would be carried out by the Government of the recipient country, in cooperation with representatives of the United Nations system under the leadership of the resident representative; and (c) efforts would be made to achieve the integration of assistance at the country level. The General Assembly approved these provisions and declared that they should commence on 1 January 1971.⁹⁷ Programming for

⁸⁵E/5289, part I, paras. 35-37.

⁸⁶E S C decision 120 (LIX). See also E S C resolution 2098 (LXIII).

⁸⁷E/5803.

⁸⁸E/1978/43/Add.2.

⁸⁹See para. 6, above.

⁹⁰G A resolution 32/197, annex, para. 54.

⁹¹E/5973, paras 6 and 7.

⁹²See E/1978/107, sect. V.

⁹³*Ibid.*, para. 44.

⁹⁴E/1978/144, part III.

⁹⁵*Ibid.*, paras. 30-39.

⁹⁶E S C resolution 1530 (XLIX).

⁹⁷G A resolution 2688 (XXV).

inter-country projects (subregional, regional, inter-regional and global) would be based broadly on the same general principles as those for country programming.⁹⁸

41. During the period under review, the General Assembly reaffirmed the authority of the Governing Council of UNDP, under the guidance of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as the main policy-formulating body of UNDP.⁹⁹

42. Several decisions were also adopted concerning the Inter-Agency Consultative Board of UNDP. During 1970, the Governing Council, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, by consensus, decided that IACB would be retained. However, the Council requested the Board to review its functions and relationship with the Governing Council in the light of the new system of country programming and the need for efficient implementation of projects. During 1971, the Economic and Social Council reviewed the role of IACB under the country programming system and further stressed that the scope of activities of IACB should correspond to its functions of inter-agency consultations and coordination at the secretariat level and should be defined accordingly by the Governing Council of UNDP at the earliest opportunity.¹⁰⁰ In 1977, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System that the machinery for inter-agency coordination should be streamlined, and declared that steps would be taken to merge IACB with ACC, which would assume its functions.¹⁰¹

e. *Commissions of the Council*

43. During the period under review, the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council continued to consider the coordination of the activities of the system in their respective fields of competence, and to submit recommendations thereon for action by the Council. In 1976, the Council adopted a resolution on the strengthening of the regional commissions for regional and interregional cooperation. Among other things, the Council asked the Ad Hoc Committee on Restructuring to consider the designation of the regional commissions as team leaders with responsibilities for the cooperation and coordination of intersectoral programmes at the regional level.¹⁰²

**3. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

B. Development of coordination processes

**1. PROVISIONS IN THE AGREEMENTS WITH THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES¹⁰³

**2. EARLY STAGES OF THE COORDINATION PROCESS

3. RELATIONS WITH INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

44. During the period under review, the Economic and Social Council continued to maintain and strengthen contacts in the economic and social fields with major intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system, and to invite them to sessions of the Council to participate in its debates on matters of concern to them, without the right to vote. At its April/May 1971 session, the Council took note of the Secretary-General's report on the functioning of arrangements for relations between the Economic and Social Council and non-United Nations inter-governmental organizations, and decided to extend a standing invitation to several intergovernmental organizations to be represented by observers at its sessions.¹⁰⁴

45. During 1975, the Economic and Social Council revised its rules for procedure and adopted a new rule entitled "Participation of other intergovernmental organizations" which allowed representatives of designated intergovernmental organizations to participate either on an ad-hoc or on a continuing basis and without the right to vote in the Council's deliberations.¹⁰⁵

**4. PRIORITIES

5. OPERATIONAL PROGRAMMES¹⁰⁶

46. At its 1974 organizational session, the Economic and Social Council carried out a comprehensive policy review of operational activities within the United Nations, inviting the specialized agencies and the United Nations organs to submit reports concerning their operational activities.¹⁰⁷ In this regard, in its annual report, ACC stated that the executive heads agreed that the United Nations system was not an ideal one and that there was a need for frequent review and occasional structural changes in order to maintain the capacity of the system to field the demands of the world community.¹⁰⁸ The Committee went on to state:

"Inevitably, the United Nations system has been called upon to undertake a variety of tasks over the last 28 years. In responding to these demands, the system has become a machinery of great complexity, providing services that cover nearly the whole spectrum of human activities and are carried out on every continent and in nearly every country ...

