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**ARTICLE 58**  
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Text of Article 58

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**TEXT OF ARTICLE 58**

The Organization shall make recommendations for the co-ordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies.

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## INTRODUCTORY NOTE

1. This study deals with questions of the application in practice of the authority of the principal organs of the Organization under Article 58 to make recommendations for the co-ordination of both the activities and policies of those agencies which have been formally brought into specialized relationship with the United Nations.<sup>1</sup>
2. The presentation and organization of this study is the same as the previous Study of this Article in *Repertory, Supplement No. 6*. In this respect, recommendations bearing upon organizational and administrative aspects of co-ordination of the specialized agencies, as well as substantive ones, will be presented.
3. The General Survey following this introductory material is concerned with the subject as a whole, providing a synoptic overview of the patterns in the application of Article 58. The prevailing emphasis will be trends in the approach to the co-ordination of policies and activities of the specialized agencies.
4. The Analytical Summary of Practice will deal with questions bearing on the application of Article 58 itself, providing a more specific elaboration of actions or developments within the period under review. This section is intended to illustrate the major areas of development.
5. Following the practice for the Study of Article 58 established in the original *Repertory*,<sup>2</sup> related questions, such as the definition or revision of the terms of agreement between the United Nations and the specialized agencies, or recommendations for the co-ordination of activities by the Economic and Social Council, are considered under the Study of Article 63 in this *Supplement*, except where mention thereof may cast light on issues arising under Article 58. Certain other questions related to the substance of Article 58 may be dealt with in the Studies of other Articles. Financial and budgetary arrangements with specialized agencies and the examination of their administrative budgets are considered under the study of Article 17(3); the establishment of relations between the United Nations and the specialized agencies under Article 57; the initiation of negotiations for the creation of new specialized agencies under Article 59; recommendations to the specialized agencies in connexion with studies and reports initiated by the Economic and Social Council under Article 62(1); the obtaining of reports from specialized agencies by the Council under Article 64; relations with subsidiary bodies established by the Council under Article 68; and arrangements for representation of the specialized agencies in the deliberations of the Council under Article 70.

## I. GENERAL SURVEY

### A. Overall Trends

6. The issue of overall co-ordination within the United Nations system, and between the United Nations and the agencies that have been brought into specialized relationship with it, was a subject of increasing concern during the period under review. The issue emerged at the outset of the period following consideration and debate over the effectiveness of co-ordination within the system at the Joint Meeting of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) and the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC).<sup>3</sup> The

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<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of Article 58, the term "Organization" has been taken to include the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Secretariat. *See generally Repertory of Practice* under this Article, especially the discussion of the Joint Committee of the Second and Third Committee, para. 57.

<sup>2</sup> *Repertory*, para. 3.

<sup>3</sup> *See* E/1985/112.

- General Assembly specifically considered the question on the agenda of its fortieth session, calling for the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on co-ordination in the United Nations and the United Nations system.<sup>4</sup> In this regard, while co-ordination had been at issue since the United Nations' inception, it was observed in various bodies that an expansion in the array of institutional arrangements and programmes of work on the part of the United Nations and the specialized agencies at the end of the previous decade necessitated attention to overall coherence.<sup>5</sup> At the same time, the financial crisis confronting the United Nations had focused attention on the value of co-ordination as an instrument for achieving common objectives, avoiding duplication and overlap, and enhancing the effectiveness of activities.<sup>6</sup>
7. Consequently, the period under review saw several references to Charter Article 58, and authority of the Organization under it, to provide overall co-ordination within the United Nations system through recommendations to the specialized agencies. Initial references to Article 58 in this context centered on addressing the perceived problems of co-ordination. Following consideration of the issue at the Joint Meeting of the ACC and CPC, the Economic and Social Council, recalling, *inter alia*, Article 58, stressed the need for more vigorous observance of the responsibilities laid down in the Charter and the agreements of the specialized agencies, bearing in mind the problems which have arisen and the pressing need for effective co-ordination among all organizations including between the United Nations and specialized agencies.<sup>7</sup> The General Assembly similarly recalled Article 58 in highlighting the need for "effective and improved co-ordination in the United Nations system."<sup>8</sup> The Assembly went on to request that the Secretary-General in consultation with the executive heads of the specialized agencies submit a report critically re-examining all aspects of the question of co-ordination in the United Nations and the United Nations system, along with recommendations aimed at improving future co-ordination.<sup>9</sup>
  8. In part, the focus on co-ordination reflected efforts to enhance the role of the General Assembly, and, in particular, the Council within the system as a whole;<sup>10</sup> a role reiterated by the Assembly and the Council in various decisions during the period under review.<sup>11</sup> The relationship agreement between the United Nations and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), approved by the Organization,<sup>12</sup> which established UNIDO as a specialized agency specifically declared that UNIDO, "recognizes the co-ordinating role, as well as the comprehensive responsibilities in promoting the economic

<sup>4</sup> G A resolution 40/177.

<sup>5</sup> See Secretary-General report: "Co-ordination in the United Nations and the United Nations System," A/42/232-E/1987/68, para. 13. See also Statement of the Chairman of the CPC at the Twentieth Joint ACC/CPC meeting, E/1985/112, para. 13. See further Report of the Twenty-Second Joint Meeting of the ACC/CPC, E/1987/83, para. 49.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 12, and G A decisions 40/472 and 41/466 B and resolution 41/204A, paras. 9 and 10. Member States made similar observations in the context of development activities or disaster relief, see discussion *infra*.

<sup>7</sup> E S C resolution 1985/77.

<sup>8</sup> G A resolution 40/177, para. 1.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 2.

<sup>10</sup> In the context of examining co-ordination in the United Nations system, the Secretary-General highlighted the particular role of the Economic and Social Council both within the overall responsibilities of the General Assembly under Article 58 and by virtue of its specific authority under Article 63 of the Charter. See A/42/232-E/1987/68, para. 25. The Assembly took note of the report in decision 42/434.

<sup>11</sup> See, e.g. G A resolution 40/211, para. 8. See also G A resolutions 41/171 and 42/196, sect. II, para. 7, and E S C resolution 1986/74, para 17.

<sup>12</sup> G A resolution 40/180. See also E S C resolution 1985/81.

- and social development, of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council under the Charter of the United Nations.”<sup>13</sup> UNIDO further agreed to cooperate with the United Nations “in whatever measure may be necessary to effect the required co-ordination of policies and activities,”<sup>14</sup> and to submit “as soon as possible” to its appropriate organs the recommendations made by the United Nations under Articles 58 and 63 of the Charter.<sup>15</sup>
9. Considering the responsibility of the Organization under Article 58, the Secretary-General observed that its authority to make such recommendations was balanced against the autonomous nature of the specialized agencies, which function very much along the lines of national authorities. He went on to observe that this balance reflected the compromise between efforts to create functional decentralization, and efforts to create a stronger central leadership.<sup>16</sup> This attention to the co-ordinating role of the principal organs resulted in continuing concern in various fora over the approach to and necessity for a formalized system of co-ordination.<sup>17</sup> While recognizing the import of the co-ordinative functions of the Assembly and the Council, the Director General of Development and International Economic Cooperation (DIEC), stated in an oral report that the paramount consideration must be to harness the enormous potential of the system as a whole to respond effectively to the needs of the Member States, observing that informal consultations were probably more important than rigid structural mechanisms.<sup>18</sup> This perspective was further reflected in the statements of representatives of specialized agencies surveyed on the issue of co-ordination in the United Nations system, some of whom cautioned against co-ordination for its own sake.<sup>19</sup> Consequently, while there was general support for improved co-ordination, representatives of some specialized agencies felt the need to emphasize respect for complementarity and the distinct mandate — and competence — of each organization.<sup>20</sup>

### B. Organizational and Administrative Trends

10. During the period under review, recommendations for co-ordination in organization and administrative areas continued to be made with respect to the machinery of co-ordination, programme planning, and administrative and budgetary matters in the United Nations system. Consideration of the overall problem of co-ordination in the United Nations system during the period under review, for example, resulted in several specific decisions affecting the machinery of co-ordination both in respect to the principal organs and the

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, annex. This reference differed from previous relationship agreements, such as that of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). See E/C.1/1985/2/Add.1, para. 4. See also discussion under the Study of Article 63 in this *Supplement*.

<sup>14</sup> G A resolution 40/180, annex, Art. 2.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*, Art. 5.

<sup>16</sup> See A/42/232-E/1987/68, para. 6.

<sup>17</sup> See *Supplement* 6 under the Study of this Article, para. 9.

<sup>18</sup> A/C.2/41/SR.21, para. 75. The Assembly took note of the report by decision 41/453. See also Recommendation 9 of the Report of the Group of High-Level Intergovernmental Experts To Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations (G18 Report), A/41/49, sect. II C, para. 27. Consideration of the Report was undertaken by the Assembly’s Fifth Committee, see A/41/795, paras. 24-26.

<sup>19</sup> See comments of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in A/41/374/Add.1, para. 6.

<sup>20</sup> See, e.g. comments of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in reference to operational activities for development, A/41/374/Add.1, paras. 6 and 18.

- subsidiary bodies of the Organization.<sup>21</sup> Regarding the former, particular emphasis continued to be laid on the functioning of the Council and specifically its role in providing overall co-ordination.<sup>22</sup>
11. Additional attention continued to be given to the role of subsidiary bodies.<sup>23</sup> For example, decisions reiterated the importance of the CPC as the main subsidiary organ of the Council and the Assembly in programme planning and co-ordination in the United Nations system.<sup>24</sup> As well, measures were undertaken to enhance its contribution to co-ordination through expansion in its membership.<sup>25</sup> Additional action was directed at streamlining the ACC and its subsidiary bodies,<sup>26</sup> and the continued improvement of joint ACC/CPC meetings.<sup>27</sup> Further measures involved such subsidiary bodies as the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) — where particular consideration was given to enhancing and further defining its role in evaluation of organizations of the system.<sup>28</sup> In other areas, the Organization made recommendations related to such matters as the respective roles and functioning in the United Nations system of the Director-General for DIEC,<sup>29</sup> the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC),<sup>30</sup> the Committee on Conferences<sup>31</sup> and the Resident Co-ordinator.<sup>32</sup>
  12. Recommendations in the area of programme planning within the United Nations system included particular attention, for example, to the application of evaluation in programme planning in the United Nations system<sup>33</sup> and the use of methodologies, such as the cross-organizational programme analysis in examining and promoting system-wide co-ordination and coherence.<sup>34</sup> However, pursuant to its resolution 1988/77, the Council decided to phase out cross-organizational programme analyses as a tool for co-ordination to be replaced by brief analyses of major issues in the medium-term plan.<sup>35</sup>
  13. With respect to the co-ordination of administrative and budgetary matters system, the Organization continued to make recommendations in, for example, public information both in general,<sup>36</sup> and in respect to specific questions under consideration,<sup>37</sup> as well as the

<sup>21</sup> See, e.g., G A resolutions 40/177, 41/213, 42/170, 42/196 and decisions 43/432 and 43/433.

See also E S C resolutions 1985/77, 1987/112 and decision 1987/180.

<sup>22</sup> See G A resolutions 41/173 and 42/170 and decisions 42/431 and 43/432. See also E S C resolutions 1985/76 and 1988/77.

<sup>23</sup> See, e.g., G A resolutions 40/78, 40/177 and 41/83.

<sup>24</sup> G A resolution 40/240 and E S C resolutions 1985/76, 1986/51 and 1988/62.

<sup>25</sup> See, e.g., E S C resolution 1987/94 and G A decision 42/450.

<sup>26</sup> See G A resolutions 41/171, 42/196, 42/215, and E S C resolutions 1985/76, 1985/77, 1988/77.

<sup>27</sup> See G A resolutions 41/203, 42/215 sect. V, and E S C resolutions 1985/177, 1986/50, 1987/82, and 1988/64. See also discussion in the reports of the joint meetings of the ACC and CPC, E/1985/112, E/1986/113, E/1987/83 and E/1988/79.

<sup>28</sup> See G A resolution 42/218.

<sup>29</sup> G A resolutions 41/171, 42/196, 43/182, 43/199.

<sup>30</sup> G A resolutions 40/240, 40/244, 41/207, 41/213, 42/221 and 43/226.

<sup>31</sup> G A resolutions 41/177B, 42/207A, 43/222 B.

<sup>32</sup> G A resolutions 40/205, 41/171, 43/27 and E S C resolution 1986/74.

<sup>33</sup> See G A resolutions 40/259, para. 2, 42/215 sect. III, para. 1, 43/219 sect. III, para. 3, and E S C resolution 1985/76 II.

<sup>34</sup> See, e.g., G A resolution 42/215, sect. IV, and E S C resolutions 1986/51, 1988/77. See also Report of the ACC, E/1985/57, sect. IV. For further consideration, see discussion of this topic under the Studies of Articles 63 and 64 in this *Supplement*.

<sup>35</sup> E S C resolution 1988/77, para. 2(e)(iii).

<sup>36</sup> See, e.g., G A resolutions 40/61, 40/164, 41/68, 41/213, 42/159, 42/162, 42/170 and 43/60.

