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.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

1. This study concerns significant issues arising in the authority of the principal organs of the United Nations, as provided in Article 58 of the Charter, to make recommendations for the co-ordination of both the activities and policies of the specialized agencies during the period under review.¹

2. The presentation and organization of this study remain the same as those of the previous study of this Article in Repertory, Supplement No. 8, except that some sub-headings have been amended to reflect new or significant developments that have taken place. In this respect, both organizational and administrative aspects of co-ordination of the specialized agencies, as well as issues of coordination in substantive areas 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 subsequent Analytical Summary of Practice will deal with questions bearing on the application of Article 58 itself, providing a greater elaboration into the decisions and issues of concern by the Organization in this field. This section is intended to illustrate the major areas of development within the period under review.

5. Following the practice established in the study of Article 58 in the original Repertory,² 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); 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.

¹ 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. For an examination of the process by which organizations are brought into specialized relationship with the United Nations, see the Studies of Articles 57 and 63 in this and previous Supplements.

² See Repertory, para. 3.
I. GENERAL SURVEY

A. Overall Trends

6. The outset of the review period coincided with the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations; an occasion the General Assembly recognized as one for re-examining and strengthening of the United Nations system. The Assembly established a high-level open-ended Working Group on strengthening the United Nations system, inviting specialized agencies to implement its conclusions. This effort was linked to the overall reform programme of the Organization being undertaken by the Secretary-General. At the same time, in light of contemporary developments, coordination within the United Nations system, and with the specialized agencies in particular, assumed a new policy significance independent of initiatives in the United Nations itself. The Assembly identified the need for revitalization of the United Nations system as a response to the complex challenges and opportunities confronting the international community following the end of the Cold War. The Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) observed in its annual report for 1995 that,

“[m]eeting the global challenges facing the international community as a result of the technological revolution and the phenomenon of transnationalization, required comprehensive responses which only the United Nations system, given its universality and multidisciplinary character, was in a position to provide.”

7. The significance attached to inter-agency coordination during the period can be seen in the attention given to the power under the Charter to make recommendations for the coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies. Consonant with his reform programme, the Secretary-General recalling the limited terms under which the Organization can make recommendations to specialized agencies in Article 58, proposed the establishment of a Special Commission at the Ministerial level to examine the need for changes in the Charter and in the treaties from which the specialized agencies derive their mandates. The Secretary-General subsequently called for examination of the establishment of such a commission in the context of the Millennium Assembly.

8. At a substantive level, the Organization identified the need for coordination of the policies and activities in relation to an even wider range of issues from political and security concerns to matters of environment and development. This expansion in substantive involvement on the part of the specialized agencies manifested itself in the emphasis placed on enhancing the contribution of the ACC to this expanding range of issues.

B. Organizational and Administrative Trends

9. During the period under review, the Organization placed significant emphasis on achieving an integrated approach to United Nations activities, especially through the identification of linkages and
cross-cutting themes. This emphasis resulted in considerable attention devoted to defining and strengthening coordination mechanisms for the specialized agencies at all levels. The consequent impact could be seen on recommendations concerning the role and functioning of the principal organs, particularly the Council, and the subsidiary bodies, such as the ACC. However, at the same time, recommendations stressed the adoption of flexible arrangements and a decentralized approach to coordination in the system. This approach resulted in increased use of inter-agency committees and ad hoc mechanisms such as task forces and lead agencies in coordinating an integrated approach on the part of the system.

10. As regards the principal organs, the Assembly in its resolution on further measures for restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations made a number of recommendations concerning the function of the principal organs in coordinating the activities of organizations of the United Nations system, and specifically those of the specialized agencies. In this regard, a principal focus of attention during the period continued to be strengthening the role and function of the Council in coordinating the activities of the specialized agencies. Recommendations continued to suggest changes in the Council’s consideration of coordination questions within the revised format of its Substantive Session introduced in the prior period. At the same time, the period saw new identification of the Council's role in coordinating implementation and follow-up to United Nations conferences, as well as undertaking specific consideration of the coordination of activities in humanitarian affairs. Additional consideration was devoted to the function of the Secretariat, notably in the context of the Secretary-General’s Programme for Reform.

11. As indicated, the functioning of subsidiary bodies involved in coordination also remained a matter of consideration. Recognition of the singular role of the ACC in bringing organizations of the system together resulted in efforts to strengthen its role in the coordination of the specialized agencies. The ACC consequently consideration of a wide-array of issues. In light of concerns over monitoring and evaluation — particular of implementation of the results of United Nations conferences — the Organization also cited the importance of system-wide evaluation, notably the independent role and function of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) and implementation of its recommendations. A significant source of consideration and concern remained the role of the International Civil Service Commission

14 See G A resolution 50/227. See also Secretary-General’s Programme for Reform, A/51/950 and discussion infra. For further consideration, refer to the Study of this Article in Supplements 7 and 8. The Secretary-General noted that the process of restructuring began at the Assembly’s Forty-fifth session was recognized as being a continuous process, A/50/697, para. 81.
17 See, e.g., 50/227, sect. VII. See also E S C resolutions 1998/46, annex II, and 1999/51. See also ACC review of reform, which highlighted the need to increase decentralization and delegation of authority, E/1999/48, para. 36.
18 Inter-agency committees, some established prior to the period, were used in such areas as security, the environment and sustainable development and women and gender equality. See discussion infra. Ad hoc inter-agency task forces were established or proposed in a range of areas from population and development, natural disasters and sanctions.
19 See G A resolution 50/227.
22 See G A resolutions 51/194, and 53/88. See also E S C resolutions 1995/56 and 1996/33. See further agreed conclusions of the Council’s newly instituted Humanitarian Affairs Segment, A/53/3 (Agreed Conclusions 1998/1) and A/54/3/Rev.1 (Agreed Conclusions 1999/1).
25 See G A resolutions 50/233, 54/16, and 54/249.
(ICSC) in formulating decisions concerning staff of the Common System of organizations. A number of different initiatives were undertaken concerning its role, function and the impact of its decisions and recommendations.

12. As this suggests, in terms of administrative and budgetary matters, coordinated action with respect to personnel matters continued to be a prevailing concern. The Assembly maintained consideration of such matters as pay and benefits reaffirming the operative principles governing the pay of staff. In light of increasing attacks on personnel, the issue of privileges and immunities of staff, their safety and security, received renewed attention and consideration. Several decisions involving amendments to the Statute of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal also affected the administration of justice within the United Nations system respecting personnel matters. Reference may also be made to the continuing attention that the Organization devoted to the issue of the status of women in the United Nations system.

Outside of personnel questions, detailed consideration was given to the coordination of accounting and budget practices. In other areas, the Organization continued to consider a coordinated approach to such matters as information technology in advance of the year 2000, and cooperation between the specialized agencies and other international and regional organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

C. Trends in Substantive Areas

13. The challenges and opportunities presented by globalization following the end of the Cold War lead to new emphasis on the role of specialized agencies to issues of development. In this regard, a series of United Nations and international conferences and summits in the period under review resulted in the adoption of programmes of action in a range of areas of economic, social and environmental concern which included recommendations directed at the coordination of the specialized agencies. As well, the Assembly initiated follow-up measures that also included recommendations directed at the coordination of specialized agencies in these fields.

14. With respect to issues of economic growth and development, the Agenda for Development outlined by the Assembly in resolution 51/240 emphasized an integrated and multidimensional approach to development on the part of the specialized agencies. Consequently, recommendations concerning development encompassed a range of operational issues in which the Assembly and the Council put emphasis on the coordination of activities at the country-level and focused attention on measures aimed

26 See GA resolutions 50/208, 51/216, 52/216 and 53/209. For further background, refer to the Study of this Article in Supplement 8.
27 See discussion infra.
28 See, e.g., GA resolutions 51/216 I A, 52/216 I, 53/209 A and 54/238 I A.
29 The United Nations Security Coordinator noted that for the first time in United Nations history, the number of deaths among civilian personnel exceeded that of peacekeeping forces. ACC/1998/20, para. 37.
30 See GA resolution 49/238, 53/87 and 54/192. See also comprehensive report on privileges and immunities, A/53/501, para. 5. The ACC decided to make the matter a standing item on its agenda. See ACC/1996/20, para. 53.
31 GA resolutions 50/54 and 52/166.
33 See Secretary-General’s report, A/51/223, and GA decision 51/453.
34 See, e.g., GA resolutions 52/233, 53/86, and 54/114. See also ESC resolution 1998/45.
35 These included the promotion of cooperation between the specialized agencies and such organizations as the League of Arab States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Organization of African Unity, the Organization of American States and the Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation. See, e.g., GA resolutions 50/3, 50/16, 51/4, 51/18, 51/20, 52/5, 53/16 and 54/7.
37 Such as, for example, the World Summit for Social Development, see A/Conf.166/9; the Fourth World Conference on Women, A/Conf. 177/20/Rev.1; the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, A/Conf.165/14; and the Third International Conference of New or Restored Democracies, A/52/334, annex, appendix.
38 See, e.g., GA resolutions 51/177, 52/18, 52/231, 53/50, 53/120 and 54/208.
at capacity-building.\textsuperscript{40} In terms of development issues, recommendations stressed the need for the coordinated activity on the part of specialized agencies in the relationship of development to such issues as population,\textsuperscript{41} and debt.\textsuperscript{42} The Organization also continued to highlight the need for a coordinated response by the specialized agencies concerning the particular needs of various economies.\textsuperscript{43} In this context, the coordination of activities and programmes in support of African economic development and recovery remained a primary focus.\textsuperscript{44} Additional consideration was given to activities in support of economies in transition or affected by financial crises,\textsuperscript{45} as well as continuing efforts in support of Least Developed Countries (LDCs),\textsuperscript{46} and land-locked and island-developing States.\textsuperscript{47}