"The monitoring and evaluation of these services has from the outset been a continuing function of the intergovernmental organs responsible for them and, at the management level, of each executive head and his senior staff. ... [I]n order to overcome the difficulties involved in making an accurate evaluation and in bringing programmes up to date in the light of such evaluations, the intergovernmental organs and the executive heads will have to devote increasing attention to longer-term plans. It is equally clear that ACC will need to continue to strengthen and streamline its own machinery the better to serve the Council ..."¹⁰⁹

⁹⁸See E S C resolution 1553 (XLIX).

⁹⁹G A resolution 2814 (XXVI).

¹⁰⁰See E S C resolution 2814(XXVI), para. 8.

¹⁰¹See G A resolution 32/197, annex, para. 54.

¹⁰²See E S C resolution 2043 (LXI).

¹⁰³For the Agreements with IFAD and WIPO, see this *Supplement*, under Article 63.

¹⁰⁴E S C (L), Suppl. 1, p. 25, agenda item 12(a), E/5044. See this *Supplement*, under Article 70.

¹⁰⁵E S C resolution 1949 (LVIII). See this *Supplement*, under Article 70.

¹⁰⁶See also this *Supplement*, under Article 66(2).

¹⁰⁷E S C decision 3 (LVI).

¹⁰⁸E/5488, para. 5.

¹⁰⁹*Ibid.*, para. 8.

47. With regard to specific programmes, the Economic and Social Council, at its mid-1970 session, noted with approval UNICEF's intention to cooperate in the proposed country programming of all inputs of the United Nations system, and UNICEF'S close cooperation in this field with members of the United Nations system.¹¹⁰ Coordination of the International Year of the Child in 1979 was achieved through the use of an inter-agency advisory group.¹¹¹

48. With regard to the review and continuation of the World Food Programme, the General Assembly recognized the necessity for the Programme to continue to provide multilateral food aid as a form of capital investment and for meeting emergency food needs.¹¹² At its twenty-ninth session, in 1974, the Assembly, having considered the report of the World Food Conference and the Economic and Social Council,¹¹³ established the World Food Council as an organ of the United Nations to report to the Assembly through the Economic and Social Council.¹¹⁴ During 1975, the United Nations/FAO Intergovernmental Committee of the World Food Programme was reconstituted as the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes.¹¹⁵

49. During 1975 and 1976, a number of resolutions were also adopted concerning the International Fund for Agricultural Development, which was constituted as a specialized agency of the United Nations in 1976.¹¹⁶ In 1977, the General Assembly adopted the Manila Communiqué of the World Food Council Programme of Action which called upon the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system dealing with food, agriculture and human nutrition to implement the Programme of Action fully and urgently.¹¹⁷

50. During the period under review, the General Assembly decided to preserve the original functions of the United Nations Capital Development Fund.¹¹⁸

51. In response to a request by the Economic and Social Council,¹¹⁹ the General Assembly decided to establish an international group of volunteers within the existing framework of the United Nations system, who were to be designated collectively and individually as United Nations Volunteers.¹²⁰ A number of resolutions were adopted during the period under review concerning arrangements for coordination of UNV activities and cooperation between the United Nations Volunteers and other agencies in the system.¹²¹

52. With regard to the United Nations University, established during the reporting period,¹²² during 1976, the Gen-

eral Assembly reiterated the importance of full cooperation and coordination within the framework established by the Charter of the United Nations for co-ordinating policies and activities in the economic, social, cultural and humanitarian fields between UNU and the appropriate agencies and bodies of the United Nations system.¹²³

53. During the period under review, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council took a number of decisions regarding the coordination of activities in the United Nations system to address natural disasters. At its twenty-sixth session, on the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council,¹²⁴ the General Assembly established the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO) to carry out a number of measures enumerated by the Assembly.¹²⁵ The General Assembly stated its conviction that UNDRO was in a unique position to provide a global system of mobilizing and coordinating disaster relief and that the capability should be strengthened as a matter of priority and urgency.¹²⁶