<sup>37</sup> Such as human rights, see G A resolution 41/130, 42/118, 43/128, and 43/153.

privileges and immunities of United Nations officials.<sup>38</sup> Specific emphasis was placed on such matters as cooperation between organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations,<sup>39</sup> personnel matters including harmonization within the common system<sup>40</sup> and the advancement of women,<sup>41</sup> the internal administration of justice including the establishment of a single administrative tribunal,<sup>42</sup> and the organization and provision of conference services.<sup>43</sup>

### C. Trends in Substantive Areas

14. The period under review saw the Organization reiterate the need for co-ordination in a number of substantive areas. Decisions of the Organization maintained an emphasis on the co-ordination of activities and programmes in the economic and social fields, including the formulation and application of the international development strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade.<sup>44</sup> Recommendations continued to emphasize sectoral concerns, such as technical cooperation.<sup>45</sup> Emerging problems in the world financial situation, in particular the debt burden, led the Organization to call for special attention to international cooperation in resolving financial problems associated with debt relief.<sup>46</sup> Such concerns also played a role in the approach to operational activities for development in the United Nations system<sup>47</sup> as well as the focus on specific regional and localized development issues,<sup>48</sup> including those related to geographic circumstance.<sup>49</sup> Specific emphasis continued with respect to the co-ordination of activities and programmes in Africa.<sup>50</sup>
15. The need for co-ordination continued to be recognized in areas related to the environment and natural resources. Emphasis on the co-ordination of activities and policies of the

<sup>38</sup> See G A resolutions 40/258, 41/205, 42/219, and 43/225.

<sup>39</sup> See G A resolutions 40/20, 40/195 41/8, 42/9, 42/11 and 43/12.

<sup>40</sup> See G A resolutions 40/244, sect. IV, 41/207 sect. IV. Particular attention was given to the functioning and implementation of recommendations of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC). *Ibid.*

<sup>41</sup> See, e.g., G A resolutions 40/105, 40/244, 40/258B, 41/207, sect. VI, 42/220 C and E S C resolutions 1986/19, 1987/19, and 1988/17.

<sup>42</sup> See G A resolutions 42/217, 42/220B, and decisions 40/465 and 43/452.

<sup>43</sup> See G A resolutions 41/177C, 42/207B, 43/222B.

<sup>44</sup> See G A resolutions 42/193 43/182 and decision 43/443. See also E S C resolution 1988/76.

<sup>45</sup> See, e.g., G A resolutions 40/196, 42/179, 42/180 and 43/184.

<sup>46</sup> See, e.g., G A resolutions 40/207, 41/202, 42/165, 42/198, 43/198.

<sup>47</sup> See G A resolutions 42/196 and 43/199. See also discussion *infra*.

<sup>48</sup> A number of recommendations of the Organization were directed at the co-ordination of activities and programmes in Africa and Central America. See, e.g. G A resolutions 40/186, 40/205, 42/1, 42/204, 42/231, 43/210. Other recommendations called for special assistance to individual countries, see, e.g. G A resolutions 41/200, 42/205, 43/211. In this regard, a number of decisions of the Organization recommended cooperation on the part of organizations of the system including the specialized agencies with other regional and international organizations. See discussion *infra*.

<sup>49</sup> Notably in the case of land-locked and developing island States. See G A resolutions 40/183, 41/163, 42/174 and 43/189.

<sup>50</sup> The Thirteenth Special Session was devoted to the Critical Situation in Africa in which the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 was adopted. See G A Resolution S-13/2, annex. See also discussion *infra*.

- system with respect to the environment as a whole<sup>51</sup> included further specific attention to such issues as climate change<sup>52</sup> and the transport of hazardous substances.<sup>53</sup> The Organization also continued to advocate system-wide co-ordination in the field of energy, calling for increased implementation on the part of agencies of the system of the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy.<sup>54</sup> In this regard, a number of resolutions focused on activities related to international cooperation in the use and application of nuclear energy.<sup>55</sup> Recommendations by the Organization continued to be addressed to the specialized agencies regarding cooperation and assistance in the problem of desertification, notably in the context of the Sudano-Sahel region.<sup>56</sup> Specific attention in the period focused on international cooperation in the area of natural disasters,<sup>57</sup> the role of the Office of United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator in the United Nations system,<sup>58</sup> and the need to undertake specific co-ordinated action following several natural disasters affecting individual countries.<sup>59</sup>
16. Further recommendations involved co-ordination in a range of health and social issues. Several resolutions addressed cooperation in the field of social development itself.<sup>60</sup> Other recommendations were made in respect to crime prevention and criminal justice.<sup>61</sup> During the period, the Organization also undertook the development of a coordinated response on the part of the United Nations system to Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS),<sup>62</sup> as well as seeking input in regard to the effects of atomic radiation.<sup>63</sup>
17. Recommendations also continued to extend to the co-ordination of matters of international political affairs and security.<sup>64</sup> The Organization continued to consider for co-ordinated action on the part of the United Nations system in the field of disarmament and the maintenance of international peace and security.<sup>65</sup> This included measures for and

<sup>51</sup> See, e.g., G A resolutions 42/186, 42/187 and 43/196. A number of resolutions were directed at strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme. See G A resolutions 40/200, 42/184 and 42/186.

<sup>52</sup> See G A resolutions 42/184 and 43/53.

<sup>53</sup> See G A resolutions 42/183 and 43/212. See also E S C resolution 1986/72.

<sup>54</sup> See G A resolutions 40/208, 41/170, 43/192 and 43/193. Nairobi Programme of Action (UN Pub. Sales No.E.81.I.24). See also consideration under the Study of this Article in *Supplement 6*, paras. 70 and 71.

<sup>55</sup> See, e.g., G A resolutions 40/8, 40/95, 41/62, 42/24, 42/67, and 43/55.

<sup>56</sup> See G A resolutions 40/175, 40/228, 40/198, 42/189. See also consideration under the Study of this Article in *Supplement 6*, paras. 72 and 73.

<sup>57</sup> See, e.g., G A resolutions 41/201, 42/169, 43/202.

<sup>58</sup> See G A resolution 41/201 and decision 43/447, as well as E S C resolution 1988/51.

Recommendation 24 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations had raised the question of transferring the responsibilities of UNDRO to UNDP, A/41/49, sect. IIIB, para. 37.

<sup>59</sup> See, e.g., G A resolutions 40/215, 40/216, 40/232, 41/195, 42/202, 43/7, 43/8, 43/9, and 43/17.

<sup>60</sup> See, e.g., G A resolutions 40/98, 40/100, 41/142, 42/48 and 42/125.

<sup>61</sup> See, e.g., G A resolutions 40/32, 40/34, 40/35 and 43/99.

<sup>62</sup> See G A resolutions 42/8 and 43/15. See also E S C resolution 1987/75 and 1988/55. See discussion *infra*, para. 78. See also consideration under the Study of Article 55 in this *Supplement*.

<sup>63</sup> See G A resolutions 40/160, 41/62, and 42/67.

<sup>64</sup> See the Study of this Article under *Supplement 6*, paras. 75-79.

<sup>65</sup> See, e.g. G A resolutions 41/59 D, 42/150, 43/78 J and L, 43/163. Two Secretary-General reports on the contribution of the specialized agencies to arms limitation and disarmament were submitted further to Assembly requests. See A/41/491 and A/43/650. See also consideration of this subject under the Study of this Article in *Supplement 6*, paras. 75-77.

information from the specialized agencies in the follow up to the Tenth and Twelfth Special sessions of the Assembly, as well as consideration of a third special session on the issue.<sup>66</sup> The Organization laid further emphasis on co-ordination in respect to regional efforts notably in the context of action against the regime in South Africa and in support of Namibia and neighboring States.<sup>67</sup> Attention in this area during the period under review also centered on, for example, the participation of the specialized agencies in the strengthening of international cooperation with respect to refugees and displaced persons,<sup>68</sup> including the mobilization of assistance on a regional level<sup>69</sup> and in individual States.<sup>70</sup> Additional decisions concerned common efforts to combat international terrorism.<sup>71</sup> Other actions sought to expand the involvement of the United Nations system in the promotion of the observance of human rights and humanitarian law.<sup>72</sup>

## II. ANALYTICAL SUMMARY OF PRACTICE

### A. The Making of Recommendations for Co-ordination in the Administrative and Organizational Machinery

#### 1. RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE MACHINERY OF CO-ORDINATION

18. In light of the concerns expressed over co-ordination within the United Nations system, and specifically between the United Nations and the specialized agencies,<sup>73</sup> significant consideration was devoted to the overall machinery of co-ordination in the period under review. The Secretary-General observed that, “[t]here is no doubt that the structural aspect has an important bearing on the cohesion of the activities of the system as a whole and deserve serious consideration among member Governments.”<sup>74</sup> In this regard, the Secretary-General noted that the expansion in institutional arrangements, coupled with

<sup>66</sup> See G A resolutions 41/86, 42/39, 42/40, 42/42, 43/76 and 43/78. Specific attention was also given to such related issues as the peaceful uses of outer space and cooperation with the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space tasked with working thereon, see G A resolutions 40/162, 41/64, 42/68, and 43/56.

<sup>67</sup> See, e.g., G A resolutions 40/64A and D, 40/97A 41/35B, 41/39B, 41/199, 42/14A and B, 42/124, 43/50, and 43/134. See discussion *infra*.

<sup>68</sup> See, e.g. G A resolutions 40/11741/122, 41/70, 43/117, 43/119.

<sup>69</sup> In particular, this included recommendations for participation in conferences with respect to Africa, see G A resolutions 40/117, 41/122, 42/106, 42/107, 43/116. Calls were also made in respect to refugees in Central America, see G A resolutions 42/110, 43/118, and Indo-Chinese Refugees, see G A resolution 43/119.

<sup>70</sup> This includes repeated calls upon to assist refugees in for example, Djibouti: G A resolutions 40/134, 41/137, 42/126, 43/142, Somalia: G A resolutions 42/127, 43/147 and 43/206 and Sudan: G A resolutions 40/13541/139, 42/129, 43/8 and 43/141.

<sup>71</sup> See G A resolution 40/61.

<sup>72</sup> See, e.g. G A resolutions 40/25, 40/99, 40/146, 41/32, 41/130, 41/131, 42/105, 42/118, 42/119, 42/120, 42/143, 43/113, 43/115, 43/128 and 43/130. Recommendations were also made in a number of specific areas, such as the celebration of the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: G A resolutions 41/150 and 43/90; the status of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid: G A resolutions 40/27, 41/103, 42/56, 43/97; and human rights and use of science and technological developments: G A resolutions 40/111, 41/115, 42/9942/100, 43/111, and 43/110.

<sup>73</sup> See G A resolution 40/177 and E S C resolution 1985/77.

<sup>74</sup> Secretary-General report on co-ordination in the United Nations and the United Nations system, A/42/232-E/1987/68, para. 1.

- the broader range of activities undertaken by the United Nations and the specialized agencies, had clearly made the task of co-ordinating the policies and activities of the United Nations system both more complex and more necessary.<sup>75</sup> While the need for changes to the mechanism for co-ordination had been identified in previous years,<sup>76</sup> several bodies recognized that such efforts had met with limited success, particularly in respect to implementation of resolution 32/197 on restructuring the economic and social sectors of the United Nations.<sup>77</sup>
19. At the twentieth Joint Meeting of the ACC and CPC, many members of the CPC pointed out the existence of past co-ordination problems and the pressing need for improved co-ordination among all organizations of the United Nations system, including co-ordination between the United Nations and the specialized agencies.<sup>78</sup> In its consideration of this report, the Council, recalling *inter alia* Article 58 of the Charter, suggested that problems of co-ordination should be “more systematically” taken into account in the work of the governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations system.<sup>79</sup> The Assembly reaffirmed the resolution of the Council by resolution 40/177. In that action, recalling Article 58, the Assembly noted the problems that had arisen in co-ordination and the pressing need for effective co-ordination and cooperation at both the inter-governmental and inter-secretariat levels, going on to request that the Secretary-General consult with the executive heads of the specialized agencies re-examining critically all aspects of the question of co-ordination in the United Nations and the United Nations system, and setting out views and specific recommendations aimed at enhancing co-ordination in the future.<sup>80</sup>
  20. Co-ordination questions in this regard were largely seen as issues to be addressed centrally within the co-ordination machinery of the Organization itself. At the twentieth Joint ACC/CPC meeting, ACC members had already stressed that co-ordination among organizations of the system was effective at the field level.<sup>81</sup> Similarly, in his comprehensive report on co-ordination called for in resolution 40/177, the Secretary-General noted that the locus of problems with respect to co-ordination had been the United Nations itself.<sup>82</sup>
  21. At its fortieth session, the Assembly had established a Group of High-Level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations.<sup>83</sup> While the Group of High-Level Intergovernmental Experts in their report (G18 Report) noted that the issue of system-wide co-ordination fell beyond their mandate,<sup>84</sup> the G18 Report, citing Article 58, nevertheless presented several recommendations on co-ordination in the United Nations system particularly with respect to streamlining the overall co-ordination machinery of the Organization.<sup>85</sup> The Assembly by resolution 41/213 called for implementation of the G18 Report recommendations

<sup>75</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 11.

<sup>76</sup> See *Supplement 5* under the study of this Article, para. 54, and *Supplement 6* under this article, paras. 17-38.

<sup>77</sup> See G18 Report, A/41/49, paras. 25 and 26 and Secretary-General Report, A/42/232, para. 53.

<sup>78</sup> E/1985/112, para. 53. In this context, they recalled the responsibilities laid down in the Charter and the relationship agreements, calling for more vigorous observation. *Ibid.*

<sup>79</sup> E S C resolution 1985/77, para. 7.

<sup>80</sup> G A resolution 40/177, para. 2.

<sup>81</sup> E/1985/112, para. 54.

<sup>82</sup> A/42/232, para. 39. See also discussion at the intersecretariat level, paras. 46 and 47.