15. Linked to these measures were those concerning collective initiatives in matters of social development. Following the Fourth World Conference on Women at the outset of the period,\textsuperscript{48} the status and advance of women remained a prevailing concern in recommendations to the specialized agencies.\textsuperscript{49} In this context, frequent reference was made to the need to integrate gender concerns in a wide-range of sectoral areas.\textsuperscript{50} With the World Summit for Social Development, recommendations of the Assembly and Council placed renewed emphasis on the need for a multidimensional and multi-sectoral approach to the eradication of poverty.\textsuperscript{51} Following a United Nations conference on the subject, the coordination of activities of the specialized agencies in respect to human settlements similarly became an issue of attention,\textsuperscript{52} as did programmes concerning youth and children.\textsuperscript{53} Recommendations also reiterated the need for continued efforts on the part of the specialized agencies respecting such issues as crime,\textsuperscript{54} and the international drug problem in respect to which the Assembly convened its Twentieth Special Session.\textsuperscript{55}

16. In other areas, the Organization maintained a focus on issues of the environment and sustainable development further to implementation of Agenda 21 adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).\textsuperscript{56} In this context, the Organization highlighted the need for a

\textsuperscript{40} See G A resolutions 50/105, 50/130, 51/172 and 52/196.

\textsuperscript{41} See G A resolutions 49/128, 50/124, 52/188 and S-21/2.

\textsuperscript{42} See G A resolutions 50/92, 51/164, 52/185, and 53/175.

\textsuperscript{43} See also consideration of this issue in the Study of this Article in Supplement 8.

\textsuperscript{44} See G A resolutions 50/160, 51/32, 51/240, annex, sect. I and 53/90; and E S C Agreed Conclusions for 1999, A/54/3/Rev.1 (Agreed Conclusions 1999/2). The Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC), and the ACC both undertook consideration of the matter. See A/52/16, and E/1996/18.

\textsuperscript{45} See, e.g., G A resolutions 50/91, 51/175, 52/182 and 53/179.

\textsuperscript{46} See G A resolutions 50/103, 52/187, 53/182 and 54/235.

\textsuperscript{47} See, e.g., G A resolutions 50/97, 51/183, 52/202, 53/171, 53/189, and 54/224. In this context, the Assembly held a special session to review and appraise the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, which had been adopted in 1994. See the Declaration adopted at the session, resolution S-22/2, especially sect. III H. See further consideration under the Study of this Article in Supplement 8.

\textsuperscript{48} See A/Conf. 177/20/Rev.1.

\textsuperscript{49} See, e.g., G A resolutions 50/42, 50/203, 51/69, 52/100, and 53/120, and E S C Agreed Conclusions in 1997, A/52/3/Rev.1 (Agreed Conclusions 1997/2). See also, e.g., E S C resolutions 1996/6, sect. II, and 1996/34.

\textsuperscript{50} See discussion infra.


\textsuperscript{52} See G A resolutions 51/177, 52/190, and 54/209. See also further consideration by the ACC, ACC/1996/20.

\textsuperscript{53} See, e.g., G A resolutions 50/81, 50/154, 51/186, 53/127, 53/128 and 54/149. See also Lisbon Declaration of the Third World Youth Forum of the United Nations system, endorsed by the Assembly in resolution 54/120. WCMRY/1998/28, ch. 1, resolution 1.

\textsuperscript{54} See, e.g., G A resolutions 50/145, 50/146, 51/63, 52/85, 52/90 and 54/125.

\textsuperscript{55} See, e.g., G A resolutions 50/148, 51/64, 52/92, 53/115. See also resolutions adopted at the Twentieth Special Session of the Assembly, resolutions S-20/2, annex and S-20/4.

\textsuperscript{56} See, e.g., G A resolutions 50/110, 51/181, 53/187 and 54/215. The Assembly also convened its Nineteenth Special Session to review and appraise implementation of Agenda 21, which addressed a number of recommendations to the specialized agencies. See resolution S-19/2. Agenda 21 had included specific provisions for coordination in the United Nations system. For the text of Agenda 21, see A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1. See also consideration under the Study of this Article in Supplement 8.
collective approach to the protection of the marine environment,57 and for coordination mechanisms following an Intergovernmental Conference on the subject.58 Recommendations also cited the need for system-wide action in respect to natural disasters following the mid-term review of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.59 A related concern that drew significant attention in the period was the provision of humanitarian assistance by the United Nations system.60 In addition, following the imposition of sanctions by the United Nations on several States, the Organization undertook recommendations for the coordinated assistance by specialized agencies to neighboring third States and regions affected by such sanctions.61 A number of recommendations of the Assembly further addressed activities in the promotion or consolidation of democracies and democratic institutions by the specialized agencies.62 The Assembly also maintained its call for action on the part of specialized agencies in such areas as decolonization,63 and the question of Palestine.64

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

17. During the period under review, with a reaffirmation of the importance of the United Nations system lead to emphasis on enhancing the organizational and administrative structure in system-wide coordination. Consequently, the focus of coordination in the administrative machinery shifted from avoiding duplication and achieving savings to one of ensuring integrated support of global strategies.65 Two developments in particular were cited. Firstly, the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations at the outset of the period under review was seen as an occasion for re-examining and strengthening of the United Nations system.66 As noted,67 the Assembly established a high-level open-ended Working Group on Strengthening the United Nations system in light of this development,68 inviting specialized agencies to implement the conclusions of the Working Group.69 The second development was the impact of globalization, following the end of the Cold War, which was seen to present world-wide challenges

57 See G A resolutions 50/24, paras 5-6, 51/35, paras 7-9, 52/28, paras 8-10, 54/32, paras 8-10.
58 See G A resolutions 51/189 and 54/33 and discussion infra.
60 See G A resolutions 51/194, and 53/88. See also E S C resolutions 1995/56 and 1996/33. The humanitarian assistance segments, introduced in 1998, were also substantially concerned with the role and contribution of organizations of the system to humanitarian assistance. See A/53/3 (Agreed Conclusions 1998/1) and A/54/3/Rev.1 (Agreed Conclusions 1999/1).
62 See, e.g., G A resolutions 50/133, 51/31, 52/18, 53/31 and 54/36.
63 These recommendations occurred primarily in the context of the implementation of the “Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations” See, e.g., G A resolutions 50/34, 51/141, 52/73, and 53/62. See also consideration under the Study of this Article in Supplement 8.
64 See, e.g., G A resolutions 50/140, 51/52, 53/89 and 53/136. See also consideration under the Study of this Article in Supplement 8.
65 See observations of the ACC at its 1999 session, E/2000/53, para. 3.
66 See G A resolution 49/252. See also annual report of the ACC for 1995, E/1996/18, para. 12.
67 See discussion supra.
68 G A resolution 49/252, para. 1.
69 G A resolution 51/241, para. 5 and annex. The report of the Working Group was presented to the fifty-first session of the Assembly. See A/51/24.
necessitating a comprehensive response that only the United Nations system, given its universality and multidisciplinary character, was in a position to provide.\(^{70}\)

**18.** Recognition of the need for enhanced coordination prompted the Secretary-General, recalling the limited coordination powers under Article 58 of the Charter, to propose the establishment of a Special Commission to examine the need for changes in the Charter and in treaties from which the specialized agencies derive their mandates. The Commission, according to the proposal, would aim to effect major improvements in the capacity of the United Nations system to serve the world community.\(^{71}\)

**19.** The principal organs examined the question of improving the respective role of intergovernmental bodies, such as the Council, in coordinating the activities of the system, and in this context, its relation with intersecretariat bodies, notably the ACC.\(^{72}\) Further reference was made to mechanisms for improved coordination with international financial and trade institutions, such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Trade Organization (WTO).\(^{73}\) However, at the same time, recommendations stressed a decentralized approach to coordination in the United Nations system. The ACC adopted agreed conclusions stating that improved coordination did not imply increased bureaucratization and that centralization was not necessarily conducive to good coordination.\(^{74}\) The Organization similarly highlighted the application of flexible, decentralized coordination mechanisms, such as the designation of task managers, lead agencies and *ad hoc* working groups as a means to effect the coordination of activities and policies in the system.\(^{75}\)

**20.** During the period, a significant initiative concerned the implementation and integrated follow-up to major international conferences by organizations of the United Nations system, in particular pursuant to Assembly resolution 50/227.\(^{76}\) Efforts in this regard also conditioned the approach to recommendations of other principal organs, notably the Council, in a number of areas.\(^{77}\) The follow-up to and coordination implementation of the results of major international conferences was also undertaken at the inter-secretariat level, such as by the ACC.\(^{78}\)

**a. Principal Organs**

**i. The General Assembly**

**21.** Decisions during the period highlighted the need to improve the role of the Assembly under the Charter in providing policy guidance, particularly in relation to the coordination of activities carried out by the United Nations system. The Secretary-General cited the need to enhance the ability of the Assembly to generate solutions to policy-level problems.\(^{79}\) The importance of ensuring policy-level guidance from the Assembly was reaffirmed in the context of implementation and integrated follow-up to

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\(^{70}\) See E/1996/18. See also report of the Secretary-General, A/50/1, para. 26.