6. RECENT TRENDS

54. During the reporting period, a number of bodies of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council made observations on the nature and difficulties of coordination within the United Nations system, primarily in the context of review of the coordination machinery of the United Nations. By its resolution 1623 (LI) of 30 July 1971, the Council reaffirmed that, because of the expansion of the activities of the United Nations system during recent years, greatly increased importance had been assumed by the functions of the Council as set out in its resolution 1156 (XLI), namely, inter alia, its function as coordinator of the activities of the United Nations system of the organizations in those fields. ACABQ, in its 1972 report, noted that it was proving increasingly unrealistic to separate coordination from substance, and that coordination was best achieved when it was a built-in component of substantive activities at every stage of programme planning and implementation.¹²⁷ Several bodies involved in coordination of United Nations activities remarked that coordination had become more difficult as the volume and scope of the activities of the organizations in the United Nations system had expanded.¹²⁸ ACC noted that the arrangements for inter-agency cooperation dated back in their essential features to the 1950s, a time when a limited number of organizations had worked together on a limited number of common programme sectors. The responsibilities falling to the United Nations system, it was stated, had grown in number and complexity. Thus, ACC endeavoured to reorient its work and that of its machinery. The Committee had undertaken a review aimed at rationalizing the various consultative arrangements operating under its aegis in programme and administrative fields, with a view to avoiding duplication and maintaining flexibility

¹¹⁰See E S C resolution 1528 (XLIX); E S C resolution 1493 (XLVIII).

¹¹¹See G A resolutions 32/109; 33/83.

¹¹²G A resolution 2805 (XXVI).

¹¹³E S C decision 59 (LVII).

¹¹⁴G A resolution 3348 (XXIX).

¹¹⁵See G A resolution 3404 (XXX).

¹¹⁶See G A resolutions 3503 (XXX); 31/22; 32/102; and E S C resolution 2006 (LX).

¹¹⁷See G A resolution 32/52.

¹¹⁸See G A resolution 2186 (XXI), bringing into operation a United Nations Capital Development Fund as an organ of the General Assembly.

¹¹⁹See E S C resolutions 1444 (XLVII) and 1539 (XLIX).

¹²⁰See G A resolution 2659 (XXV). See also this *Supplement* under Articles 55(a) and (b).

¹²¹G A resolution resolutions 2810 (XXVI), 2970 (XXVII); 3122 (XXVIII); 33/84.

¹²²G A resolution 2951 (XXVII). See also this *Supplement*, under Articles 55(a) and (b).

¹²³G A resolution 31/117.

¹²⁴E S C resolution 1612 (LI).

¹²⁵G A resolution 2816 (XXVI). See this *Supplement*, under Article

63.

¹²⁶See G A resolutions 3243 (XXIX) and 3440 (XXX).

¹²⁷E/5133 and Corr.2, chap. I.A.

¹²⁸A/8490, para. 11.

within those arrangements.¹²⁹ In that light, ACC had merged or discontinued a number of existing consultative bodies, arranging ad hoc meetings as appropriate.¹³⁰ On an experimental basis, the ACC acknowledged its establishment of small, functional panels attended by ACC members directly concerned, and meeting to consider in depth certain key issues.¹³¹

55. During the period under review, the General Assembly turned to the specialized agencies for assistance in carrying out tasks recommended by its political organs. For example, with regard to the peaceful uses of outer space, the Assembly recognized the need for coordination in this field and requested reports from the specialized agencies.¹³² At its twenty-sixth, twenty-seventh, and thirty-second sessions, the Assembly noted with appreciation that a number of specialized agencies had taken active roles in the programme for the promotion of international cooperation in the practical application of outer space.¹³³ With regard to the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,¹³⁴ the General Assembly continued to seek the cooperation of the specialized agencies in achieving the goals of the Declaration and the programme of action for the full implementation of the Declaration in Territories which had not yet attained independence.¹³⁵ In a number of resolutions, the Assembly sought the cooperation and coordination of the specialized agencies in implementing the Declaration with respect to Namibia,¹³⁶ Southern Rhodesia¹³⁷ and the Portuguese¹³⁸ and other territories.¹³⁹ During the period under review, the General Assembly recognized the need for greater coordination efforts by the United Nations to eliminate duplication of effort and to utilize resources for a more effective international campaign for the elimination of apartheid in South Africa.¹⁴⁰