<sup>83</sup> G A resolution 40/237.

<sup>84</sup> A/41/49, para. 9. This fact was duly underscored by the Fifth Committee of the Assembly in its consideration of the report. See A/41/795, para. 24.

<sup>85</sup> A/41/49, paras. 25-27.

- particularly with respect to the Council and the subsidiary bodies in light of the Fifth Committee findings.<sup>86</sup> Notable in this context was the recommendation of the G18, specifically highlighted by the Assembly for implementation in resolution 41/213, that the Council should carry out an in-depth study of the intergovernmental structure in the economic and social fields, identifying measures to rationalize and simplify the intergovernmental structure, and consider consolidation and co-ordination of overlapping activities.<sup>87</sup> The Secretary-General in his report on implementation of these recommendations similarly focused on changes to the inter-governmental and inter-secretariat machinery of the Organization.<sup>88</sup> The recommendations of the Secretary-General were endorsed by the CPC.<sup>89</sup> The Council in turn endorsed the conclusions and recommendation of the CPC by decision 1987/194.
22. Within the broad consensus on the need to enhance the co-ordination machinery, as noted above, a number of bodies, including some specialized agencies, underscored the importance of flexible *ad hoc* arrangements, such as meetings particularly at the inter-secretariat level, to deal with co-ordination issues.<sup>90</sup> Indeed, the Secretary-General highlighted the fact that co-ordination issues at the inter-secretariat level were usually resolved in this way.<sup>91</sup>
23. At the same time, the Secretary-General also underscored the importance of improving co-ordination within the existing formal structure. Highlighting the responsibilities of the Council under Articles 58 and 63 of the Charter, the Secretary-General concluded that, “[a]ny attempt to strengthen co-ordination must therefore include steps to enhance the effectiveness of the Council.”<sup>92</sup> Decisions of both the Assembly and the Council similarly identified the need for a formal and systematic approach to the provision of overall co-ordination, notably in the context of the Council.<sup>93</sup> As noted, the terms of the relationship agreement concluded with UNIDO differed in some respects from previous agreements, notably by specific reference to the co-ordination role and responsibility of the Assembly and the Council.<sup>94</sup> As well, the Agreement, referring to Articles 58 and 63, reiterated the obligation of an explicit response on the part of UNIDO to the Assembly and the Council recommendations for the co-ordination of policies and activities.<sup>95</sup>

## 1. PRINCIPAL ORGANS

24. As noted, the period saw a focus maintained on the particular role of the principal organs with respect to co-ordination of the activities and policies of the specialized agencies. Indeed, this role was underscored by repeated and specific reference.<sup>96</sup>

<sup>86</sup> G A resolution 41/213, Sect. I, para. 1.

<sup>87</sup> G18 Report, recommendation 8, para. 24.

<sup>88</sup> A/42/232, para. 14.

<sup>89</sup> A/42/16.

<sup>90</sup> See G18 report, recommendation 9, A/41/49, para. 27. See also Annual Report of the ACC, E/1986/13, para. 40 and discussion *supra*.

<sup>91</sup> A/42/232, paras. 39 and 47.

<sup>92</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 25. The Assembly took note of the report in decision 42/434.

<sup>93</sup> See, e.g., E S C resolution 1988/77. See also, for example, G A resolution 43/219 sect. II, para. 5 regarding the co-ordination of planning cycles.

<sup>94</sup> See G A resolution 40/180, annex, Article 2. See also analysis by the Secretariat E/C.1/1985/2/Add.1. For further discussion, see discussion under the Study of Article 63(1) in this *Supplement*.

<sup>95</sup> G A resolution 40/180, annex, Article 5.

<sup>96</sup> See, e.g., G A resolutions 40/177, 40/180, 43/60A, and E S C resolutions 1985/77 and 1988/77.

25. During the period under review, the Assembly pursued the rationalization of the programme of work of its Second and Third Committees initiated under decision 34/401.<sup>97</sup> The continuation of such efforts to clarify the functioning of the principal organs and their constituent bodies was closely linked to their role in system-wide co-ordination. Members of the Special Committee on the Charter stressed the close link between rationalization of procedure and its consideration of substantive issues. In this connection, the Secretary-General highlighted the fact that the adoption of a biennial programme of work allowed better complementarity between the work of the Assembly's Second Committee and the Council.<sup>98</sup> With the approval by the Assembly of a biennial programme of work for the Second Committee at its fortieth session, the Assembly urged intergovernmental bodies reporting to the Second Committee to adjust the cycle of meetings to the Second Committee agenda.<sup>99</sup> This was reiterated at the forty-third session whereby the Assembly requested that the Secretary-General ensure effective co-ordination with specialized agencies, including, through the ACC, the harmonization of planning and budget cycles.<sup>100</sup> Noting the views of the Secretary-General, the CPC agreed that the principle of biennialization of the programme of work should be further pursued for suitable issues with the Council working closely with the Third Committee of the Assembly.<sup>101</sup> The Assembly and the Council endorsed the recommendations of the CPC.<sup>102</sup>
26. As indicated, significant attention during the period was devoted to the question of the role and responsibilities of the Council.<sup>103</sup> Following the G18 report, the Assembly called for implementation of the G18 recommendations, drawing particular attention to the recommendation that the Council conduct an in-depth study of the inter-governmental structure in the economic and social fields.<sup>104</sup> A number of bodies highlighted the problems and potential role of the Council in co-ordination in the system;<sup>105</sup> a role underscored during the forty-first session, particularly in the co-ordination of operational activities for development.<sup>106</sup> Following consideration of the issue at its second session in 1988, the Council adopted resolution 1988/77 on its revitalization. In that resolution, the Council indicated its own awareness that its work should be enhanced and streamlined in order to make the United Nations system more responsive to the challenges of development. The Council further recognized the urgent need for its own revitalization to enable it, under the authority of the Assembly, to exercise effectively its powers and functions under the Charter. The resolution went on to identify a series of both

<sup>97</sup> G A resolution 40/78. See also discussion under the Study of this Article in *Supplement 6* at paras. 18-23. Further rationalization in relation to the work of the First Committee was adopted in resolution 42/42 N.

<sup>98</sup> A/42/232, para. 28. In this context, the Secretary-General cited the absence of a clear conceptual distinction between the Assembly's Second and Third Committees, and the Council as a main problem hampering the effectiveness of the Council. *Ibid.*, para. 26.

<sup>99</sup> G A decision 40/436. See also G A resolution 39/217, para. 4.

<sup>100</sup> G A resolution 43/219 sect. II, para. 5.

<sup>101</sup> A/42/16, paras. 253 and 254.

<sup>102</sup> See G A resolution 42/215, sect. VI, and E S C resolution 1987/83 and decision 1987/194.

<sup>103</sup> See the Study of this Article under *Supplement 6*, para. 20. For further consideration of the subject see also the Study of Article 63 under this *Supplement*.

<sup>104</sup> G A resolution 41/213. This was reaffirmed by resolution 42/211.

<sup>105</sup> See A/42/232, paras. 26-34. See Triennial Policy Review of operational activities for development, A/41/350. See also consideration of the Report of the Council in the Second Committee of the G A, A/C.2/41/SR.18 and A/C.2/41/SR.18.

<sup>106</sup> A/41/350, para. 58. See also comments by some Member States regarding the Report in the Second Committee, A/C.2/41/SR.18, paras. 9-15, and A/C.2/41/SR.19, paras. 30 and 32.

- administrative and substantive measures many of which related to co-ordination in the United Nations system.<sup>107</sup> Measures related to co-ordination within the system included: specific determination in the timing of annual discussions involving executive heads of organizations of the system on international economic and social policy,<sup>108</sup> obtaining information from specialized agencies on steps taken to implement Assembly and Council recommendations,<sup>109</sup> consideration of the activities and programmes of organizations of the United Nations system to ensure that the programmes and activities of the United Nations itself are compatible and mutually complementary,<sup>110</sup> policy review and co-ordination in regional and inter-regional matters,<sup>111</sup> continued biennialization of its programme of work and that of its subsidiary bodies,<sup>112</sup> as well as the phasing out of cross-organizational programme analyses.<sup>113</sup> The Assembly in decision 43/432 endorsed the resolution.
27. During the period under review, the Secretary-General also continued to play a role in the analysis and formulation of recommendations with respect to co-ordination. The Assembly made reference in a number of instances to support for the Secretary-General in fulfilling his role as chief administrative officer of the United Nations,<sup>114</sup> and his responsibility for co-ordinating implementation of recommendations of the Organization addressed to the system.<sup>115</sup> The authority and role of the Secretary-General within the United Nations system was specifically recognized with respect to the protection of international civil servants. Concern over a perceived deterioration of respect on the part of States for the privileges and immunities of officials led the Assembly to repeatedly call upon the Secretary-General as Chief Administrative Officer to act as a focal point in ensuring observance of privileges and immunities, and empowering him to use all means available to resolve outstanding cases.<sup>116</sup> The Secretary-General, as chairman of the ACC, was requested to review and appraise measures to enhance for the functioning, protection and safety of international civil servants and to modify them where necessary.<sup>117</sup> In this regard, at the *ad hoc* meeting on security, the ACC adopted a decision to provide that in cases constituting a clear violation of privileges and immunities of the official — where the employing organization has not been able to fulfill its obligations to the staff member — the Secretary-General shall request the heads of the organizations with programmes in the country to suspend all operations except purely humanitarian ones, and cancel future missions until the situation is resolved.<sup>118</sup>

<sup>107</sup> In setting out the measures on co-ordination, the Council indicated that it “...shall carry out its function of co-ordinating the activities of the United Nations system in the economic, social and related fields as an integral part of its work.” Para. 2(e).

<sup>108</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 2(a) (i). In this context, the Council reiterated that the executive heads of the specialized agencies should participate actively in its deliberations. *Ibid.*, (a)(iv)(a).

<sup>109</sup> *Ibid.* (b)(ii).

<sup>110</sup> *Ibid.*, (e)(iii).

<sup>111</sup> *Ibid.*, (iv).

<sup>112</sup> *Ibid.*, (f) and (ii).

<sup>113</sup> E S C resolution 1988/77, para. 2(e)(iii).

<sup>114</sup> See, e.g., G A resolutions 42/211, para. 3, and 43/213, para. 4. See also Report of the 20th Joint Meeting of the ACC and CPC, E/1985/112, paras. 28 and 29.

<sup>115</sup> See, e.g., G A resolutions 42/211 and 43/219, sect. II, para. 5, and E S C resolution 1985/76, sect. I, para. 4.

<sup>116</sup> See G A resolutions 40/258C, 41/205, para. 8, 42/219, para. 11 and 43/225, para. 11. For further discussion, see the Studies of Articles 100 and 105 in this Supplement.

<sup>117</sup> G A resolutions 41/205, para. 10, 42/219, para. 13, and 43/225, para. 13.

<sup>118</sup> ACC/DEC/1987/20. The determination whether to invoke the terms was to be made on the advice of the Designated Official on security through appropriate United Nations Development

Some concern was registered in the General Assembly as to whether this decision empowered the ACC to suspend General Assembly mandated operations, but it was the view of the Legal Counsel that the action was within the competence of the ACC.<sup>119</sup>

## 2. SUBSIDIARY BODIES

28. With respect to the roles of subsidiary bodies of the Organization, decisions continued to be taken in recommendations for the improvement of the inter-governmental machinery in programme planning and co-ordination in reference to the CPC.<sup>120</sup> At the inter-secretariat level, the ACC also undertook to rationalize its work, defining the role and functions of its main subsidiary bodies with organizations of the system undertaking to make full use of the ACC machinery.<sup>121</sup> In this regard, the Organization made recommendations for a more systematic approach to co-ordination,<sup>122</sup> both the Secretary-General and the CPC noted the need for continual streamlining of ACC functioning and rationalization of its work.<sup>123</sup> These efforts were reinforced by decisions of both the Council and Assembly.<sup>124</sup>
29. Particular attention was also devoted to the role and work of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU). Some questions emerged in the period over the format and procedure of JIU reports. At the fortieth session of the Assembly, the Secretary-General presented comments on a JIU report on reporting to the Council in which the Secretary-General noted that analytical aspects of the report were lacking.<sup>125</sup> At the same session, some JIU members also presented a report on comprehensive reform of the United Nations including implications for the system as a whole,<sup>126</sup> recommendations from which most members of the JIU in large part subsequently disassociated themselves.<sup>127</sup>
30. By resolution 40/229, the Assembly, recalling the role of the JIU in its Statute, emphasized to the JIU that it shall fully respect the mandates of the Assembly and the legislative organs of participating organizations.<sup>128</sup> The Assembly went on to recommend measures for the promotion of the evaluation aspect of its functions, specifically that the JIU include an evaluation of programmes and activities of organizations whenever appropriate in its reports, and that the JIU further conduct an evaluation of its own activities and report thereon to the Assembly.<sup>129</sup> The evaluation function of the JIU, highlighted in previous years, was further underscored in the G18 Report, which recommended that more emphasis be put on the evaluation aspect of the work of the

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Programme field security and the concurrence of the United Nations Security Co-ordinator and the Legal Counsel. *See* also Secretary-General's report to the Fifth Committee, A/C.5/42/14.

<sup>119</sup> *See* A/C.5/43/SR.50, paras. 11-13. A written explanation of the legal conditions governing this view was requested. *Ibid.*

<sup>120</sup> *See, e.g.,* G A resolution 40/240 and E S C resolutions 1985/76 and 1986/51.