\(^{71}\) See Secretary-General's report on reforming the United Nations, A 51/950, paras. 86 and 89. The Assembly invited the Secretary-General to elaborate on this action. G A resolution 52/12 B, para. 26(d). The Secretary-General subsequently indicated that the proposal for the Special Commission would be postponed pending the ACC assessment of coordination in the system. See ACC/1998/4, para. 12.


\(^{73}\) See G A resolution 50/227, annex I, sects. IV B para. 55 and VIII. See also E S C resolutions 1998/49, paras. 2 and 3, 1999/1, sect. II and 1999/51, sect. II. See further Secretary-General report on cooperation with Bretton Woods institutions, E/1998/61.

\(^{74}\) ACC agreed conclusions, ACC/1998/4, para. 15.

\(^{75}\) See G A resolution 50/227, sect. VII, para. 80. See also E S C resolution 1998/46, annex II, para. 25. See also ACC review of reform, which highlighted the need to increase decentralization and delegation of authority, E/1999/48, para. 36.

\(^{76}\) See G A resolution 50/227, annex I, sect. IV, para. 39.

\(^{77}\) See E S C decision 1995/204 and Note by the Secretary-General, A/50/140/Add.1. In its agreed conclusions, the Council decided to incorporate follow-up information to conferences into the various segments of its annual meeting. See A/50/3/Rev.1 (Agreed Conclusions 1995/1). See also E S C resolution 1997/61.

\(^{78}\) See ACC/1995/23.

\(^{79}\) A/51/501, para. 59. The Secretary-General had presented this view in a statement before the Council.
major international conferences. The Assembly itself recognized the need for such an improvement at its fiftieth session, adopting a resolution on further measures for restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields that called for, *inter alia*, the Assembly to exert greater policy leadership in development issues consonant with the Assembly’s broad mandate under the Charter. The Assembly requested that the ongoing consideration by the high-level open-ended Working Group on the Strengthening of the United Nations system specifically include recommendations on this subject.

22. A key direction undertaken in improving the Assembly’s policy guidance was continued rationalization of the structure and method of work of the Assembly, particularly in its main committees. In this context, the Assembly recognized the need to promote greater coherence between the work of its Second and Third Committees, providing recommendations for improved complementarity between the Committees through improved coordination of their agendas and programmes of work. The high-level Working Group on Strengthening the United Nations system established at the outset of the period under review provided further recommendations towards improving the organization and procedure of work of the Assembly in the context of strengthening the United Nations system.

ii. The Economic and Social Council

23. Assessing the role of the Economic and Social Council, the Council President at its session 1998 concluded that for some time the Council had fallen short of fulfilling the coordination role under the Charter. Consequently, strengthening the Council was closely identified with the continuing efforts to revitalize the United Nations system as a whole in the economic, social and related fields. Efforts to strengthen the role of the Council focused primarily on two areas: improvements in its own functioning in coordinating the activities of the system, including relations with other inter-agency and inter-governmental bodies, and, secondly, assuming a lead role in the coordinated implementation and follow-up to the results of major international and United Nations conferences.

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80 See E S C resolution 1999/55, sect. I, para.5. See also A/51/501, para. 59.
81 G A resolution 50/227, annex I, sect. II, para. 18. The initiative on restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields actually began in the prior period. See discussion under the Study of this Article in Supplement 8.
83 See G A resolution 50/227, Annex I, paras. 21-30. See also the report of the Working Group on Strengthening the United Nations system, A/51/24, paras. 24, 26 and 35. For background to these rationalization efforts, see G A resolutions 45/264, 46/235 and 48/162, and discussion under the Study of this Article in Supplement 8.
84 See G A resolution 50/227, Annex I, paras. 21-30. See also., G A decisions 50/465, 50/440, 53/434, 53/450, and 54/437.
85 G A resolution 49/252.
86 The Assembly adopted the report in its resolution 51/241. The recommendations included the recommendation that the Assembly further rationalize and streamline its agenda, in particular through greater use of clustering of items, biennialization of consideration of issues, and even triennial consideration of certain items. *Ibid.*, annex, para. 24. For the report of the Working Group, see A/51/24.
88 The Secretary-General concluded that, “[a] significant strengthening of the role of the Economic and Social Council in both the policy and operational areas is not only essential to provide the necessary underpinning for the efforts under way at the Secretariat level to enhance the coherence, and improve the function and structure of the economic and social sectors of the Organization, but is also a crucial requirement for the strengthening of the system as a whole and for the ultimate success of the overall reform effort.”
89 A/51/501, para. 61. The process of revitalization and restructuring of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields begun at the forty-fifth session of the Assembly, was seen to be a continuous process. See Secretary-General annual report A/50/697, para. 81. See also discussion under the study of the Article in Supplement 8.
91 See A/50/3/Rev.1, Chapter III A, para. 22 (Agreed Conclusions 1995/1). The Council undertook consideration of this item for its Coordination Segment at the outset of the period by decision 1995/204. In view of the importance of this issue, contrary to prior practice, the Council decided that only this item would be considered. See observations of the Secretary-General, E/1995/86, para.2.
24. The period under review saw the Council assume a primary role in coordinating activities in a number of substantive areas.\(^{91}\) The Assembly, in its primary resolution on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, affirmed the role of the Council as the central mechanism for coordination of the activities of the specialized agencies, suggesting a number of measures for improvement of its consideration of overall activities in development.\(^{92}\) In this context, the Assembly called for the Council to fully implement its authority to take final decisions on activities of subsidiary bodies and on matters related to system-wide coordination.\(^{93}\)

25. Among the measures recommended, the Assembly called for the outcomes of Council sessions to be strengthened and more action-oriented.\(^{94}\) The Assembly further outlined a number of changes to improve the new format of the Council sessions, introduced in the prior period, placing special emphasis on involvement of other bodies and specialized agencies, such as the participation in the selection of themes as its high-level segment.\(^{95}\) The Assembly additionally proposed that the Coordination Segment of the Council’s substantive sessions would include consideration of cross-cutting themes common to major international conferences and assume, as noted, the functions of the joint ACC/Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) meetings with a second theme developed with, \textit{inter alia}, relevant specialized agencies including the Bretton Woods institutions and the WTO.\(^{96}\) The Assembly further recommended that the Operational Activities Segment include national representatives as well as field representatives of specialized agencies with debates with agency heads involving case studies.\(^{97}\) The Council added a Humanitarian Activities Segment towards the end of the period.\(^{98}\)

26. For his part, the Secretary-General welcomed these measures, and observed that they would lead not only to a more efficient division of labour between the Assembly and the Council, but also to strengthening of the Council’s capacity to serve as a central mechanism for coordination of activities of the United Nations system and its specialized agencies.\(^{99}\) For its part, the Council, by resolution 1996/41, reaffirmed the role assigned it in resolution 50/227, and began the process of implementation.\(^{100}\)

27. In the context of strengthening the role of the Council in coordination in the system, as indicated, a significant emphasis lay in improved oversight and interaction with other bodies. The Assembly affirmed that the role of the Council in considering mechanisms for coordination and enhancing interaction between inter-agency and inter-governmental bodies, as well as calling for its recommendations, decisions and agreed conclusions to be fully implemented.\(^{101}\) The Agenda for Development, citing Article 58, called for the elaboration of mechanisms to enable the Council to provide guidance to the specialized agencies and to transmit the institutional priorities formulated by the Assembly, as well as identifying its role in making recommendations to ensure coherence and complementarity of efforts.\(^{102}\) In addition to

\(^{91}\) For additional information on significant areas of Council activity in coordinating the specialized agencies. Refer to the Study of Article 63 in this Supplement.

\(^{92}\) See GA resolution 50/227, annex I, sect. IV, para. 61.