C. Coordination and cooperation in substantive fields

56. During the period under review, the coordination of the measures and long-term plans of the specialized agencies with the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Decade was one of the main concerns of both the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.¹⁴¹ A number of resolutions were

adopted and directed at the specialized agencies, among others, urging support of measures for economic cooperation among developing countries in accordance with their established procedures and practices.¹⁴²

57. At its sixty-first session, the Economic and Social Council recommended that the executive heads of the specialized agencies should intensify their cooperation with the secretariats of the regional commissions, with a view to making them centres for the formulation, coordination and implementation of programmes for the promotion of cooperation among States members of the respective commissions.¹⁴³

58. The General Assembly, at its thirty-second session, decided to establish a separate section in the United Nations regular budget to provide for a unified system of regional and subregional advisory services earmarked for the operations of the regional economic commission and the United Nations Economic and Social Office at Beirut, and to transfer the existing regional advisory services to that section.¹⁴⁴

59. During the period under review, the coordination of United Nations activities in the field of natural resources continued to receive special attention. In 1970, the Economic and Social Council dissolved the Ad hoc Committee on the Survey Programme for the Development of Natural Resources and established a Standing Committee on Natural Resources which, inter alia, would provide assistance to the Economic and Social Council and the Committee for Programme and Coordination to liaise with the regional economic commissions, the specialized agencies, and IAEA in this field.¹⁴⁵ In 1973, the Council reiterated the need for the proper coordination and appropriate distribution of responsibilities in the formulation and implementation of programmes in the fields of mineral, water and energy resources development, and the need for intergovernmental bodies to further harmonize programmes within their spheres of competence.¹⁴⁶

60. During the period under review, increased attention was given to the coordination of activities in the population field by the United Nations and the specialized agencies concerned: for example, in almost all cases projects were executed by one or more of the specialized agencies.

61. In 1972, acting on the recommendation of the Secretary-General, the General Assembly decided to place UNFPA under the authority of the General Assembly,¹⁴⁷ and further provided that the Governing Council of UNDP would become the Governing Council of UNFPA and concern itself with the financial and administrative policies relating to the work programme, fund raising and the annual

¹²⁹With 24 organizations and programmes participating in ACC, more than 30 programme sectors and 10 service sectors require multilateral cooperation, and a growing proportion require integrated, intersectoral approaches cutting across traditional fields of competence, "multiplying the points of contact between organizations' activities and calling for new forms of cooperation." E/5973, paras. 21 and 22.

¹³⁰See, e.g., E/4840, part I.A, para. 12.

¹³¹Ibid., para. 16. These consisted of panels (or groups) including one on the environment. E/5133, para. 8.

¹³²See G A resolutions 2915 (XXVII).

¹³³See G A resolutions 2776 (XXVI), 3234 (XXIX), 3388 (XXX), 31/8, 32/196, 33/16.

¹³⁴G A resolution 1514 (XV).

¹³⁵For a discussion of inter-agency coordination in this regard, See, e.g., E/4840, chap. I.B; E/5133, chap. I.B.

¹³⁶See G A resolutions 2679 (XXV), 3295 (XXIX), 3399 (XXX), 31/151, 32/9, 33/183 L.

¹³⁷See G A resolutions 32/41, 32/43, 32/116, 33/48 A.

¹³⁸See G A resolutions 2707 (XXV), 31/42, 32/92, 32/95, 33/123, 33/124, 33/125, 33/126, 33/127.

¹³⁹See, e.g., G A resolutions 2709 (XXV), 3430 (XXX), 31/58, 32/186, 33/152.

¹⁴⁰See G A resolutions 2671 C, D (XXV), 2775 G (XXVI), 33/183.

¹⁴¹See also this *Supplement*, under Article 55(a) and (b); See G A resolutions 2626 (XXV) para. 20(s), 2685 (XXV) and 3018 (XXVII).

¹⁴²See G A resolutions 3442 (XXX), 31/119, 32/180, 33/195.

¹⁴³See E S C resolution 2043 (LXI).

¹⁴⁴See G A resolution 2803 (XXVI).