<sup>121</sup> *See* E/1986/13, para. 7, and E/1987/47, para. 80.

<sup>122</sup> *See* E S C resolution 1985/77, para. 7.

<sup>123</sup> *See* A/42/232. *See also* A/42/38.

<sup>124</sup> *See* G A resolution 42/196 and E S C resolution 1985/77.

<sup>125</sup> A/40/284. *See* A/39/281 and Add.1.

<sup>126</sup> A/40/988 and Add.1. The JIU views were referenced by the Secretary-General in his report on co-ordination in the United Nations and the United Nations system. A/42/232.

<sup>127</sup> *See* JIU annual report, A/41/34. The ACC subsequently noted that the report had not been prepared in accordance with JIU practices, and decided that ACC commentary would therefore be inappropriate. A/41/639.

<sup>128</sup> G A resolution 40/259, para 1.

<sup>129</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 2 and 6.

- JIU.<sup>130</sup> The G18 further recommended that organizations of the system indicate which JIU recommendations they approve of.<sup>131</sup>
31. At its forty-second session, the Assembly, bearing in mind the recommendations of the G18, called for a comprehensive set of measures in regard to the activities of the JIU. This included more specific response and follow-up to JIU recommendations including requesting that all bodies of the United Nations system comment as appropriate on JIU reports and that the JIU include a section on implementation of its recommendations in its report.<sup>132</sup> By resolution 43/221, the Assembly welcoming the measures introduced to improve the quality of JIU reports, encouraged further efforts through, *inter alia*, a more selective and evaluative approach to topics and the provision of advice to organizations on methods of internal evaluation.

### **\*\*B. The Making of Recommendations in Programme Planning**

#### **C. The Making of Recommendations in Administrative and Budgetary Matters**

32. During the period under review, the Organization continued to consider the issue of administrative and budgetary co-ordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies.<sup>133</sup> In its resolution 40/250 on administrative and budgetary co-ordination, the Assembly concurred in the opinion expressed by the ACABQ<sup>134</sup> that harmonization of budgetary practices was of primary importance, and highlighted the need to avoid duplication of efforts and proliferation of organs for more effective use of resources of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. The Assembly recommended further efforts be made to achieve maximum possible standardization of budgetary and administrative practices by all organizations concerned. At the following session, the ACABQ provided additional comments on administrative and budgetary matters;<sup>135</sup> additional consideration undertaken by the ACC underscored the value of objectives for synchronization of practices.<sup>136</sup> At its forty-second session, following a report by the Secretary-General on administrative and financial functioning,<sup>137</sup> the Assembly requested that reports on the matter of administrative and budgetary co-ordination be referred to organizations of the system by the Secretary-General through the ACC.<sup>138</sup>

#### **1. COOPERATION WITH OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

33. During the period under review, the Organization pursued a policy of cooperation between the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations. A number

<sup>130</sup> See Recommendation 63, A/41/49, para. 56. The G18 recommended that the JIU be renamed the Joint Inspection and Evaluation Unit and its Statute revised accordingly. *Ibid.*

<sup>131</sup> *Ibid.*, recommendations 65 and 66.

<sup>132</sup> G A resolution 42/218, paras. 3 and 12.

<sup>133</sup> See *Supplement 6* under the Study of this Article, paras. 45-57.

<sup>134</sup> See A/40/769. The report was presented pursuant to G A resolution 36/229. See also G A resolution 40/251 noting the report with appreciation and referring it to concerned organizations.

<sup>135</sup> A/41/671.

<sup>136</sup> A/C.5/41/23. The Assembly deferred consideration of the issue to the following session by decision 41/447.

<sup>137</sup> A/42/234.

<sup>138</sup> G A decision 42/454. In this context, the Secretary-General's report on administrative and financial functioning, touched on issues of harmonization, citing views in the ACC that, while improved harmonization was important, in such matters as budgets, the prime objective should be clarity and understandability and responding to the special needs of bodies.

- of recommendations were directed in particular towards cooperation with the Organization of African Unity.<sup>139</sup> In this context, the Assembly not only repeatedly urged the specialized agencies to expand cooperation with OAU activities,<sup>140</sup> but also called upon organizations of the system to specifically act in support of OAU programmes, notably the Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990.<sup>141</sup>
34. Similar recommendations were made with respect to regions, such as Central America, notably in respect to support for the Organization of American States<sup>142</sup> and the Latin American Economic System.<sup>143</sup> In Southern Africa, the Assembly appealed to specialized agencies to cooperate fully in the development programmes, for example, of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference.<sup>144</sup>
35. Additional efforts were made to improve cooperation between the United Nations system and the League of Arab States (LAS). During the period under review, the Assembly repeated its conviction that strengthening cooperation between the United Nations system and the LAS would contribute to the work of the system and the promotion of the purposes of the Charter.<sup>145</sup> Following a sectoral meeting on social development and an earlier meeting on a framework for cooperation in 1983, the Assembly by resolution 40/5 called upon the specialized agencies to continue to cooperate with the Secretary-General in programmes and activities within the United Nations system and the LAS, and in the follow-up to the multilateral proposals on strengthening and expanding cooperation, including contacts and consultations. The specialized agencies were requested to inform the Secretary-General on progress and follow up to proposals at the earlier meeting.<sup>146</sup> Specific consideration was given in this context to the structural mechanisms and arrangements for cooperation, particularly consultative mechanisms in various common sectoral areas including sectoral working groups.<sup>147</sup> The Assembly further decided on administrative measures in order to intensify cooperation, including periodic general meetings between the LAS and the United Nations system every three years with annual sector meetings between LAS and organizations of the system.<sup>148</sup> Assembly also sought to formalize cooperation arrangements between the LAS and the United Nations system through the conclusion of a cooperation agreement.<sup>149</sup>

## 2. PERSONNEL MATTERS

<sup>139</sup> G A resolutions 40/20, 41/8, S-13/2, 42/9, 43/12 and 43/27. *See also discussion infra.*

<sup>140</sup> *See, e.g.,* G A resolutions 40/20, para. 20, 41/8, para. 18.

<sup>141</sup> G A resolutions 40/20, paras. 5 and 6, and 41/8, para. 6. In this regard, specialized agencies were also called upon to act in support of the United Nations Programme developed to provide international support for the commitments undertaken by African governments at the OAU.

<sup>142</sup> G A resolution 42/11

<sup>143</sup> *See discussion infra.*

<sup>144</sup> G A resolutions 40/195 and 42/181.

<sup>145</sup> *See* G A resolution 40/5 and 41/4. The resolutions were however adopted by recorded vote with some members opposing the action.

<sup>146</sup> G A resolutions 40/5, para. 8 (a-c), 41/4, para. 7 (a-c), 42/5, para. 7 (a-c).

<sup>147</sup> *See* G A resolutions 42/5, paras. 6 and 11, and 43/3 paras. 6 and 9. In this regard, the JIU had submitted a report on cooperation between the LAS and the United Nations system, reviewing existing cooperation and making a series of recommendations on cooperation arrangements. *See* A/41/481. The Secretary-General reported on implementation to the forty-second Assembly. *See* A/42/526.

<sup>148</sup> G A resolution 43/3, para. 9.

<sup>149</sup> G A resolutions 42/5, para. 10 and 43/3, para. 10. Some member States expressed reservations and objections over cooperation with the LAS notably in respect to cooperation in the implementation of United Nations resolutions on the question of Palestine and the situation in the Middle East.

36. Continuing concern was also expressed by the Organization with respect to personnel policy and the harmonization of standards and practices in the United Nations Common System of organizations.<sup>150</sup> The Assembly requested that the Secretary-General and the heads of organizations participating in the Common System promote endeavors to maintain and strengthen the system and cooperation in the regulation and co-ordination of the conditions of service.<sup>151</sup> The Assembly expressed particular concern over actions taken by some participating organizations, leading to disparities in the Common System.<sup>152</sup> At its forty-second session, the Assembly urged taking specific action to conform to recommendations and decisions of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC).
37. Related to this overall concern was the functioning of the ICSC within the system. At its fortieth session, the Assembly requested that the ICSC report in detail to future Assembly sessions on consideration and implementation of ICSC decisions and recommendations by organizations of the common system.<sup>153</sup> Further attention was given to the machinery for the co-ordination of personnel matters with the ACC suggesting a consultative mechanism when the Assembly disagreed with the ICSC or the Joint Staff Pension Fund Board.<sup>154</sup> At its forty-second session, the Assembly requested that the ICSC undertake a study of its functioning with a view to enhancing its work.<sup>155</sup> Following criticism directed at the functioning of the ICSC by staff unions in which they decided to suspend participation in the ICSC,<sup>156</sup> the Assembly at its forty-third session requested that the ICSC expand the review of its functioning in consultation with organizations of the system and staff representatives, inviting the ICSC to review its rules of procedure “at the earliest opportunity” to allow for the fullest possible consultation with organizations and staff representatives.<sup>157</sup>
38. Additional issues concerned the conditions of service of personnel in the system. The Assembly requested the ICSC study matters related to entitlements and staff mobility.<sup>158</sup> Problems in staff satisfaction and personnel management were reflected in decisions in the period. The ACC also decided to hold a special session on the deterioration in the conditions of service of staff, calling on the CCAQ to prepare position papers.<sup>159</sup> This concern was reflected in actions of the Assembly, which called for a comprehensive review of the conditions of service of staff at its forty-second session;<sup>160</sup> a concern reaffirmed at the Assembly’s forty-third session during which the ICSC was requested to pursue the review as a priority and adjust its programme of work accordingly.<sup>161</sup>

<sup>150</sup> See *Supplement 6* under the Study of this Article, paras. 49-52.

<sup>151</sup> G A resolution 40/244, sect. IV, para. 1,

<sup>152</sup> See G A resolutions 40/244, sect. IV, para. 4 and 42/221, sect. VI, para. 1.

<sup>153</sup> G A resolution 40/244, sect. IV, para. 5. See also G A resolution 41/207, sect. VI, para. 4.

<sup>154</sup> A/C.5/40/41.

<sup>155</sup> G A resolution 42/221, sect. VIII.

<sup>156</sup> Citing dissatisfaction with the work of the ICSC, the Federation of International Civil Servants Associations (FICSA) and the Co-ordinating Committee for Independent Staff Unions and Associations of the United Nations system (CCISUA) decided to suspend their participation in the activities of the ICSC. See A/C.5/43/12.

<sup>157</sup> G A resolution 43/226, sect. II, paras. 1 and 2. The unions were urged to resume participation at the earliest possible opportunity. *Ibid.*, para. 5.

<sup>158</sup> G A resolutions 40/244 and 41/207.

<sup>159</sup> ACC/1987/Dec/1-12 (Dec 1987/3).

<sup>160</sup> G A resolution 42/221, sect. III, para. 1.

<sup>161</sup> G A resolution 43/226, sect. I, para. 1. Arrangements for the fullest possible participation of organizations of the system and staff representatives were called for. *Ibid.*, para. 2.

- Additional recommendations centered on issues of remuneration<sup>162</sup> and the geographical distribution of staff.<sup>163</sup> Regarding the latter, the ICSC concluded that criteria for equitable geographical distribution could be applied by larger organizations, but small ones should set distribution in accordance with their programmes.<sup>164</sup> The ICSC also recommended that organizations give priority in recruitment to unrepresented and under-represented Member States along the lines already established by the United Nations and the World Health Organization (WHO).<sup>165</sup>
39. Particular consideration continued to be given to measures for the improvement of recruitment and promotion of women within the organizations of the system.<sup>166</sup> During its fortieth session, the Assembly adopted several measures aimed at addressing this issue. By resolution 40/244, the Assembly welcomed the ICSC recommendations on special measures for the recruitment of women, including the establishment of staff management bodies to set goals for the advancement of women.<sup>167</sup> The Assembly also specifically called for incorporation of the interests of women in the work programmes of the regional commissions.<sup>168</sup>
40. Specific emphasis was placed on the promotion of women to higher level positions, particularly in the professional category. Both the Assembly and the Council requested that Member States continue to support efforts of the United Nations and the specialized agencies to increase the proportion of women in the Professional category and above, by, *inter alia*, nominating more women candidates.<sup>169</sup> The Council affirmed that the full participation of women, especially in policy-making, was essential, and the presence of more women in all substantive areas would help organizations respond to their mandate.<sup>170</sup> The Council further requested that each organization designate a high-level co-ordinator for the improvement of the status of women with each organization adopting specific action programmes and work plans outlining measures to improve the status of women.<sup>171</sup> The ICSC outlined a number of recommendations aimed at recruiting and promoting women especially in decision-making and policy-level functions in its annual report, including measures to enhance sharing information about recruitment.<sup>172</sup> The Assembly in resolution 43/226 endorsed these measures.

### 3. JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION

<sup>162</sup> See G A resolutions 40/244, 41/207, sect. II, and 41/208.

<sup>163</sup> See annual reports of the ICSC, A/41/30, ch. VIII and A/42/30, ch. VII A. See also G A resolution 42/221, sect. V, para. 2.

<sup>164</sup> A/42/30, para. 286 (a).

<sup>165</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 288. In this regard, the ICSC had previously decided it did not have the mandate to determine desirable range of geographical distribution for organizations of the United Nations system. A/41/30, ch. VIII, para. 203.

<sup>166</sup> See *Supplement 6* under the Study of this Article, para. 52.

<sup>167</sup> See A/40/30, paras. 245-247. In a report to the Fifth Committee, representatives of the staff union asserted that the number of appointments and rate of promotion of women had stagnated or declined. See A/C.5/40/59. See also further report of the staff union, A/C.5/42/37.