\(^{93}\) Ibid., sect. IV, paras. 37 and 38. See also sect. VII, para. 79, affirming the overall role of the Council.

\(^{94}\) Ibid., sect. IV, para. 44.

\(^{95}\) Ibid., sect. IV B, para. 53. The Assembly proposed in this context the preparation of a joint report on the segment by the Secretariat, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization (WTO). Ibid., para. 55.

\(^{96}\) Ibid., paras. 57 and 58.

\(^{97}\) Ibid., paras. 63 and 64. The Assembly called for such debates to be broadened, focusing on country-driven processes so as to include the status of collaboration with donors including the Bretton Woods institutions. Ibid.

\(^{98}\) See discussion \textit{infra}.

\(^{99}\) A/51/1, para. 62.

\(^{100}\) For further implementation, see e.g. ESC resolutions 1996/36, 1998/46, 1998/49. By ESC resolution 1999/1, the Council decided to inform the Assembly of its progress in implementation of resolution 50/227.

\(^{101}\) Ibid., annex I, sect. IV, paras. 38 and 44.

\(^{102}\) G A resolution 51/240, annex, paras. 266 and 267. See also discussion \textit{infra}.
assuming the functions of the joint ACC/CPC meetings, recommendations called for specific attention on the part of the Council to review and oversight of the regional economic and functional commissions with specific reference to improving coordination with, inter alia, the specialized agencies, and specifically the Bretton Woods institutions and the WTO.

28. Additional reference may be made in the context of the Council’s functions to efforts to strengthen cooperation between it and the ACC. Having requested more intensive interaction between the ACC and the Council, the Council invited the ACC to consider ways in which its members, individually and collectively, can maximize their support to the Council in the exercise of its responsibilities for system-wide guidance and coordination. Recommendations in the period also underscored the importance of strengthening relations between the Council and the Bretton Woods institutions. At its fiftieth session, the Assembly called for more focused dialogue between the Council, and, inter alia, the specialized agencies, and specifically the Bretton Woods institutions and the WTO. In this regard, the Assembly had specified the establishment of a high-level meeting of the Council and the Bretton Woods institutions “to facilitate the exchange of views” with joint collaboration on a theme. Following the review, the Council decided to maintain such meetings focusing on one or two major substantive issues to provide for the sharing of views and in relation to its high-level segment.

29. With regard to the role of the Council in promoting a coordinated and integrated follow-up to the results of major international conferences, at the outset of the period, the Secretary-General observed that, because of the Council’s dual responsibilities related to system-wide coordination and oversight of its functional commissions, it was especially well-placed to advance the objectives of coordinated follow-up to global conferences. He stated that if a coordinated approach to conference implementation were to be pursued, the Council would need to play a more pro-active and intensive role. The Secretary-General went on to recommend a number of arrangements for such role, including policy-dialogue with multilateral trade and financial institutions. Noting the Secretary-General report, the Council’s agreed conclusions under the heading “Strengthening the role of the Economic and Social Council” provided for specific annual consideration of the topic with particular reference to cross-cutting themes and the contribution to the overall review of the programme of action of United Nations conferences. A special session of the Council was convened in 1998 focusing on the Council’s role in this area.

30. The Council’s Special Session provided further elaboration on the Council’s role. The President of the Council identified in particular the Council’s role in inter-agency coordination through the

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104 G A resolution 50/227, annex I, sect. V, paras. 70-74. See also E S C resolution 1998/46, annex II, paras. 2 and 19. As regards the functional commissions, the Council by resolution 1995/55 encouraged the functional commissions to identify more clearly actions required for the coordination of system-wide responses. Nevertheless, the Secretariat subsequently noted that there existed no formal mechanism for functional commissions to communicate with only ad hoc measures being applied, E/1999/3.
107 E S C resolution 1999/66, para. 3.
109 G A resolution 50/227, annex, sect IV C, para. 57. See also E S C resolution 1996/43.
110 G A resolution 50/227, annex, sect. VIII, para. 88. The first such meeting was held in 1998. A/53/3, ch. IV and annex, pp. 19-31. See also E/1999/56, para. 14.
112 The Secretary-General commented in his annual report for 1996 that the global conference agenda helped promote the revitalization of the Council as the key intergovernmental body for coordination, A/51/1, para. 24.
113 E/1995/86, para. 68.
114 Ibid., para. 70.
mobilization of resources for coordination purposes and joint activities, providing guidance for successors to the ad hoc coordination arrangements in the ACC, and the enhancement of participation of specialized agencies in Council sessions. The Council subsequently undertook efforts to define indicators for conference follow-up in the United Nations system and emphasized that the work of its functional commissions involved in conference follow-up should focus on activities to enhance system-wide coordination.

iii. The Secretary-General

31. Referencing the terms of Article 58, the Assembly invited the Secretary-General to make recommendations for the coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies. In his report to the Assembly, the Secretary-General outlined a comprehensive programme for reform. In this context, the Secretary-General stated his intention to undertake a role in enhancing the coordination of specialized agencies and the central role of the United Nations in the system. Referring to the “limited authority” conveyed by Article 58 over the activities and policies of the specialized agencies, the Secretary-General observed that “…if the objectives of the United Nations are to be fully realized, a much greater degree of concerted will and coordinated action is required throughout the system as a whole.”

The Secretary-General consequently stated his intention to work, as the ACC chair, to strengthen the ACC’s capacity to adapt the United Nations system as a whole to the new challenges it faces. A report of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) had recommended that to enhance coherence of system-wide plans in the United Nations, the executive heads should reinforce the Secretary-General’s role as ACC chair. The Secretary-General established an Office for Inter-agency Affairs to strengthen “ownership” of ACC processes within the system.

32. While he stated that most of the reform measures focused on the Secretariat itself, a number of reforms had direct implications for the role of the Secretariat in coordination system-wide at both a substantive and organizational level. These included, for example, the further development and strengthening of the four Executive Committees, established earlier in the year. The Secretary-General also indicated his intention to implement reforms in human resources, including the re-examination of the composition and functioning of the ICSC.

33. The Assembly commended the efforts and initiatives of the Secretary-General, calling upon him to take account of the views of States in implementation. The Assembly also called for further elaboration of his proposals, including that of establishing the Special Commission to amend the Charter and the

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117 E/1998/90, sect. III.
118 See E S C decision 1998/290.
120 See G A resolution 51/240, annex.
121 A/51/950.
122 Ibid., para. 86.
123 Ibid., para. 87. As noted, the Secretary-General also proposed the establishment of a Special Commission to examine the possible need for changes in the Charter and in the treaties from which the specialized agencies derive their mandates to effect major improvements in the United Nations system. Ibid., para. 89.
124 A/54/288.
125 See A/54/288/Add.1, para. 11.
126 For example, the Executive Committee on Peace and Security convened by the Department of Political Affairs would be responsible for designing and implementing post-conflict initiatives, including the definition of objectives, criteria and operational guidelines for peace-building by organizations of the United Nations system. A/51/950, para. 121 and Action 5. Similarly, the United Nations Development Group would supercede sectoral groups on development operations to be composed of heads of organizations, Ibid., para. 157 and Action 9.
127 Ibid., para. 232.
128 See G A resolutions 52/12 A, paras. 1 and 2. See further Note by the Secretary-General, A/54/67.
treaties from which the specialized agencies derive their mandates. Further to the invitation of the Assembly, the ACC also gave particular attention to the Secretary-General’s reform measures. Special attention was given to the implications for the system of the changes in the Secretariat, including the creation of the Executive Committees in the four areas of peace and security, economic and social affairs, development cooperation, and humanitarian affairs. The ACC viewed these developments as an important contribution to the coherence of the system.

b. Subsidiary Bodies

i. The Administrative Committee on Coordination and the Committee for Programme and Coordination

34. The role and function of the ACC as a mechanism for the coordination of the specialized agencies came to be seen as increasingly important in the period under review with the recognition of the need for a comprehensive response on the part of the United Nations system to the global challenges emerging at the end of the Cold War. The Secretary-General organized a Forum on the future of the United Nations system held at the outset of the period under review in conjunction with the first ACC session of 1995. The Secretary-General cited in this context the singular role of the ACC in bringing together organizations of the system. The ACC itself stressed that coordination arrangements that commit the system can only be determined by an inter-agency body. Resolutions of both the Assembly and the Council during the period recognized the need to strengthen the role of the ACC in coordination the activities and policies of the specialized agencies. Efforts to enhance the role and function of the ACC emerged both in the context of measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, as well as the proposed Programme of Reform in the Secretariat. Nevertheless, the ACC stated that emphasis on its role did not imply a rigid “top-down” approach, highlighting its role in formulating decentralized and flexible mechanisms such as the establishment of inter-agency task forces.