¹⁴⁵See E S C resolution 1535 (XLIX) for the terms of reference of the Committee on Natural Resources, which included, inter alia, assistance to the Economic and Social Council and CPC in maintaining liaison between the activities in the field of natural resources of the regional economic commissions, the specialized agencies, IAEA and other bodies doing relevant work, with a view to ensuring the utmost efficiency and cooperation.

¹⁴⁶See E S C resolution 1673 (LII).

¹⁴⁷G A resolution 3019 (XXVII), by which the General Assembly further decided that the Governing Council of UNDP would become the Governing Council of UNFPA and concern itself with the financial and administrative policies relating to the work programme, the fund-raising methods and the annual budget of the Fund.

budget.¹⁴⁸ In 1974, the General Assembly, after considering the report of the 1974 World Population Conference, among other things, called upon UNDP, UNFPA, the regional commissions, specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies to report to the Economic and Social Council on how each could best assist in implementing the World Population Plan of Action.¹⁴⁹ The General Assembly urged full collaboration and cooperation on operational matters between the Executive Director of UNFPA and the Administrator of UNDP, and heads of other organs and agencies within the United Nations system working in the field of population.¹⁵⁰

62. During the period under review, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly continued to give attention to the coordination of international activities in the field of science and technology. Both the Assembly and the Council reiterated the need for the reinforcement and coordination of current and future activities in the application of science and technology to development within the framework of the United Nations system so that the benefits of science and technology would reach the developing countries.¹⁵¹ The Secretary-General, in consultation with UNESCO and the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development, was requested to prepare a study that would evaluate the main implications of science and technology within the framework of the United Nations system.¹⁵² The efforts of the Advisory Committee, the specialized agencies and IAEA culminated in the World Plan of Action for the Application of Science and Technology to Development.¹⁵³

63. Both the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly continued to take decisions concerning international cooperation and coordination in the field of the human environment. ACC established a functional group to deal with questions concerning the human environment in 1971. By its resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, the General Assembly established the Environment Coordination Board, which had first been set up under the auspices of ACC to provide for the most efficient coordination of United Nations environment programmes, and also established the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, an environment secretariat, which together with the Environment Coordination Board would be located in Nairobi.¹⁵⁴ Both the Council and the Assembly reaffirmed the importance of active coordination and cooperation between UNEP, the specialized agencies, IAEA and other organizations of the United Nations system to ensure effective attention and actions in this field.¹⁵⁵ Decisions with respect to specific areas within the field of human environment included measures for

inter-agency cooperation for strengthening institutional arrangements within the United Nations system,¹⁵⁶ strengthening the marine environment and water resources,¹⁵⁷ development of new alternative and renewable sources of energy¹⁵⁸ and the convening of a United Nations conference on new and renewable sources of energy in 1981.¹⁵⁹ The General Assembly also took a number of decisions regarding human settlements,¹⁶⁰ the situation in the Sudano-Sahelian region stricken by drought¹⁶¹ and the problem of desertification.¹⁶²

64. In 1977, the General Assembly put in place institutional arrangements for international cooperation and coordination in the field of human settlements. The Assembly decided that the Economic and Social Council should transform its Committee on Housing, Building and Planning into a 58-member Commission on Human Settlements which would assume the responsibilities of the Committee. The Assembly also established a secretariat to service the Commission on Human Settlements and to serve as a focal point for human settlements action and coordination, to be named the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat).¹⁶³

65. During the period under review, both the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly considered the problems of marine pollution and coordination in the field of marine science. In 1970, ACC reported to the Economic and Social Council that, as a result of the growing attention being devoted to the sea in its many diverse aspects, the scope of inter-agency cooperation in the field of marine science had increased. ACC noted the establishment of the Inter-Secretariat Committee on Scientific Programmes relating to Oceanography, composed of FAO, UNESCO, WMO and IMCO, and the formation and subsequent expansion of the Group of Experts on Scientific Aspects of Marine Pollution, sponsored by the United Nations, FAO, UNESCO, WHO, IMCO and IAEA.¹⁶⁴ During 1973, in its report to the Economic and Social Council, ACC observed that new dimensions had been added to international action in the area of marine science by the establishment of the Committee on Science and Technology for Development, the Governing Council of UNEP and increased activity of Member States, imposing increasing strains of the current machinery for coordination. ACC suggested that the subject should be included for in-depth consideration by the Council in 1974 or 1975.¹⁶⁵ By its resolution 1802 (LV) of 7 August 1973, the Council invited ACC to prepare a concise report covering the work programmes and the spheres of competence of the components of the United Nations system in the field of marine science and its applications, in order to avoid overlapping

¹⁴⁸G A resolution 3019 (XXVII).