<sup>168</sup> G A resolution 40/105.

<sup>169</sup> G A resolution 40/258 B, para. 6. See also G A resolution 42/220 C, para 7 and E S C resolution 1986/19, para. 4 and 1987/19, para 2. See further consideration of this subject under the Study of Article 8 in this *Supplement*.

<sup>170</sup> E S C resolution 1986/19, paras. 1 and 2.

<sup>171</sup> E S C resolution 1988/17, paras. 1 and 2. The Secretary-General was recommended to take the necessary measures to ensure that the current financial constraints affecting the United Nations do not adversely affect women. *Ibid.*, para. 3.

<sup>172</sup> A/43/30, para. 91.

41. Recommendations in the co-ordination of judicial administration within the United Nations system concerned measures to streamline procedures for resolving disputes and appeals.<sup>173</sup> This included the harmonization of rules and practices between the administrative tribunals of the United Nations and the ILO and the feasibility of establishing a single administrative tribunal.<sup>174</sup> At its forty-third session, the Secretary-General presented a report on harmonization of the statutes, rules and practices of the two administrative tribunals together with proposals, highlighting outstanding areas of disagreement.<sup>175</sup> The Assembly invited Member States to submit written comments including suggestions on the proposals by May of 1989.<sup>176</sup>

#### 4. OTHER MATTERS

42. Other considerations in this period included recommendations with respect to the organization of conferences in the United Nations system. At its forty-first session, the Assembly took note of the offer to place a newly constructed conference center at the disposal of the United Nations, the IAEA and UNIDO, recommending that the Committee on Conferences take the offer duly into account in future planning of conferences and meetings of organizations headquartered in Vienna.<sup>177</sup> At the same time, in renewing the mandate of the Committee on Conferences, the Assembly undertook consideration of changing the Committee's terms of reference to becoming a permanent intergovernmental body, requesting the Committee give consideration to the matter.<sup>178</sup> At its forty-second session, the Assembly requested that the Secretary-General examine the possibility of having all organizational aspects of conference servicing in the United Nations as a whole centrally planned and co-ordinated with a view to ensuring optimum efficiency and cost-effectiveness.<sup>179</sup> Following the report of the Committee on Conferences in which it undertook consideration of its status,<sup>180</sup> the Assembly decided to retain the Committee as a permanent subsidiary organ with terms of reference that included, *inter alia*, making recommendations to the Assembly on means to ensure improved co-ordination of conferences within the United Nations system and monitoring implementation of Assembly resolutions on the organization, servicing and documentation for conferences.<sup>181</sup>

### B. The Making of Recommendations in Substantive Areas

#### 1. RECOMMENDATIONS IN ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

43. The co-ordination of activities and policies with respect to economic growth and development continued to be a major concern. Decisions of the Organization emphasized

<sup>173</sup> See G A resolutions 40/252, sect. XII, and 42/220 B. See also report of the JIU, A/41/640 and the comments of the Secretary-General thereon, A/C.5/41/14, sect. V, as well as Secretary-General comments on streamlining, A/C.5/42/28. See also consideration of this issue under the Study of Article 101 in this *Supplement*.

<sup>174</sup> G A resolution 42/217, and decisions 40/465 and 43/452. See also *Supplement 6* under the Study of this Article, para. 46.

<sup>175</sup> A/43/704.

<sup>176</sup> G A decision 43/452.

<sup>177</sup> G A resolution 41/177 C, para. 3

<sup>178</sup> *Ibid.*, sect. B.

<sup>179</sup> G A resolution 42/207 B, para. 5.

<sup>180</sup> See A/43/32.

<sup>181</sup> G A resolution 43/222 B, paras. 1 and 4.

- an enhanced need for the co-ordination of activities in respect to development and economic growth as a consequence of both the impact of the global economic recession on developing countries and the resources available to assist them,<sup>182</sup> and the problems of co-ordination identified within the United Nations system itself.<sup>183</sup> Consequently decisions of the Organization in this area reflected advocacy of more immediate and specific responses to the heightened needs of individual countries, as well as increased efforts to harmonize procedures and eliminate duplication and overlap.
44. The Organization continued to highlight co-ordination with respect to overall development policy practices such as in respect to operational activities and the implementation and follow-up to the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade. In addition, recommendations stressed the need for system-wide co-ordination in specific issues of growth and development on both a sectoral level, such as in relation to external indebtedness and trade, and in relation to geographic circumstances, as with land-locked and island developing States, as well as activities and programmes on a regional or national level notably in respect to sub-Saharan Africa and Central America.

*a. Operational Activities for Development*

45. Operational activities continued to be a specific and significant area of concern in the recommendations of the Organization to specialized agencies. Following past practice,<sup>184</sup> the Director-General for DIEC submitted an annual report to the fortieth session of the Assembly on operational activities for development.<sup>185</sup> The report, submitted in accordance with the guidelines requested by the Assembly at its thirty-ninth session,<sup>186</sup> identified developments in operational activities for development, particularly in the co-ordination of action on the part of organizations of the United Nations system. The report identified, *inter alia*, the emergence of co-ordination activities at the country level, such as in respect to round table discussions organized under the auspices of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to facilitate dialogue and co-ordination of assistance to developing countries, emergency relief operations as well as the harmonization of procedures.<sup>187</sup> By resolution 40/211, the Assembly emphasized the importance of such Roundtable country reviews in facilitating the effective implementation of development programmes in the countries concerned.
46. Some emphasis was placed on enhancing the central co-ordinating role of the Organization, notably that of the Council, in operational activities for development. At its fortieth session, the Assembly requested the Council “to assist the Assembly in establishing overall strategies and priorities for the system as a whole in respect to operational activities.”<sup>188</sup> In reports to the forty-first and forty-second sessions of the

<sup>182</sup> See, e.g., G A resolutions 40/173, 40/207, 41/171, 41/202, S-13/2, 42/165 and 43/186. See also A/41/350, annex.

<sup>183</sup> See A/42/232 para 59 and G A resolution 42/196 in respect to operational activities for development. See also discussion *supra*.

<sup>184</sup> By resolution 35/81, the Assembly requested that the Secretary-General entrust the Director-General of DIEC with the annual submission of information on operational activities for development.

<sup>185</sup> A/40/698, annex.

<sup>186</sup> By resolution 39/220, the Assembly requested the Director-General of DIEC include information and analysis on developments and progress in operational activities for development as well as statistical data. See also G A resolution 37/226.

<sup>187</sup> A/40/698, annex, sect. III A and D.

<sup>188</sup> G A resolution 40/211, para. 8. See also G A resolution 42/196, para. 7.

- Assembly, the Director-General of DIEC noted the need for consistency of action in different policy organs of the United Nations system, and the consequent importance and role for the Council in addressing common system-wide problems.<sup>189</sup> Both the Assembly and the Council affirmed the need for the Council to intensify its co-ordination activities in this respect.<sup>190</sup>
47. At the same time, other bodies stressed the need for a more decentralized approach. ACC and CPC members both emphasized the need for co-ordination at the country level, advocating a decentralized approach to development by both organizations and inter-governmental bodies.<sup>191</sup> One reason for this emphasis was the recognition of problems in exercising co-ordination at the central, inter-governmental level, notably within the Council, because of the difficulties in harmonizing global issues and the differing sectoral concerns of organizations of the system.<sup>192</sup> In addition, the Assembly repeatedly reaffirmed the primary responsibility of developing countries themselves for co-ordinating the operational activities for development of the United Nations system through, *inter alia*, the determination of local co-ordination arrangements.
48. A number of recommendations relating to co-ordination of operational activities in the United Nations system focused on the role of the resident co-ordinator, established under Assembly resolution 32/197.<sup>193</sup> The Director-General of DIEC reported the findings of case studies of operational activities for development which recommended, *inter alia* that the role of resident coordinators be more specifically defined to provide sufficient authority to exercise leadership with respect to activities of the United Nations system in operational activities for development.<sup>194</sup> Both the Assembly and the Council endorsed these recommendations.<sup>195</sup> In light of comments submitted by the specialized agencies, the Assembly further requested that the Director-General of DIEC provide specific proposals for enhancing the functions of the resident co-ordinator.<sup>196</sup>

*b. International Development Strategy*

49. The International Development Strategy (IDS) for the Third United Nations Development Decade adopted by the thirty-fifth session of the Assembly was established as a framework for international cooperation in development.<sup>197</sup> At its thirty-ninth session, in light of the world recession, the Assembly had established the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the IDS for the Third United Nations Development Decade to review progress in implementation of this framework. The Committee concluded that while the IDS retained its importance as a framework for

<sup>189</sup> See A/41/350, paras. 56-59, and A/42/326, para 53.

<sup>190</sup> See, e.g. G A resolution 41/171 and E S C resolution 1986/74.

<sup>191</sup> See E/1987/83, paras. 41-44 and E/1988/79, para. 56. See also G A resolutions 42/196, para. 12 and 43/199, paras. 6 and 7.

<sup>192</sup> See report of the Director-General of DIEC to the forty-first and forty-second session, A/41/350, para. 28 and A/42/326 para. 53. See also G A resolution 41/171 and E S C resolution 1986/74.

<sup>193</sup> See *Supplement 6* under the Study of this Article, paras. 8 and 38.

<sup>194</sup> A/42/326/Add.1, para. 82. In this context, the report suggested the possibility of separating the roles of resident co-ordinator and resident representative of UNDP in countries with large United Nations programmes.

<sup>195</sup> G A resolution 41/171 and E S C resolution 1986/74, paras. 15 and 16.

<sup>196</sup> G A resolution 43/199, para. 6(b).

<sup>197</sup> See *Supplement 6* under the Study of this Article, para. 62.

- international cooperation, deep divisions existed regarding the international development situation and implementation of the IDS.<sup>198</sup>
50. Concerned that the goals and objectives of the IDS remained largely unfulfilled, the Assembly requested that the Secretary-General consult with organizations of the United Nations system with the aim of providing information for the preparation and elaboration of an IDS for a Fourth United Nations Development Decade (1991-2000).<sup>199</sup> Some debate remained as to the merits and approach to new IDS in light of the perceived problems of previous strategies.<sup>200</sup> Nevertheless, both the Assembly and the Council supported the preparation of an IDS for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade.<sup>201</sup> Specialized agencies were invited to include items on the preparation of an IDS in their 1989 agendas,<sup>202</sup> and requested to contribute to the preparatory process by providing all appropriate input, including documentation and studies, under the overall co-ordination of the Director-General of DIEC.<sup>203</sup>
51. In this regard, the Assembly decided to convene a resumed forty-third session in 1989 to allow its Second Committee to consider a draft decision<sup>204</sup> aimed at convening a special session in 1990 on international economic cooperation and revitalizing economic growth, which would, in part, provide policy guidance and recommendations to relevant bodies of the United Nations system — and guidelines for an IDS.<sup>205</sup>

*c. Specific Development Objectives*

52. Many of the recommendations of the Organization in respect to economic growth and development placed particular emphasis on sector or area specific activities especially in light of the diverse impact of the global economic recession. While recommendations emphasized as a matter of policy the prioritization of the most seriously affected areas with respect to overall development efforts,<sup>206</sup> recommendations were also made in a number of specific areas. These included specific sectoral development concerns, such as the co-ordination of activities with respect to the problem of external indebtedness, in which, for example, organizations of the system, particularly the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, were called upon to examine international economic security, and the reform and strengthening of the international framework governing trade and monetary and financial relations.<sup>207</sup> Additional recommendations on the part of the Assembly addressed the co-ordination of development activities based on economic or geographic circumstance, such as Least Developed Countries (LDCs) or island and land-locked Developing States as well as particular regions or countries.

<sup>198</sup> See A/40/48, annex.

<sup>199</sup> G A resolution 42/193.

<sup>200</sup> See debate in the Council at its 1988 session, E/1988/SR.34-36.

<sup>201</sup> E S C resolution 1988/76, G A resolution 43/182.

<sup>202</sup> G A resolution 43/182.

<sup>203</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 3-5.

<sup>204</sup> A/C.2/43/L.39.

<sup>205</sup> G A decision 43/443.

<sup>206</sup> Such as in the case of operational activities for development in which action in respect to Africa was preferenced. See G A resolution 42/196, para. 13 and 43/199, para. 11. Or in the case of Least Developed Countries. See G A resolution 41/202, para. 1(g). See also Report of the Committee on Review and Appraisal of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, A/40/48, Part III, para. 21 reaffirming the assessment of the IDS that measures taken with the framework should give special attention to the fulfillment of the goals of the Substantial New Programme of Action for LDCs.

<sup>207</sup> See G A resolutions 40/207, 42/165, 42/198 and 43/198, and G A decision 40/445.