35. In the context of restructuring of the United Nations, Assembly resolution 50/227 recommended a number of measures to enhance the ACC role in coordinating the specialized agencies. As noted, the Assembly endorsed changes designed to enhance the participation of the ACC in the deliberations of intergovernmental bodies, particularly the Council. The ACC, for its part, saw the transformation of the Council as mutually reinforcing, facilitating its own strengthening. In respect to reforms, recommendations also addressed the role of the ACC in the coordinated follow-up to the results of major conferences. The ACC repeatedly considered this matter.

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129 G A resolution 52/12 B I, para. 26 (d). This resolution also invited consideration by relevant bodies of the Secretary-General measures.
131 Ibid., para. 10.
132 See E/1996/18, paras. 9 and 10.
133 See Secretary-General statement to the Council, A/52/855, para. 38. See also Joint Statement of the ACC, E/1997/54, annex I, para. 7. The JIU considered the role of the ACC, see A/54/288, and conclusion A1.1.
134 E/1999/48, para. 44.
136 Ibid.
137 See report of the Secretary-General, A/51/950, para. 87.
138 E/1999/48, para. 40. As noted, the ACC had underscored that centralization and bureaucratization were not necessarily conducive to coordination. See discussion supra.
139 See ACC Joint Statement, E/1997/54, para. 11, Annex I, para. 7 and Annex II, paras. 5 and 6. Assembly resolution 50/227 similarly emphasized the use of small task forces.
141 A/54/288/Add.1, para. 13.
36. In his statement before the Council, the Secretary-General asserted that the full potential of the ACC should be exploited in bringing to bear the wide-ranging capacities of the system in the overall effort to advance both security and development.\(^{144}\) Expansion in the role of the ACC consequently resulted in its involvement in an increasingly wide array of issues. The ACC, in a Joint Statement on reform and restructuring of the United Nations system, announced its intent to focus on a number of broad objectives in a wide-range of fields.\(^{145}\) These included, for example: enhancing the capacity of the system to address challenges from new types of conflicts and complex emergencies with special attention to activities in disarmament, arms trafficking and verification; addressing the implications of globalization; the promotion of democratic governance; the development of international environmental law; and the strengthening of links to civil society.\(^{146}\) At the same time, the ACC undertook action and made recommendations in a variety of issues from organizational and administrative matters, such as the functioning of other system-wide bodies in making recommendations involving the specialized agencies, notably the ICSC.\(^{147}\) The JIU in a report to the fifty-fourth session of the Assembly proposed that the ACC’s name be changed to reflect its increasing involvement in strategic and substantive development issues, as opposed to simply administrative matters.\(^{148}\)

37. As noted, the Council’s Coordination segment assumed the functions of the Joint Meeting of the ACC and CPC;\(^{149}\) an action regretted by many delegations to the CPC.\(^{150}\) In this context, the Assembly recommended that the role and working methods of the CPC be considered.\(^{151}\) Specific emphasis was given on the relationship and respective roles of the Council and the CPC in coordination.\(^{152}\) In its consideration, the CPC expressed the view that the ACC, in its reports, could assist the CPC in fulfilling its role in regard to the coordination functions of the Council by identifying areas related to coordination that might require consideration by the relevant intergovernmental bodies.\(^{153}\)

\[\text{ii. The International Civil Service Commission (ICSC)}\]

38. By resolution 49/223, the Assembly had called upon the ICSC and organizations to review with all urgency how the consultation process of the ICSC could be furthered. The latest in a series of reviews of ICSC functioning,\(^{154}\) this call for review arose out of concerns about the consultation process in the ICSC decision-making.

39. At the outset of the period, some bodies cited the existence of a “crisis of confidence” with the ICSC,\(^{155}\) with others citing the problem of ICSC functioning as an issue implicating the integrity of the common system.\(^{156}\) Both staff representative organizations, the Federation of International Civil Servants Associations (FICSA) and the Coordinating Committee for Independent Staff Unions and Associations (CCISUA) suspended their participation in ICSC deliberations.\(^{157}\) For its part, the Assembly undertook

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144 See E/1998/21, annex I. See also A/54/288/Add.1, para. 9.
145 E/1997/54, annex I.
146 E/1997/54, annex I, para. 11.
147 See E/1996/18, paras. 93-96 and discussion infra.
148 A/54/288, para. 44 and recommendation A1.3. The ACC indicated that opinion was divided as to the merits of this proposal. A/54/288/Add.1, para. 25.
149 See G A resolution 50/227, annex I, sect. IV, para. 58.
150 See A/51/16, sect. III A, para. 115.
151 G A resolution 50/227, annex I, sect. V, para. 73. See also CPC consideration, A/54/16.
152 See G A resolution 50/227, annex I, sect. V, para. 73. See also E S C resolution 1999/57.
154 The ICSC noted that reviews of its functioning had been “ongoing” since 1987. See A/50/30, para. 28.
155 See views of the ACC’s Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (CCAQ), A/50/30, para. 20. See also ACC annual report for 1995, E/1996/18, para. 93.
156 Comments of the Federation of International Civil Servants Associations (FICSA), A/C.5/50/23, para. 14. See also Secretary-General note, A/54/483, para. 6.
157 The Assembly noted this fact with regret. See G A resolution 50/208, sect. IV, para. 4. See also A/50/30, annex I. FICSA had suspended participation prior to the forty-eighth session of the Assembly.
repeated consideration of the issue of the role and functioning of the ICSC in making recommendations to the common system.\textsuperscript{158}

40. Further to the Assembly’s request at its forty-ninth session, several bodies identified a number of reforms to the ICSC consultation process and its role and management with respect to the United Nations system. These proposals aimed at a more inclusive approach involving the ISCS, the executive heads of organizations of the Common System and staff representatives in deliberations and the nomination of ISCS members.\textsuperscript{159}

41. For its part, the ICSC noted that the Assembly request at its forty-ninth session regarding consultations had been made with the current ICSC structure and framework in mind, and that some of the proposals of other bodies went beyond that mandate.\textsuperscript{160} It also rejected comments alleging its politicization or the crisis of confidence over its functioning,\textsuperscript{161} but nevertheless agreed to a number of measures, including enhancing its transparency through the conduct of decision-making in open sessions, more focused agenda management limited to major issues, and improved flexibility in the length and timing of sessions.\textsuperscript{162} The ICSC also reaffirmed its earlier decision to establish tripartite Working Groups on major issues as a forum with technical competence; a process it noted that went beyond consultations.\textsuperscript{163}

42. Following a request from the CCISUA, the ICSC established a tripartite Working Group on the Consultation Process and Working Arrangements, which included ICSC members, representatives of the organizations and staff associations.\textsuperscript{164} The conclusions and recommendations of the Working Group, presented to the ICSC the following year,\textsuperscript{165} stressed that the proposals should be viewed as a complete package, not a menu of proposals for the ICSC to pick and choose. In this context, it was noted that most of the proposals could be implemented by the ICSC under its own authority, though there was recognition that some proposals — notably those concerning appointment to the ICSC — went beyond ICSC competence.\textsuperscript{166} Among the specific proposals for adoption were provisions for consultation with representatives of organizations and staff in drawing up the provisional agenda, as well as the preparation of a programme of work,\textsuperscript{167} the establishment of joint Working Groups on key issues,\textsuperscript{168} and explicit

\textsuperscript{158} See G A resolution 50/208, sect. IV, 51/216, sect. VIII, 52/216. sect III F, 52/12B, sect. H, para. 22, and 53/209, sects. III and IV.
\textsuperscript{159} A/50/30, paras. 19, 26 and 27. Regarding the latter, the CCAQ proposed alternately the creation of a tripartite body to appoint ICSC members of States, executive heads and staff representatives, or the direct nomination of seats by each group, or finally, a tripartite search mechanism for the identification and screening of ICSC members. \textit{Ibid.}, para. 19. Many delegations of the CPC disagreed with proposals of the ACC to change the composition of the ICSC. A/51/16, para. 128.
\textsuperscript{160} A/50/30, para. 29.
\textsuperscript{161} \textit{Ibid.}, para. 30.
\textsuperscript{162} See A/50/30, paras. 38, 39, 41 and 54. Additional decisions concerned the definition of a “core common system” and the use of task forces. \textit{Ibid.}, paras. 40 and 47.
\textsuperscript{163} \textit{Ibid.}, para. 46. Nevertheless, the ICSC response was criticized by other bodies that saw it as a focus on improving process rather than consultative aspects. \textit{Ibid.}, para. 27.
\textsuperscript{164} A/52/30, para. 28. FICSA was careful to state that its presence in the Working Group signaled its support of the initiative, but not a return to participation with the ICSC consultation process. A/53/30, para. 43. See further A/53/30, annex IV for the terms of reference of the Working Group.
\textsuperscript{165} A/53/30, annex II.
\textsuperscript{166} \textit{Ibid.}, para. 41. in particular, a Joint Statement adopted by representatives of organizations under the ACC’s CCAQ and staff associations stressed that a key factor in ensuring ICSC competence and independence was its composition. Consequently, the Joint Statement noted the necessity of identifying and proposing candidates in transparent manner, and that the terms of service be limited. See A/53/30, appendix V.
\textsuperscript{167} \textit{Ibid.}, para. 47.
\textsuperscript{168} \textit{Ibid.}, para. 49
provisions for representation of divergent views, including those of staff and the CCAQ in annual reports of ICSC.\footnote{Ibid., para. 51. Additional recommendations concerned the submission of annual reports, the type of recommendations and information provided by the ICSC secretariat, the ICSC linguistic balance and the appointment of Commission members. Ibid., paras. 51, 55, 60 and 62.}