¹⁴⁹G A resolution 3344 (XXIX).

¹⁵⁰G A resolution 31/170.

¹⁵¹G A resolution 2626 (XXV), paras. 60-64.

¹⁵²See G A resolutions 2658 (XXV), and 3186 (XXVII); E S C resolution 1826 (LV).

¹⁵³E S C resolution 1638 (LI).

¹⁵⁴G A resolution 2997 (XXVII). It should be noted that Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) did not transfer to UNEP responsibility for the environmental aspects of the mandates of the various organizations in the United Nations system. "Hence, UNEP is called upon to exercise its overview responsibilities in such a manner as not to interfere with the competence and constitutional processes of the agencies and not to duplicate their activities". A/31/227, para. 69.

¹⁵⁵See G A resolution 3437 (XXX).

¹⁵⁶See G A resolution 2997 (XXVII).

¹⁵⁷See G A resolutions 2849 (XXVI); 33/148.

¹⁵⁸See E S C resolutions 1572 (L), 1954 (LIV), 2031 (LXI).

¹⁵⁹See G A resolution 33/148.

¹⁶⁰See G A resolutions 2998 (XXVII) and 3438 (XXX).

¹⁶¹See E S C resolution 1878 (LVII).

¹⁶²See G A resolution 3337 (XXIX).

¹⁶³See G A resolution 32/162, by which the Assembly also outlined the terms of reference, and particularly urged concerted action and coordination between the Commission/Centre and UNEP, to be reviewed biannually. See also G A resolution 32/444 A, by which the Secretary-General reported on coordination action at the regional level in the field of human settlements.

¹⁶⁴E/4840 and Add. 1/Rev. 1, chap. III.A and annexes I and II.

¹⁶⁵See E/5289, part I, chap. I.F.

and duplication of activities. In its May 1975 report,¹⁶⁶ ACC outlined the nature of cooperative programmes of organizations in the United Nations system in this field and the spheres of competence and work programmes of the United Nations and specialized agencies.

66. During the period under review, both the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly took decisions with respect to the coordination of international assistance to enhance the status of women. Both the Council¹⁶⁷ and the Assembly¹⁶⁸ invited members of the specialized agencies and all organs and agencies within the system to co-operate in achieving a number of general objectives and targets of the Second United Nations Development Decade with reference to the goals and objectives towards the full integration of women in the development effort.¹⁶⁹ The General Assembly called upon the relevant

specialized agencies, the governing bodies of UNDP, UNICEF, UNIDO and the regional commissions to review annually the activities they had undertaken in accordance with the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year and to submit their reports to the Economic and Social Council.¹⁷⁰ The Assembly also adopted a number of decisions for co-ordination and cooperation between the specialized agencies and other agencies and organizations in the United Nations system to promote the integration of women into development,¹⁷¹ equality between men and women, the elimination of discrimination against women,¹⁷² the improvement of the status of women in rural areas¹⁷³ and improvement of the status and role of women in education.¹⁷⁴

¹⁶⁶E/5676.

¹⁶⁷See E S C resolution 1511 (XLVIII).

¹⁶⁸See G A resolution 2716 (XXV).

¹⁶⁹See G A resolution 2626 (XXV).

¹⁷⁰See G A resolution 3490 (XXX).

¹⁷¹See G A resolutions 3505 (XXX), 3522 (XXX) and 3524 (XXX).

¹⁷²See G A resolution 3521 (XXX).

¹⁷³See G A resolution 3523 (XXX).

¹⁷⁴See G A resolutions 31/134; 33/184; 3523 (XXX).

****II. ANALYTICAL SUMMARY OF PRACTICE**