*i. Least Developed Countries*

53. While the co-ordination of activities with respect to LDCs had been the subject of recommendations in prior years under review, notably in the case of the formulation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s (SNPA),<sup>208</sup> the world financial situation prompted enhanced emphasis on activities of the United Nations system in support of LDCs during the period under review. An Intergovernmental Group on LDCs of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), convened by the Assembly to review and readjust the SNPA,<sup>209</sup> presented its mid-term global review of implementation of the SNPA.<sup>210</sup> Citing the urgent need for measures in light of the deteriorating socio-economic situation of LDCs,<sup>211</sup> the Committee stressed the need for co-ordination, follow up and monitoring at the national, regional and global level in implementation of the SNPA.<sup>212</sup> At the national level, noting that co-ordination of activities of the United Nations system had been insufficient,<sup>213</sup> the Committee recommended a continuous co-ordination process with cooperation in each country effected under the aegis of the resident co-ordinator.<sup>214</sup> One activity of primary importance was strengthened co-ordination capabilities at the national level with respect to technical assistance.<sup>215</sup> At the regional and global level, the Committee recommended the harmonization of terms and procedures in the provision of assistance to the LDCs,<sup>216</sup> reaffirming in this context the global monitoring role of UNCTAD<sup>217</sup> and reiterating the responsibilities of the Director-General to ensure full mobilization and co-ordination of organizations of the United Nations system at the secretariat level in the implementation and follow up to the SNPA.<sup>218</sup> The Assembly endorsed these conclusions and recommendations at its fortieth session.<sup>219</sup>
54. Additional action was taken with regard to special programmes of economic assistance. Following a request of the Assembly,<sup>220</sup> the Secretary-General presented a report on enhancing efficiency and effectiveness of special programmes of economic assistance, which recommended that such programmes be of limited duration and defined in terms of responding to needs and situations outside the competence of regular programmes of organizations of the United Nations system.<sup>221</sup> The Secretary-General advocated that such programmes be further defined so that they are undertaken in close cooperation with entities of the United Nations system to ensure the effective use of resources as well as the full participation of specialized agencies in formulation and implementation.<sup>222</sup> Following inter-agency review, such special programmes should be transferred to the

<sup>208</sup> See Supplement 6 under the Study of this Article, para. 63.

<sup>209</sup> *Ibid.* See also G A resolution 39/174.

<sup>210</sup> A/40/827.

<sup>211</sup> *Ibid.*, Part one, paras. 1 and 3.

<sup>212</sup> *Ibid.*, Part II, Sect XVII, para. 1.

<sup>213</sup> *Ibid.*, Part I, para. 79.

<sup>214</sup> *Ibid.*, Part II, Sect. XVII, para 14.

<sup>215</sup> *Ibid.*, Part XIII, para 4.

<sup>216</sup> *Ibid.*, Part XVII, para. 17.

<sup>217</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 2.

<sup>218</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 15.

<sup>219</sup> G A resolution 40/205, para 3.

<sup>220</sup> G A resolution 40/236.

<sup>221</sup> A/41/308-E/1986/67, sect. III, para. 38. In this regard, the issue of co-ordination of emergency relief had been addressed at the 21st meeting of the ACC and CPC, see E/1986/113.

<sup>222</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 41.

regular programmes of agencies of the system.<sup>223</sup> The Assembly in resolution 41/192 endorsed these conclusions and recommendations.

*ii. Regional and National Development Initiatives*

55. As noted, geographic circumstance also continued to feature in recommendations to the specialized agencies for priorities in activities in respect to both land-locked and island developing States in alternating sessions.<sup>224</sup> Such conditions also constituted the basis for some recommendations in the context of the SNPA.<sup>225</sup> At the same time, the period under review saw attention directed towards co-ordination at the regional level, particularly in the case of sub-Saharan Africa and new initiatives in the case of Central America. By decision 1985/107, the Plenary session of the Council, called for the effectiveness of relief efforts in Africa by the United Nations and specialized agencies to be a the focus of Joint Meeting of the ACC/CPC.<sup>226</sup> Co-ordination of activities in respect to individual States was also a subject of increasing focus.
56. With regard to Africa, as noted, the Organization had called upon specialized agencies to give special support and assistance to African development efforts in the context of operational activities for development.<sup>227</sup> In this regard, the critical economic and social situation confronting many African States had been a predominant consideration.<sup>228</sup> Specialized agencies were thus requested to cooperate with the Secretary-General in formulating action-oriented proposals particularly in major development areas identified in the Declaration on the Critical Situation in Africa.<sup>229</sup> The Thirteenth Special Session of the Assembly — devoted to the critical economic situation in Africa — adopted the Programme of Action for African Recovery and Development 1986-1990<sup>230</sup> in which, *inter alia*, specialized agencies were called upon to fully participate and support.<sup>231</sup> The Programme of Action aimed to provide an international strategy to complement the commitment of African States made at the 21<sup>st</sup> session of the Organization of African Unity,<sup>232</sup> calling for, in this context, improvement in external assistance and cooperation with African States through a continuous process of follow up, evaluation and co-ordination at the national, regional and international levels.<sup>233</sup> Consideration of the implementation of the Programme of Action by the specialized agencies and organizations of the system was undertaken at the Joint Meeting of the ACC and CPC.<sup>234</sup>
57. At the same time, the mid-term review of the Programme of Action carried out by the *Ad Hoc* Committee of the Whole noted that while the contributions of organizations of the

<sup>223</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 39.

<sup>224</sup> See, e.g. G A resolutions 40/183, 41/163, 42/174 and 43/189. See also *Supplement 6* under the Study of this Article, para. 63.

<sup>225</sup> See, e.g. G A resolution 40/205 and A/40/827, Part II, sect. VIII.

<sup>226</sup> This matter was subsequently considered at the 1985 Joint Meeting, see E/1985/112.

<sup>227</sup> See G A resolutions 42/196, para 13 and 43/199, para. 11.

<sup>228</sup> See Declaration on the Critical Situation in Africa, G A resolution 39/29, annex.

<sup>229</sup> G A resolution 40/40.

<sup>230</sup> G A resolution S-13/2.

<sup>231</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 4.

<sup>232</sup> *Ibid.*, annex, para. 7. See also Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990, A/40/666, annex 1, declaration AHG/Decl. 1(XXI).

<sup>233</sup> *Ibid.*, sect. III, para. 21. At the national level, this included joint action within existing aid co-ordination machinery such as roundtable and consultative group meetings as well as intergovernmental agreements, potentially in the form of joint bilateral commissions. *Ibid.*, para. 22. At the global level, the Secretary-General would coordinate assistance and support of agencies of the United Nations system with the Assembly reviewing implementation at its forty-third session. *Ibid.*, para. 24.

<sup>234</sup> E/1988/79, paras. 40-48

- United Nations system were diversified and useful, they were insufficient.<sup>235</sup> The conclusions of the *Ad Hoc* Committee called for strengthened cooperation and co-ordination among organizations of the system in implementing and monitoring the Programme of Action through appropriate support of the Secretariats of the United Nations Steering Committee and the Inter-Agency Task Force, as well as improved co-ordination at the national level through the country-programme framework and the resident co-ordinator.<sup>236</sup>
58. A related feature of decisions with regard to Africa related to United Nations emergency operations. The Secretary-General had established the United Nations Office for Emergency Operations in Africa at the end of 1984 to promote co-ordination and cooperation of the United Nations system in response to the African emergency crisis.<sup>237</sup> In this context, the Secretary-General identified relief operations on the part of organizations of the system as concentrated on five levels of action: effective organization at field levels and administrative and logistic support; assessing essential needs and available resources; using the capabilities of the specialized agencies for measuring implementation; strengthening co-ordination efforts to deal with emergencies; and mobilizing resources.<sup>238</sup> Organizations of the United Nations system were requested to cooperate with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in establishing an early warning system to control grasshopper and locust infestation<sup>239</sup> as recommended by the Secretary-General,<sup>240</sup> as well as to undertake programmes in the training of personnel and the testing of pesticides.<sup>241</sup>
59. One aspect of recommendations in the context of Africa in this period was the promotion of cooperation and assistance with regional organizations. This had been a feature of recommendations in the area of emergency relief,<sup>242</sup> as well as a component of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development. Emphasis was further placed on economic cooperation, such as assistance by the World Bank and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) on the establishment of the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States.<sup>243</sup> Several resolutions also addressed the promotion of cooperation between organizations of the United Nations system and the Organization of African Unity.<sup>244</sup>
60. During the period under review, new emphasis was also placed on the participation of specialized agencies in activities and programmes in Central America. At its forty-first session, the Assembly requested that the Secretary-General prepare a report on the situation in Central America and the threats to international peace and security.<sup>245</sup> Following consideration of the report at its forty-second session,<sup>246</sup> the Assembly requested that the Secretary-General formulate a special plan of cooperation in the region based on information on social and economic priorities of countries of the region

<sup>235</sup> See A/43/664 and corr. 1, para. 42.

<sup>236</sup> A/43/664 and corr. 1, Part III, paras. 73 and 74. The Assembly endorsed these conclusions at its forty-third session. G A resolution 43/27.

<sup>237</sup> See A/41/683.

<sup>238</sup> See annual report of the ACC, E/1985/112, para. 5.

<sup>239</sup> G A resolutions 41/29, para. 6, 41/185, para. 6 and 43/203.

<sup>240</sup> A/41/683 sect. V, para 30.

<sup>241</sup> G A resolution 43/203, paras. 8 and 10.

<sup>242</sup> G A resolution 41/185.

<sup>243</sup> G A resolution 40/186.

<sup>244</sup> G A resolution 43/12. See also G A resolutions S-13/2 and 42/163. See further discussion supra on cooperation with intergovernmental organizations.

<sup>245</sup> G A resolution 41/37.

<sup>246</sup> A/42/127-S/19686.

compiled by a technical mission in consultation with regional governments, organizations and the Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean.<sup>247</sup> In this context, the Assembly appealed to organs and organizations of the United Nations system to assist in the formulation and implementation of such a plan as well as to expand their assistance to the region.<sup>248</sup> The Special Plan of Economic Cooperation prepared by the Secretary-General sought to concentrate on international cooperation in economic and social projects directly linked to the preservation of peace that are additional and distinct from those already receiving attention from the international community with the focus on projects operational within the next three years.<sup>249</sup> The Plan emphasized three types of programmes: emergency programmes concentrating on aid to refugees, food and urgent energy needs; programmes of immediate action related to such issues as foreign debt and reactivation of the common market; and economic reactivation and social development emphasizing the involvement of specialized agencies in areas such as industrial rehabilitation, agriculture, physical infrastructure and trade.<sup>250</sup> At its resumed forty-second session, the Assembly by resolution 42/231 expressed its appreciation for the Special Plan, requesting that organizations of the United Nations system participate actively in implementing activities in support of the Plan.<sup>251</sup> Specialized agencies in particular, notably FAO, IFAD, IMF, UNIDO, and the World Bank were urged to expand assistance on a priority basis and cooperate with the Secretary-General in implementation of activities in support of the Plan.<sup>252</sup> Reiterating this call at its forty-third session, the Assembly decided to review the progress in implementing the Special Plan at its forty-fourth session.<sup>253</sup>

61. As in the case of assistance to Africa, decisions of the Organization emphasized strengthened cooperation with regional organizations, particularly the Latin American Economic System (LAES).<sup>254</sup> In this context, the Secretary-General was asked to take the necessary steps to strengthen and intensify cooperation between the United Nations system and LAES.<sup>255</sup> The Assembly also placed increased emphasis on the provision of assistance to individual States, including action on the part of specialized agencies and other organizations of the system. These decisions resulted from the need of countries particularly affected by drought and other natural disasters, those in need of special economic assistance in light of debt problems or the world financial recession as well as reconstruction and rehabilitation following periods of conflict. In this context, the Assembly made collective calls for assistance on the part of specialized agencies to groups of specific countries,<sup>256</sup> as well as calling for concerted efforts with respect to individual countries. In the case of the latter, repeated calls were made, for example, for assistance to Chad,<sup>257</sup> Lebanon<sup>258</sup> and Mozambique.<sup>259</sup>

<sup>247</sup> G A resolution 42/204, paras. 2 and 3.

<sup>248</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 3 and 5.

<sup>249</sup> A/42/949, annex, sect. III, para. 22.

<sup>250</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 34-117.

<sup>251</sup> G A resolution 42/231, para. 1.

<sup>252</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 5 and 6.

<sup>253</sup> G A resolution 43/210, paras. 5 and 8. *See also* G A resolution 42/231, para. 9.

<sup>254</sup> *See, e.g.*, G A resolutions 42/12, para. 5 and 43/5, para. 7.

<sup>255</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 9.

<sup>256</sup> *See, e.g.* G A resolution 41/200 and 42/205.

<sup>257</sup> G A resolutions 40/218, 41/198, 42/200 and 43/205.

<sup>258</sup> G A resolutions 40/229, 41/196, 42/199 and 43/207.

<sup>259</sup> G A resolutions 40/232, 41/197 and 43/208.

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS IN ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY AND NATURAL DISASTERS

### *a. The Environment*

62. The co-ordination of activities and programmes in the field of the environment continued to be a subject of recommendations during the period under review. At the outset of the period, the CPC recommended a cross-organisational programme analysis on the environment as most appropriate for forthcoming review;<sup>260</sup> a decision welcomed by the Governing Council of UNEP, which requested that the agencies of the United Nations system co-operate with its secretariat in a description of the patterns of mandates of organisations of the system with respect to environmental matters.<sup>261</sup> The Assembly adopted a report prepared by the Intergovernmental Inter-sessional Preparatory Committee on the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond as a framework for environmentally sound development through both national action and international co-operation, and for the preparation of further system-wide medium-term programmes of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system.<sup>262</sup> The Assembly further decided to consider convening a United Nations Conference on environment and development no later than 1992, requesting that the Secretary-General obtain the views of organizations of the system on its content and scope.<sup>263</sup>
63. Particular attention was given to the structural mechanisms for achieving overall co-ordination in the field of the environment during the period under review. A report of the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED), established at the thirty-eighth session of the Assembly to examine sustainable development,<sup>264</sup> highlighted the need for organisational reforms to increase co-ordination between the specialised agencies and the Organisation.<sup>265</sup> The report concluded that the relative independence of the specialised agencies and inefficient co-ordination had resulted in co-ordination that was “fragmented and less effective than it might be,”<sup>266</sup> specifically recommending that the Secretary-General assume the role of high-level co-ordinator within the entire United Nations system.<sup>267</sup> Welcoming the report, the Assembly called upon the organisations of the system to review their policies, programmes, budgets and activities relating to sustainable development.<sup>268</sup> The Assembly went on to request that the Secretary-General review and co-ordinate on a regular basis the efforts of all organisations of the system in sustainable development.<sup>269</sup>
64. Recommendations further highlighted the role of UNEP. The Assembly repeatedly recalled the “essential and catalytic role” of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in co-ordinating the activities of the United Nations system,<sup>270</sup> agreeing on the

<sup>260</sup> See A/40/38, para. 435.