43. Considering the Working Group proposals, the ICSC stressed several guiding principles, namely: that it was subsidiary to the Assembly and to the Assembly alone, that members of the ICSC were independent, and that the ICSC decision-making regarding the common system was not negotiable and could not be compromised.\footnote{A/53/30, para. 46.} Consequently, in accepting the basic proposals of the Working Group, the ICSC decided on amendments to the proposals incorporating changes reflecting these positions, incorporating changes to the consultation process but eliminating any formal limit on the final authority of the ICSC for the formulation of decisions.\footnote{Ibid., para. 53 and 54. Most of the changes could be seen in terms of alterations in the language used, not the substance of the provisions.} For its part, the Assembly emphasized that the responsibility for decisions of the ICSC rests solely with the ICSC.\footnote{GA resolution 53/209, sect. III, para. 1.} Nevertheless, the Assembly welcomed the progress in promoting a spirit of constructive cooperation and flexibility towards improving the working relations with staff, noting that the changes by the ICSC to rules could ensure that the views of all parties are reflected during all phases of consideration.\footnote{Ibid., paras. 2 and 4. The Assembly requested that the ICSC monitor the progress of implementation of the revised rules and procedures, reporting the fifty-seventh session of the Assembly. Ibid., para. 5.} Regarding proposals on appointment of ICSC members, the Assembly emphasized the need to adhere to the ICSC Statute, deciding to revert to the matter in the context of the Secretary-General recommendations for review of the ICSC.\footnote{GA resolution 53/209, sect. IV, paras. 2 and 4. See also GA resolution 54/238, sect. V.}

44. The Secretary-General, in his Programme for Reform, had noted the significance of the ICSC role in the organization and administration of the United Nations system, stating that a re-examination of the composition, mandate and function of the ICSC would contribute to the reform measures undertaken by organizations of the common system.\footnote{A/51/950, para. 232.} He proposed that the Assembly initiate a review of the ICSC in order to increase the effectiveness of organizations in meeting the challenges facing the United Nations system.\footnote{Ibid. See also A/54/483, para. 6. In respect to reforming the ICSC, reference may be made to the proposal of the ACC to amend the ICSC Statute to allow for recourse to an ad hoc advisory panel on the legality of decisions and recommendations of the ICSC prior to implementation. In its discussion, a majority of the ICSC opposed the proposal, doubting the need to refer decisions to such a body, the value of advisory opinions and concerned over adding to the delay in implementing decisions. See A/C.5/54/24, annexes I and II. The ICSC noted that neither it nor its secretariat had been consulted on the proposed amendment. A/54/30, para. 206.} By resolution 54/238, the Assembly emphasized that the review process should be impartial and transparent, and that the ICSC should fully participate in the process. The Assembly further specified elements of information to be included in the review.

\textit{iii. The Joint Inspection Unit (JIU)}

45. The period under review saw the Organization continued to consider the role and function of the JIU. In this regard, the Organization reaffirmed the position of the JIU as the only system-wide inspection, evaluation and investigation body.\footnote{See G A resolutions 50/233 and 54/16. See also JIU report, A/51/34, annex I, para. 3.}

46. An initial concern that arose in the period centered on the method for approval of the JIU budget, which, under contemporary practice, was seen by the JIU to implicate its operational independence.\footnote{See JIU note on strengthening external oversight mechanisms, A/51/674, para. 9. See also A/54/34, para. 20.} The JIU expressed the view that the submission of its original budget request to the Assembly, together
with the comments of the Secretary-General and the ACC, through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), would be consonant with that independence, its Statute, and the relevant Assembly recommendations. The JIU noted that a similar procedure to maintain operational independence already existed for the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), which was constituted as an internal oversight mechanism. By resolution 54/249, the Assembly stressed the need to ensure that the independence of the JIU was not compromised through the budgetary process.

47. As regards JIU functioning, the Assembly, noting with concern that some JIU reports have dealt with political matters, requested that the JIU focus on identifying concrete managerial, administrative and programme questions providing action-oriented recommendations on precisely defined issues, taking full advantage of its system-wide competence.

48. During the period, the JIU undertook additional improvements in its method of work. Reporting to the fiftieth session of the Assembly, the JIU noted that it had established a Working Group to develop a set of internal standards and guidelines for inspection, evaluation and investigation. In its subsequent report, the JIU presented the internal guidelines, which included basic definitions of the JIU’s function, the development of its work programme, as well as guidelines on the planning, conduct and reporting of inspections, evaluations and investigations. By resolution 54/16, the Assembly took note of the JIU report with appreciation, recognizing its improved functioning.

49. At the same time, a consistent concern of the JIU remained implementation of its recommendations. The JIU had noted that a general weakness of oversight mechanisms in the United Nations system was the fragmented, unclear and weak provisions for compliance and follow-up to approved recommendations, calling for urgent attention to the matter. The JIU observed that the “added value” of its recommendations could only be measured through implementation, which ultimately depends on actual implementation by the secretariats of respective organizations. Reporting to the fiftieth session of the Assembly, the JIU indicated its intent to take concrete steps to achieve punctual and systematic follow-up of its reports and recommendations from an early stage to full implementation. The Assembly encouraged the JIU to take the necessary steps to achieve this punctual and systematic follow-up.

50. The detailed procedure proposed by the JIU to the fifty-second session of the Assembly for receipt and follow-up to its recommendations, included a tracking system in the form of a matrix, available online, to include each step taken by organizations in its consideration of JIU recommendations.

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179 A/51/674, para. 10. The JIU noted that the Secretary-General had submitted a lower budget estimate for the biennium that it had requested without explanation. Ibid., para. 9. See also A/54/34, paras. 19 and 20.
180 A/51/674, para. 7. See also ST/SGB/273.
181 G A resolution 54/249, para. 182.
182 G A resolution 50/233, paras. 9 and 12.
183 Ibid., paras. 9-12. Noting this request, the JIU, in its subsequent report, stated that fully fifty percent of its planned evaluations concerned system-wide inspections and evaluations. A/52/34, para. 20.
184 A/50/34, para. 34. By resolution 50/233, the Assembly requested that the JIU report to its fifty-first session on measures to develop such guidelines.
185 A/51/34, annex I, sect. B-F. Additional guidelines concerned the format of its reports, including the specific page-limit and format adjustments requested by the Assembly in resolution 50/233. See A/51/34, annex I, sect. G.
186 See, e.g., A/52/34, para. 39, noting this point.
187 A/49/34, para. 84. The JIU reiterated this view in its note on strengthening external oversight. See A/51/674, para. 31.
188 A/51/674, para. 30.
189 A/50/34, para. 80. The JIU revised its coverage to provide more comprehensive reporting, rather than covering select issues in its annual report. Ibid., paras. 90-129.
190 See G A resolution 50/233, para. 16.
191 A/52/34, annex I, sect. C and para. 14. In his context, the JIU observed that while most organizations of the system, have a procedure for processing JIU reports, they do not have a system for follow-up. A/52/34, para. 45.
Additionally, the JIU included detailed instructions on the format and method of reporting information on implementation of approved recommendations. The Assembly endorsed the proposed system, by resolution 54/16, requesting that the JIU report on its experience and comments of the organizations of the system to its fifty-sixth session.

***2. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE COORDINATION OF PROGRAMME PLANNING

3. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE COORDINATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

a. Accounting and budgetary practices

51. Further to resolution 48/216 C, the Secretary-General presented proposed revisions to the common accounting standards for the United Nations system. The ACC’s CCAQ (Financial and Budgetary Questions) had undertaken the actual work on the Standards in consultation with organizations of the system and the Panel of External Auditors. Based largely on relevant international accounting standards promulgated by the International Accounting Standards Committee, the Standards applied the accrual basis of accounting for revenue.

52. As the primary objective, this initiative had sought to provide a framework for accounting and financial reporting in the United Nations system, which reflects generally accepted accounting principles, while taking account of the specific character and needs of the system; a further objective was to promote consistent accounting and financial reporting practices between organizations. In the annex to the report, the ACC declared its intention that the standards should be applied throughout the system, forming the basis for accounting policies of each organization, and guiding accounting practices in all matters of material significance.