<sup>261</sup> See A/40/25, annex. The Assembly in resolution 40/200 endorsed the decision of UNEP.

<sup>262</sup> G A resolution 42/186.

<sup>263</sup> G A resolution 43/196, paras. 1 and 3.

<sup>264</sup> G A resolution 38/161. See *Supplement 6* under the Study of this Article, paras. 67-69.

<sup>265</sup> Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, A/42/427, annex.

<sup>266</sup> *Ibid.*, Ch. 12, paras. 35 *et seq.*

<sup>267</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 39.

<sup>268</sup> G A resolution 42/187, paras. 1 and 8.

<sup>269</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 10. The Secretary-General was further requested to report on implementation at the forty-third and forty-fourth sessions. *Ibid.*, para. 20.

<sup>270</sup> See G A resolutions 40/200, 42/184, and 42/186. See also *Supplement 6* under the Study of this Article, para. 67.

- need to reinforce this catalytic and co-ordinating role in the United Nations system.<sup>271</sup> In this context, the Assembly emphasised strengthening the role of UNEP, particularly with respect to serious environmental problems and technical co-operation among developed and developing countries.<sup>272</sup> In one paragraph, the report “Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond” called on UNEP to play a leading role in providing guidance and in general be a catalyst in the promotion of sustainable development within the United Nations system.<sup>273</sup> Under this paragraph, UNEP was further to provide guidance for environmental management, to enable and initiate the development and, on request, the co-ordination of action plans in developing countries and cooperation with UNDP, other United Nations agencies, the World Bank and regional development banks to further develop and strengthen the environmental dimensions of their programmes.<sup>274</sup> General Assembly resolution 42/186 specifically endorsed this paragraph.
65. A specific concern in the context of the environment was activities of the system in relation to climate change. At its forty-second session, the Assembly had recommended that the Governing Council of UNEP attach importance to the problem of climate change, and ensure that the Council co-operates closely with the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO).<sup>275</sup> The Assembly further considered that the World Climate Programme, adopted at a conference in 1985,<sup>276</sup> should be accorded high priority by relevant organs and programmes of the United Nations system.<sup>277</sup> The Assembly went on to endorse the action of the WMO and UNEP in jointly establishing an Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, calling upon all the relevant organisations of the United Nations system to support its work.<sup>278</sup>
66. Another concern with respect to the co-ordination of activities and programmes in the field of the environment was the transport of hazardous or dangerous materials. In this regard, the Organisation recognised the role that organisations of the United Nations system, particularly UNEP and WHO can play in the prevention and control of the potentially harmful effects of traffic in toxic and dangerous products.<sup>279</sup> The specialised agencies were invited to assist the Secretary-General in preparation of a comprehensive report on the matter.<sup>280</sup>

#### b. *Disaster Relief*<sup>281</sup>

67. During the period under review, the issue of disaster relief assistance in the United Nations system was addressed on numerous occasions. As a measure of increasing concerted international action in the area of disaster relief, Assembly resolution 42/169, noting the responsibility of the United Nations system to promote international co-operation in this field, designated the 1990s as the International Decade for Natural

<sup>271</sup> G A resolution 42/187, para. 13.

<sup>272</sup> G A resolutions 40/200 and 42/184.

<sup>273</sup> A/42/25 and Corr. 1, annex II, para. 117 (a).

<sup>274</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 117 (d), (f) and (j).

<sup>275</sup> G A resolution 42/184. In its 1987 sessions, the ACC had welcomed the tone and outcome of the Montreal conference on the protection of the ozone layer. *See* E/1988/42, para. 5.

<sup>276</sup> *See* UNEP/GC.14/2, ch. IV, paras. 138-140. The Programme was elaborated upon in the system-wide medium-term environmental programme for 1990-1995 and approved by the Governing Council of UNEP in 1988. *See* A/43/25, annex, decision SS.I/3.

<sup>277</sup> G A resolution 43/53, para. 4.

<sup>278</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 5 and 7.

<sup>279</sup> *See* G A resolution 42/183 and decision 41/450. *See also* E S C resolution 1986/72.

<sup>280</sup> G A resolution 42/183, para. 2. *See also* E S C resolution 1988/70, para. 1.

<sup>281</sup> *See also* discussion under the Study of Article 63 in this *Supplement*.

- Disaster Reduction. The Assembly requested that the Secretary-General consult with organisations of the United Nations system to develop a framework for goals and objectives in reducing, through concerted international action, damage from natural disasters.<sup>282</sup> A specific consideration in this regard was defining the catalytic role envisaged for the United Nations system.<sup>283</sup> An Inter-Agency Working Group and an Inter-Agency Steering Committee were established to define the role of the United Nations system in promoting the Decade and international activities undertaken as part of the Decade's programme.<sup>284</sup>
68. Particular consideration was given to the mandate of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO). In its resolution 41/201, the Assembly reaffirmed the mandate of UNDRO, recommending that the co-ordinator play a role in the rehabilitation and reconstruction phase by passing along relevant data to competent organs and agencies of the United Nations system.<sup>285</sup> A recommendation by the G18 during that session had suggested that the UNDP review the feasibility of assuming the functions of UNDRO.<sup>286</sup> However, in comments to the Second Committee of the Assembly, the Administrator of UNDP had noted that, as UNDP financed technical assistance projects and programmes, it lacked both the mandate and competence to assume the functions of UNDRO.<sup>287</sup> In this regard, many members expressed support for the continuation of UNDRO.<sup>288</sup> The Chairman of the CPC suggested in fact that UNDRO be re-established with a broader mandate to serve as the central focal point of the United Nations system to deal with emergency situations.<sup>289</sup> The Organization subsequently reaffirmed the position of UNDRO as focal point for disaster relief matters in the United Nations system.<sup>290</sup>
69. Recognition emerged as to the need to take into account the experience gained in disaster relief, particularly in the context of Africa.<sup>291</sup> In his report pursuant to Assembly resolution 41/201, the Secretary-General noted that the creation of UNDRO was sought to provide greater coherence and direction to the mechanisms and arrangements in disaster and emergency relief and co-ordination evolving in response to intergovernmental directive and the changing perceptions of requirements.<sup>292</sup> Despite some progress, the Secretary-General noted the need for further efforts. He recommended a continuum of response to disasters and emergencies, closer interaction between UNDRO headquarters and the resident co-ordinator, special periodic meetings among the heads of relevant agencies under the auspices of the Director-General of DIEC, the establishment of an inter-agency emergency advisory group, the establishment of a

<sup>282</sup> G A resolution 42/169, paras. 4 and 5.

<sup>283</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 9. This call was reiterated by G A resolution 43/202, para. 10.

<sup>284</sup> For further details see Report of the Secretary-General, A/43/375, sect. III, para. 44.

<sup>285</sup> The Assembly noted with appreciation that agreements between UNDRO and organizations of the United Nations system had been established defining areas and means of cooperation. *See* G A resolution 41/201. *See also* Assembly resolution 2816 (XXVI), establishing UNDRO as the focal point in the system for disaster relief co-ordination.

<sup>286</sup> *See* recommendation 24, Report of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations, A/41/49, sect. IIIB, para. 37.

<sup>287</sup> A/C.2/42/SR.25, para. 22. The Secretary-General confirmed that UNDRO would remain a separate entity. *See* Report of the Secretary-General, A/42/234, sect. IIIC, para. 33.

<sup>288</sup> *See* A/C.2/42/SR.25.

<sup>289</sup> E/1986/113, para. 13.

<sup>290</sup> *See* E S C resolution 1988/51 and G A decision 43/447.

<sup>291</sup> G A resolution 41/201, para. 13.

<sup>292</sup> A/42/657, para. 29.

- United Nations logistical service, and improved communications especially an international emergency communications system with the latest technology.<sup>293</sup> Following Second Committee consideration, the Assembly requested that the Secretary-General proceed with implementation of his conclusions and recommendations, paying special attention to developing a more effective capacity of the United Nations system in the area of disaster relief.<sup>294</sup> The Assembly also welcomed the Secretary-General's initiative in establishing a central focal point in the office of the Director-General of DIEC for ensuring an effective response by the United Nations system to disasters and other emergency situations.<sup>295</sup>
70. Reaffirming the Secretary-General report the following year,<sup>296</sup> the Council further emphasized the importance of organizing United Nations system agencies and bodies at the country level under the resident co-ordinator in an emergency operations group, particularly in disaster-prone countries.<sup>297</sup> Further recommendations were directed at the co-ordination of financial, technical and material assistance to individual States. This included assistance in cases of natural disasters, such as drought,<sup>298</sup> heavy floods<sup>299</sup> or hurricanes<sup>300</sup>. Similarly, consideration was also given to the issue of co-ordinating continuing assistance in the areas of disaster prevention, recovery and rehabilitation to certain states on an individual basis, such as Bangladesh,<sup>301</sup> and the Maldives.<sup>302</sup>

*c. New and Renewable Sources of Energy*

71. Following the concern expressed at the thirty-ninth session of the Assembly over the slow implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action,<sup>303</sup> during the period under review the Assembly repeatedly reaffirmed the importance of the Programme<sup>304</sup> and sought specific action on the part of the United Nations system in the field of new and renewable sources of energy. The Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy (Energy Committee) established, *inter alia*, to recommend policy guidelines and review activities of the system with regard to new and renewable sources of energy,<sup>305</sup> submitted its biennial report to the forty-first session of the Assembly.<sup>306</sup> In the report, the Energy Committee adopted several resolutions and decisions, including adopting a substance-oriented approach to focusing on specific themes.<sup>307</sup> The Energy Committee also stressed the need to improve the functioning of multilateral cooperation and reaffirming the vital role of the United Nations system in

<sup>293</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 21-30. These recommendations found support among a number of delegations in the Second Committee. *See* A/C.2/42/SR.25.

<sup>294</sup> G A decision 42/433.

<sup>295</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>296</sup> *See* E S C resolution 1988/51 and G A decision 43/447.

<sup>297</sup> E S C resolution 1988/51, para. 5.

<sup>298</sup> *See*, e.g., G A resolution 40/218.

<sup>299</sup> *See*, e.g., Assembly resolutions 40/215 and 43/9.

<sup>300</sup> *See*, e.g., Assembly resolutions 43/7 and 43/17.

<sup>301</sup> *See* G A resolutions 40/231 and 43/9.

<sup>302</sup> *See* G A resolution 42/202.

<sup>303</sup> *See* the Study of this Article under *Supplement 6*, para. 71.

<sup>304</sup> *See* G A resolutions 41/170, para. 2, and 43/192, para. 2.

<sup>305</sup> *See* G A resolution 37/250 II.

<sup>306</sup> A/41/44.

<sup>307</sup> *Ibid.*, annex resolution 1 (III). *See* also A/43/36, annex resolution 1(IV).

- new and renewable sources of energy.<sup>308</sup> The Energy Committee resolutions and decisions were endorsed by the Assembly in resolution 41/170, which also confirmed the importance of increased inter-agency co-ordination within the system. The Assembly further recommended that specific projects and programme proposals for implementation of the Nairobi Programme put forward by the ACC's *ad hoc* Working Group on Inter-Agency Follow up to the Nairobi Programme of Action be pursued.<sup>309</sup> At its forty-third session, the Assembly endorsed the subsequent recommendations and decisions of the Energy Committee,<sup>310</sup> and called for the implementation of follow-up action regarding short and long-term plans.<sup>311</sup>
72. A specific aspect of recommendations of the Organization in the context of new and renewable sources of energy was the co-ordination of assistance to developing countries. The Energy Committee in its report to the forty-first session cited the importance of increasing co-ordination of development activities for new and renewable sources of energy at all levels.<sup>312</sup> In endorsing this call, the Assembly repeated its invitation to organizations of the United Nations system to provide assistance to developing countries.<sup>313</sup> The Assembly further called upon organizations of the United Nations system to continue to explore ways and means to support the exploration and development of energy resources of developing countries.<sup>314</sup>
73. Another specific consideration during the period involved cooperation with respect to nuclear energy. The Assembly, at its fortieth session, invited the specialized agencies, and in particular the international Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to contribute to the preparations for the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.<sup>315</sup> The Conference gave specific consideration to the participation of specialized agencies in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, specifically the role of the agencies in promoting international cooperation. The Conference also considered proposals for the participation of concerned organizations of the system such as UNIDO, FAO, WHO and IAEA, in raising financial and technical resources in support of technical co-operation programmes.<sup>316</sup> In its resolution on the Conference, the Assembly requested that the IAEA continue its close collaboration with concerned specialized agencies in strengthening and broadening international cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy for economic and social development.<sup>317</sup>

<sup>308</sup> A/41/44, annex resolution 2(III). This included emphasis on the mobilization of financial resources and assistance and consideration to environmental protection. *Ibid.*

<sup>309</sup> G A resolution 41/170, para. 4. *See also* A/AC.215/5. The *ad hoc* Working Group had been established to assist the formulation of action-oriented programmes for the Nairobi Programme. *See Supplement 6* under the Study of this Article, para. 71. A further progress report was submitted in 1988. *See* A/AC.218/11.