53. The Secretary-General noted the general acceptance of the revised draft of Standard, including that of the Panel of External Auditors, which stated that the Standards represented a positive response to the Assembly requests. Nevertheless, the Secretary-General noted the need for additional work in some areas, particularly harmonization in both the presentation of cash flow statements and the financial rules and regulations of some organizations. In this regard, the Secretary-General pointed out that the Standards had always been regarded as a “living document,” subject to review, extension and amendment in light of the needs and circumstances. Welcoming the results, the ACABQ noted that the effort in general was in line with the trend to greater harmonization in budgetary and financial matters in the

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192 A/52/34, annex I, paras. 17-21. This information included the recommendation, the unit responsible for implementation, the official in charge of implementation, the time-table for implementation and the initial impact of implementation. Ibid., para. 20.
193 A/51/523, annex. See also consideration under the study of this Article in Supplement 8.
194 Ibid., para. 11.
195 Ibid., annex, para. 1. Any differences arose from the non-commercial nature of the activities of the system. Ibid.
196 For revenue, income is recognized when it is due, not when it is received. For expenditures, costs are recognized when the obligation arises or liability incurred, not when payment is made. Ibid., annex, para. 4.
197 A/51/523, annex.
198 A/51/523, annex.
199 Ibid., paras. 7, 10 and 12.
200 Ibid., para. 8. The Secretary-General noted that the Panel of External Auditors was undertaking ongoing discussion of these issues with a number of organizations. Ibid.
201 A/51/523, para. 9. This was recognized in the Standards themselves, which indicated that they would be open to modification, development and refinement as accounting principles evolved, and new needs emerged in the system. Ibid., annex, para. 2.
202 A/51/533, para. 131. The ACABQ recalled that the issue of accounting standards was initially highlighted in its report to the forty-fifth session of the Assembly. See A/45/570. See also discussion under the Study of this Article in Supplement 7.
United Nations system. The Assembly took note of the revised Standards and the consideration by the ACABQ in decision 51/453.

b. Oversight

54. In a report to the fiftieth session of the Assembly, the JIU examined accountability, management improvement and oversight in the United Nations system. While some of the recommendations in its report, such as the establishment of a single focal point for strategic planning, did not meet with unqualified support, recommendations aimed at improving inter-action between oversight mechanisms of the system did find approval from other bodies, such as that external system-wide oversight bodies should improve and institutionalize, if necessary, their information sharing as well as take the opportunity to propose mutually reinforcing areas for review and assessment to one another. By resolution 51/241 on strengthening the United Nations system, the Assembly called for improved periodic coordination meetings between the Board of Auditors, the ACABQ and the JIU.

c. Personnel Questions

i. Pay and conditions of service

55. The issue of pay and benefits across organizations of the common system remained a feature of recommendations in the period. One matter under consideration was the principle applicable to the determination of pay for the professional and higher category of staff. In this respect, the Assembly consistently reaffirmed the application of the Noblemaire principle by which staff are paid proportionately higher than the best paid national civil service (the comparator). Additional questions were raised as to the relevant comparator national civil service. The Assembly, at its fifty-second session, recognized the complexity of changing comparators, requesting that the ICSC monitor the situation.

56. Nevertheless, a key consideration remained the competitiveness of salaries in the common system. The ACC repeatedly stressed the need to restore competitive conditions of service through rebuilding the Noblemaire principle by revision of the margin between the pay of the comparator and that of the United Nations. While the Assembly, by resolution 51/216, reaffirmed the existing margin range, it did recognize the need to ensure the competitiveness of the conditions of service of the common system. In light of recommendations from other bodies, such as the Board of Auditors who called for changes in the

203 *Ibid.* The ACABQ took particular note of the Secretary-General comments regarding the further need for changes in financial policies and/or financial regulations and rules of some organizations of the system. *Ibid.*

204 A/50/503.

205 A/50/503, recommendation 1.

206 See A/50/503/Add.2, paras. 3-13. See also CPC consideration, A/51/16, para. 194.

207 A/50/503/Add.2, para. 31.

208 A/50/503, recommendation 7.

209 In its report to the fifty-second session, the JIU reported on the establishment of regular meeting, including with OIOS. A/52/34, para. 34. The Assembly welcomed this action in resolution 54/244.

210 See consideration under the discussion of this subject in the Study of this Article in *Supplement* 8. See also consideration under the Study of Article 101 in this *Supplement*.

211 See G A resolutions 51/216 I A, 52/216 I, 53/209 I A and 54/238 I A. Further to Assembly resolution 47/216, the ICSC undertook a review of the Noblemaire principle in-depth, concluding the current practice regarding its application was sound. See A/50/30/Add.1

212 A/50/30/Add.1, para. 47.

213 See G A resolution 52/216 I, sect. A, paras. 7 and 10.

214 A/C.5/52/28, annex. See also A/C.5/51/25, annex. The ACC called for the margin to be revised from 110-120 to 123-134.

compensation methodology, the ICSC continued to examine imbalances in remuneration between the United Nations and the comparator.

ii. Privileges and immunities, and the safety and security of United Nations personnel

57. The period under review saw increasing consideration of the issue of privileges and immunities, and related concerns over the safety and security of personnel of the United Nations system. Both the Assembly and the Secretary-General expressed concern over the rising toll of attacks on personnel of the United Nations system. In this regard, the United Nations Security Coordinator (UNSECOORD) noted that for the first time in United Nations history, the number of civilian causalities exceeded that of peacekeeping forces.

58. Consequently, the Assembly and other bodies recognized the need for further measures. The Assembly urged the ACC in particular to act in strengthening the cooperative inter-agency approach to ensure the safety and security of United Nations personnel system-wide. In this context, the UNSECOORD stated it was of the utmost importance for the United Nations system to speak with one voice and act in unison. It should be noted, however, that in respect to privileges and immunities, a meeting of legal advisors of organizations of the system had recognized the utility of ad hoc bilateral agreements with governments to strengthen protection of personnel over a collective multilateral initiative.

59. Action on the part of the ACC included making safety and security of United Nations personnel a standing item on its agenda and instituting regular annual meetings of the ad hoc inter-agency meeting on security. Recognition of the need to strengthen the Office of the UNSECOORD resulted in UNSECOORD assuming a wide range of coordinating functions in respect to the safety and security of personnel system-wide. Further to the recommendations of the 1996 ad hoc inter-agency meeting on security, the UNSECOORD undertook functions in policy-setting, such as in respect to hostages or the establishment of global security arrangements, as well as administrative issues including the development of security training. Subsequent consideration by inter-agency bodies emphasized the creation of a unified chain of command in respect to security officers and the administration of a Trust Fund for the security of United Nations system staff in the field.

60. A significant issue under consideration in the period concerned the development of minimum operating security standards beyond which organizations of the system would temporarily suspend

216 See A/52/811.
217 See A/53/30. The Assembly noted this action by resolution 53/209.
218 See G A resolution 49/238, 53/87 and 54/192. See also comprehensive report on privileges and immunities, A/53/501, para. 5.
220 The Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, adopted prior to the period, had added protection. However, the Secretary-General and the ACC had expressed the view that the scope of the Convention should be extended to other areas. See e.g., Secretary-General Note, A/C.5/50/29.
221 See G A resolution 49/238, para. 2. See also ACC consideration, E/1997/54, para. 54.
223 Ibid., para. 45.
224 See ACC/1996/20, para. 53. The ACC also maintained the safety and security of staff as a matter for consideration by the ACC itself rather than its subsidiary bodies, such as the CCAQ. See E/1999/48, para. 52. See also ACC decision Part I, ACC/1998/4.
225 G A resolution 54/192, para. 14. See also consideration by the ACC, ACC/1998/4, para. 29.
226 ACC/1996/21, para. 28. The ACC concurred with these recommendations. See E/1997/54, para. 54.
227 Ibid., para. 8.
228 Ibid., para. 44 and annex IV, para. 5. An informal Working Group was also convened to serve as a forum with the UNSECOORD on policy matters and to assist the UNSECOORD in the preparation and requests for support from agencies of the system. Ibid., para. 4(b).
230 See A/53/501, para. 42. See also ACC decision, Part I, ACC/1998/4. In this context, the UNSECOORD had stated that it was finding it increasingly difficult to adjust to the growing demands being placed on him with the resources available. ACC/1998/20, para. 39.
operations in a country or area. Following discussion in the ad hoc meeting on security, the ACC adopted a decision endorsing in principle criteria to establish minimum security standards beyond which personnel would be withdrawn and United Nations operations would be suspended in the absence of decisive action.

iii. Administration of Justice

61. During the period under review, several amendments were made to the Statute of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal (UNAT) affecting the administration of justice in respect to personnel matters in the United Nations system. The Secretary-General in a report to the fifty-second session of the Assembly recommended that the Assembly give consideration to a further amendment to the UNAT Statute to extend the competence of UNAT to include all organizations of the common system. Under UNAT’s existing Statute, its competence under Article 13 may be extended to specialized agencies brought into relationship with the United Nations in accordance with the provisions of Articles 57 and 63. However, the Secretary-General noted that in a number of entities or organizations with status similar to, but not formally constituted as a specialized agency, such as the International Seabed Authority or the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, had expressed an interest in an arrangement to extend UNAT competence to their staff. Consequently, the Secretary-General proposed to amend Article 13 of the UNAT Statute to include a new paragraph providing that the competence of UNAT may be extended to international organizations participating in the common system upon approval by the Assembly.