<sup>310</sup> *See* A/43/36.

<sup>311</sup> G A resolution 43/192. In this regard, a colloquium of high-level experts had presented proposals to give impetus to the implementation of the Nairobi Programme. The Energy Committee and then the Assembly endorsed the short and long-term proposals. *See* A/43/36, annex resolution 2 (IV), and G A resolution 43/192, para. 5.

<sup>312</sup> A/41/44, annex resolution 2 (III).

<sup>313</sup> *See* G A resolution 41/170, para. 7. *See also* G A resolution 43/192, para. 7.

<sup>314</sup> G A resolutions 40/208, para. 3, and 43/193, para. 4.

<sup>315</sup> G A resolution 40/95, para. 4. The Conference was held from 23 March 1987 to 10 April 1987. *See* Report of the Conference, A/Conf.108/7.

<sup>316</sup> *Ibid.*, sect. V, part B, para. 25 *et seq.*

<sup>317</sup> G A resolution 42/24, para. 4. Additional action was taken with respect to two Conventions: the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency. The Conventions indicated that international organizations when acceding to the conventions shall communicate a declaration as

74. In this context, the Organization also repeatedly confirmed the central role of IAEA in promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.<sup>318</sup> Reference was also made to the competence of FAO, UNIDO and WHO, as well as the involvement of co-ordinating programmes and offices such as UNEP and UNDRO, in connexion with the Conference for the Promotion of International Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.<sup>319</sup>

### 3. RECOMMENDATIONS IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

#### *a. Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)*

75. During the period under review, the Organisation undertook initial consideration of the question of an international response to the problem of AIDS.<sup>320</sup> Deeply concerned that AIDS had assumed pandemic proportions, the Assembly at its forty-second session, sought to ensure a co-ordinated response to the problem.<sup>321</sup> The Assembly invited United Nations organisations to support the struggle against AIDS in conformity with the Global Strategy for the prevention and control of AIDS,<sup>322</sup> which had been adopted by the World Health Assembly earlier that year.<sup>323</sup> In this regard, the Assembly confirmed that the WHO should direct and co-ordinate the urgent global battle against AIDS.<sup>324</sup> The ACC decided that each organisation of the United Nations system should undertake, in its area of responsibility, a comprehensive examination of the implications of AIDS to complement the efforts of the WHO.<sup>325</sup>
76. Further to Assembly resolution 42/8, the Director-General of WHO presented a report to the forty-third session of the Assembly detailing WHO activities including collaboration with other specialised agencies on such matters as education, nutrition and the economic impact of AIDS.<sup>326</sup> The Report also presented a policy framework for a WHO/UNDP alliance to combat AIDS with a key emphasis on the role of the Resident Co-ordinator (usually the UNDP Resident Representative) to ensure co-ordinated support of the United Nations system for AIDS plans at the country level in line with the global strategy.<sup>327</sup> Assembly resolution 42/8 had requested that the Secretary-General ensure a co-ordinated response through the appropriate mechanisms, and, in this context, the Secretary-General designated the Under Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs as focal point for activities and to provide co-ordinated input to the work of an inter-agency

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to the extent of their competence in matters covered by the conventions. Two such declarations submitted to the Assembly by the Secretary-General referenced the role and activities of WHO, UNEP and UNDRO in matters covered by the conventions in respect to co-ordination of activities of the system. *See* A/43/714, annexes I and II.

<sup>318</sup> *See* G A resolutions 40/8, 40/95, 41/36, 42/6, 42/24, and 43/16.

<sup>319</sup> *See* discussion *supra*.

<sup>320</sup> *See* also consideration of this issue under the Study of Article 55 in this *Supplement*.

<sup>321</sup> G A resolution 42/8, para. 6.

<sup>322</sup> *Ibid.* *See* also E S C resolution 1987/75.

<sup>323</sup> The Strategy had been adopted by the fortieth World Health Assembly. *See* resolution WHA40.26. The Strategy had been developed by the WHO's Special Programme on AIDS.

<sup>324</sup> G A resolution 42/8, para. 2. The Council had similarly expressed appreciation to the WHO for its role as the lead agency in the struggle against AIDS. *See* E S C resolution 1987/75.

<sup>325</sup> E/1988/42, para. 25.

<sup>326</sup> A/43/341, annex, sect. III.

<sup>327</sup> *Ibid.*, appendix II.

advisory group established under the auspices of the WHO.<sup>328</sup> At its forty-third session, the Assembly reaffirmed “the established leadership and the essential role of the World Health organisation in the global direction and co-ordination of AIDS prevention, control, research and education.”<sup>329</sup> The Assembly requested that the Director-General of WHO report to the Assembly through the Council at its forty-fourth session, requesting the Council consider the report within its mandate.<sup>330</sup>

#### 4. RECOMMENDATIONS IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL AND SECURITY ISSUES

77. Recommendations of the Organization also included the co-ordination of activities and policies of the specialized agencies in questions of international politics and security. Such decisions included recommendations both in respect to regional issues and concerns, notably in southern Africa, as well as specific questions such as terrorism.

##### *a. Action with respect to the regime in South Africa and southern Africa*

78. A number of recommendations during the period under review involved regionally oriented political questions of which a significant share concerned South Africa and neighboring States.<sup>331</sup> Several decisions included recommendations to specialized agencies on policies and activities with regard to South Africa itself. Repeated calls were made to exclude South Africa from membership in organizations of the United Nations system.<sup>332</sup> Further, organizations of the system were called upon to end contact with South Africa, and with businesses, banks, companies doing business there.<sup>333</sup> Additionally the Assembly requested that specialized agencies act in cooperation with the Secretary-General and the Special Commission against Apartheid in the dissemination of information on the problem of apartheid.<sup>334</sup> Less contentiously, the Assembly without vote decided to hold a special session on apartheid and its destructive consequences in southern Africa.<sup>335</sup>

79. Related recommendations concerned activities and programmes involving specialized agencies in Namibia. In this regard, specialized agencies were called upon to assist the South West Africa People’s Organization (SWAPO) in its struggle for the liberation of Namibia.<sup>336</sup> As well, the Assembly decided that the United Nations Council for Namibia would continue to formulate policies of assistance and coordinate assistance for Namibia provided by specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, and, in this context, continue to direct the Nationhood Programme in consultation with SWAPO

<sup>328</sup> *Ibid.*, sect. III, para. 41. These arrangements were noted with satisfaction by the Council. *See* E S C resolution 1988/55, para. 2.

<sup>329</sup> G A resolution 43/15, para. 1.

<sup>330</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 9.

<sup>331</sup> Somewhat similarly, the Organization voted on a number of resolutions including recommendations directed at specialized agencies in respect to Palestine, Palestinian refugees and the situation in the Middle East. *See*, e.g. resolutions 40/165D, 40/170, 41/181, 43/21, and 43/57D. *See* also discussion of co-ordination with the League of Arab States, *supra*, para. 37.

<sup>332</sup> *See* G A resolutions 40/64A, para. 12 and 41/35B, para. 8.

<sup>333</sup> G A resolution 40/64A, para. 15, 41/35B paras. 10 and 11. The IMF was specifically called upon to terminate credit and other assistance. *See* G A resolutions 40/64A, para. 14 and 41/35B, para. 9. Additional emphasis was placed on this prohibition in the context of consideration of the question of Namibia. *See* G A resolutions 41/39B, para. 15 and 42/14B, para. 19.

<sup>334</sup> G A resolution 40/64D, para. 3.

<sup>335</sup> G A resolution 43/50G, para. 1.

<sup>336</sup> G A resolutions 40/97A, para. 32, and 42/14A, para. 43.

with the aim of consolidating all measures of assistance by specialized agencies into a comprehensive assistance programme.<sup>337</sup> Other measures included calls for special assistance to front-line States in the region.<sup>338</sup>

80. Less contentious were public information campaigns. Notable in this respect was the call by the Assembly for all relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies intensify a world-wide campaign aimed at drawing attention to, monitoring and exposing torture and inhuman treatment of children in detention in Namibia and South Africa.<sup>339</sup>

*b. Terrorism*

81. In the context of its consideration of measures to prevent international terrorism, consistent with its biennial consideration of the issue, specific recommendations were addressed to specialized agencies, notably the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO). At its fortieth session, expressing its concern that in recent years terrorism had taken on forms that have an increasingly deleterious effect on international relations, the Assembly encouraged the ICAO to continue efforts to promote universal acceptance of and strict compliance with international air security conventions, further requesting the IMO study the problem of terrorism, on ships with a view to making recommendations.<sup>340</sup> The Secretary-General was requested to follow up and report to the forty-second session.<sup>341</sup> A letter was sent by the Legal Counsel of the Secretariat inviting the specialized agencies as well as regional organizations to communicate information relevant to the report.<sup>342</sup>
82. In its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General called for in resolution 40/61, the Assembly welcomed the efforts of the ICAO and IMO.<sup>343</sup> The Assembly further requested that other relevant specialized agencies, in particular the Universal Postal Union and the IAEA consider further measures to combat and eliminate terrorism.<sup>344</sup> The Secretary-General was again requested to follow up on implementation of the resolution and report to the forty-fourth session of the Assembly.<sup>345</sup>
83. During the forty-second Session, a proposal was made for convening an international conference on international terrorism.<sup>346</sup> Taking into account the proposal, the Assembly requested that the Secretary-General seek the views of the Member States in convening such a conference and report to its forty-fourth session.<sup>347</sup>

*d. Human rights and Humanitarian Law*

84. During the period under review, the Organization affirmed the importance of programmes and activities undertaken in the field of human rights and humanitarian law

<sup>337</sup> G A resolution 41/39E, para. 2 (a and d).

<sup>338</sup> G A resolutions 41/199, 42/201, and 43/209. In this context, development assistance and action in southern Africa were sometimes linked. *See* E/1988/79, para. 48. *See also* G A resolution 42/163, para. 13 and 43/12, para. 8.

<sup>339</sup> G A resolutions 42/124, para. 4 and 43/134, para. 6.

<sup>340</sup> G A resolution 40/61, paras. 12 and 13.

<sup>341</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 14.

<sup>342</sup> *See* Report of the Secretary-General, A/42/519, sect. I, para. 3.

<sup>343</sup> G A resolution 42/15, paras. 9 and 10. For details of the activities of ICAO and IMO, *see also* A/42/519, sect. III.

<sup>344</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 11.

<sup>345</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 13.

<sup>346</sup> A/42/PV.44, pp. 4-5.

<sup>347</sup> G A resolution 42/209, paras. 12 and 13.

- throughout the United Nations system.<sup>348</sup> The Assembly recommended a number of specific activities regarding the promotion of human rights and humanitarian law. Following proposals from the Secretary-General,<sup>349</sup> the Assembly invited specialized agencies to assist the Secretary-General in developing training activities for States party to international instruments on human rights.<sup>350</sup> The Organization also recommended the participation of specialized agencies in programmes and activities associated with human rights anniversaries<sup>351</sup> and international decades.<sup>352</sup>
85. In the co-ordination of humanitarian issues, the Secretary-General presented the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on International Cooperation to Avert New Flows of Refugees.<sup>353</sup> The report called for the Secretary-General in accordance with the mandates of the competent United Nations organs to help improve the co-ordination of efforts of the specialized agencies for timely and more effective action in respect to refugees, and to give greater support to projects that directly or indirectly could help avert new massive flows of refugees.<sup>354</sup> The conclusions and recommendations of the Group were endorsed by the Assembly, which, in view of the support advocated in respect to projects assisting in averting refugee flows, requested that the Secretary General bring the report to the attention of, *inter alia*, the specialized agencies.<sup>355</sup>
86. The Assembly further requested that the Secretary-General remain in contact with Governments and specialized agencies and report on progress in the humanitarian field.<sup>356</sup> In this respect, in 1987, the Secretary-General established an Office for Research and the Collection of Information to co-ordinate information gathering and to provide a focal point within the United Nations system for policy responses.<sup>357</sup> The Assembly, noting this action by resolution 43/154, urged the Secretary-General to strengthen the early warning system in the humanitarian area through, *inter alia*, strengthened co-ordination among the relevant parts of the United Nations system including the Office for Research and the Collection of Information, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the relevant specialized agencies.

<sup>348</sup> See G A resolutions 42/102 and 43/113. See also the Study of this Article under *Supplement* 6, paras. 78 and 79.

<sup>349</sup> A/41/510, sect. IV.

<sup>350</sup> See G A resolutions 42/105, para. 13, and 43/115, para. 10.

<sup>351</sup> Such as the 20th anniversary of the International Covenant on Human Rights: G A resolution 41/32; and the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, G A resolutions 41/150, para. 2 and 43/90, para. 8.

<sup>352</sup> See G A resolutions 41/94 and 42/47 and E S C resolutions 1987/2 and 1988/6.

<sup>353</sup> A/41/324.

<sup>354</sup> *Ibid.*, annex paras. 70(d) and 72.

<sup>355</sup> G A resolution 41/70.

<sup>356</sup> G A resolution 42/120, para. 6.

<sup>357</sup> See A/43/743, paras. 10-15.