62. By resolution 52/166, the Assembly adopted the Secretary-General’s proposals and amended Article 13 of the UNAT Statute.

B. The Making of Recommendations in Substantive Areas

1. RECOMMENDATIONS IN ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

a. Overall development concerns — the Agenda for Development

63. By resolution 51/240, the Assembly adopted the Agenda for Development. The Agenda aimed to reinvigorate “a renewed and strengthened partnership for development” through a new framework for international cooperation defining the role of the United Nations and the development priorities. In this context, the Agenda recognized the particular impact of globalization, which was seen to particularly affect developing countries.

64. The Agenda recognized the special problems faced by certain regions, such as Africa, as well as conditions resulting from geographical circumstance. Emphasizing an integrated and multidimensional

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231 See A/53/501, para. 66. See also E/1999/48, para. 52.
232 ACC/1998/4. See also E/1999/48, para. 54. As the Secretary-General noted, even with improved security measures, “under certain security conditions, the presence of United Nations staff may no longer be justified.” A/53/501, para. 66.
233 A/52/142/Add.1.
234 Ibid., para. 12. The Secretary-General noted that while UNAT competence can only be extended to de jure specialized agencies, the Article II, paragraph 5 of the Statute of the Administrative Tribunal of the International Labor Organization (ILOAT) provides that it is competent to hear complaints of officials of any other intergovernmental international organization, approved by the Governing Body of the ILO, which has recognized the jurisdiction of the Tribunal for that purpose. Ibid., para. 11.
235 G A resolution 51/240, para. 2. The Agenda adopted the report of the Ad Hoc open-ended Working Group established by the Assembly in resolution 49/126. See A/51/45.
236 Ibid., annex, paras. 2 and 42.
237 Ibid., para. 8. See also consideration of globalization and its impact in general. Ibid., paras. 5-16.
238 Ibid., paras. 17 and 186 and 191.
239 As in respect to land-locked and small island developing States. Ibid., paras. 19 and 20.
approach as essential,\textsuperscript{241} the Agenda presented objectives and a policy framework including implementation,\textsuperscript{242} and encompassed a range of issues as integral to development, such as democracy and respect for human rights,\textsuperscript{243} trade and finance,\textsuperscript{244} science and technology,\textsuperscript{245} the empowerment of women\textsuperscript{246} and humanitarian assistance.\textsuperscript{247} Concerning humanitarian assistance, the Agenda laid stress on a participatory approach to development, including political empowerment and a vigorous civil society.\textsuperscript{248}

65. Regarding the role of the United Nations system, the Agenda identified the need to enhance the role and capacity of the system in such development activities,\textsuperscript{249} recognizing its “vital role” in the development process by virtue of its global reach, universal membership, impartiality and comprehensive mandate.\textsuperscript{250}

66. Recalling specifically Article 58, the Agenda for Development reiterated the authority of the Organization to make recommendations for the coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies.\textsuperscript{251} The Agenda called for the elaboration of mechanisms to enable the Council to provide guidance to the specialized agencies and to transmit priorities formulated by the Assembly.\textsuperscript{252} A focused dialogue between the Council and the specialized agencies was called for to identify how activities should be adjusted in response to priorities with the Council providing recommendations to ensure coherence.\textsuperscript{253} Additional recommendations included the provision of regular reports by specialized agencies to the Assembly through the Council to improve inter-action, as well as follow-up to Council recommendations.\textsuperscript{254}

\textit{b. Operational Activities for Development}\textsuperscript{255}

67. During the period under review, operational activities were seen to encompass a widening range of concerns.\textsuperscript{256} The Organization focused its recommendations to specialized agencies on the development of programmes that encompassed linkages among different issues;\textsuperscript{257} a point emphasized by the ACC in preparations for the triennial review.\textsuperscript{258} The Secretary-General observed in this context that the increasing heterogeneity of the operational context of development posed the twin challenges to the system of both enhancing the flexibility and responsiveness to broadening national development requirements, while at the same time enhancing the overall coherence of operational policies to achieve optimal use of the limited resources.\textsuperscript{259} Recommendations continued to emphasize the need to improve coordination on the part of the system, and among specialized agencies in particular, in operational activities,\textsuperscript{260} leading for example, to continued efforts towards the harmonization and simplification of procedures of the system in

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{241}Ibid., para. 46.
\item \textsuperscript{242}Ibid., para. 42.
\item \textsuperscript{243}Ibid., para. 26.
\item \textsuperscript{244}Ibid., paras. 54-71.
\item \textsuperscript{245}Ibid., paras. 72-75.
\item \textsuperscript{246}Ibid., paras. 122-128.
\item \textsuperscript{247}Ibid., paras. 155-182. This included recommendation of a continuum in activities and assistance from relief to rehabilitation and development. Ibid., paras. 159-163. See discussion \textit{infra} on humanitarian assistance.
\item \textsuperscript{248}Ibid., paras. 180 and 181.
\item \textsuperscript{249}Ibid., paras. 38-42 and 266-269.
\item \textsuperscript{250}Ibid., paras. 39 and 266.
\item \textsuperscript{251}Ibid., para. 266.
\item \textsuperscript{252}Ibid., para. 267.
\item \textsuperscript{253}Ibid.
\item \textsuperscript{254}Ibid., para. 268.
\item \textsuperscript{255}See also Supplement No. 9, vol. IV, under Article 66(2).
\item \textsuperscript{256}A/53/226, para. 3. See also GA resolution 53/192, sect. II.
\item \textsuperscript{257}See e.g., GA resolutions 50/120, para. 3, and 53/192, sect. II E. See also ESC resolution 1995/51, paras. 8 and 9.
\item \textsuperscript{258}E/1998/21, para. 56.
\item \textsuperscript{259}A/53/226, para. 5.
\item \textsuperscript{260}See A/53/226, paras. 14 and A/53/226/Add.1, para. 2. See also GA resolutions 50/120, para. 34b and 53/192, sect. I A, para. 5.
\end{itemize}
support of operational activities\textsuperscript{261} to which the Assembly made repeated reference.\textsuperscript{262} Reference may be made in this context to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) initiated in the period and designed to ensure that country programmes were based on common objectives and harmonized time frames through collaboration and programmatic coherence.\textsuperscript{263} Although encompassing United Nations Funds and Programmes at its pilot phase during the period, the Secretary-General nevertheless invited other organizations of the system to participate with specific reference to participation by the Bretton Woods institutions.\textsuperscript{264} By resolution 53/192, the Assembly stressed the need to ensure participation in UNDAF by, \textit{inter alia}, the specialized agencies.

68. Overall, the Council oversaw coordination of operational activities in this expanding climate. By resolution 1995/51, the Council invited specialized agencies to identify specific problems and areas in which the Council could provide cross-sectoral coordination and overall guidance on a system-wide basis.\textsuperscript{265} The first triennial review also presented recommendations on the role and function of the Council in the context of operational activities.\textsuperscript{266} As indicated, improved cooperation with the Bretton Woods institutions was also a particular feature of recommendations in the period.\textsuperscript{267} While there was concern that cooperation with the Bretton Woods institutions should not lead to “new conditionalities,”\textsuperscript{268} closer links between the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods’ institutions was generally favoured.\textsuperscript{269} Both triennial reviews included specific sections on cooperation measures.\textsuperscript{270} Specific emphasis was placed on participation of the institutions in such areas as technical cooperation,\textsuperscript{271} as well as activities at the country-level\textsuperscript{272} including the country strategy.\textsuperscript{273} The Assembly endorsed these efforts.\textsuperscript{274}

69. At the national level, a primary and continuing concern was the role of the resident coordinator, assigned a central role in enhancing the United Nations system coordination at the country level.\textsuperscript{275} The Assembly repeatedly called for the specialized agencies to provide support to the resident coordinator system, requesting that the Secretary-General make the resident coordinator system more participatory both in its functioning and in the identification of candidates.\textsuperscript{276} At the same time, the Secretary-General warned of the potential risk of overburdening the resident coordinator system with coordination tasks.\textsuperscript{277} He went on to cite a number of areas for improvement in the operation of the resident coordinator system including: the division of responsibility within the United Nations system within a context of the resident coordinator system; simplification and harmonization of policies and procedures; equalization of delegated authority and decentralization, including country-level access to resources at the sub-regional level; and the establishment of channels of communication between the resident coordinator

\begin{thebibliography}{99}
\bibitem{261} See A/50/202, para. 7 and recommendation 17.
\bibitem{262} G A resolutions 50/120, para. 45, and 53/192, sect. II A, para. 31. See also consideration and recommendations by the Secretary-General, A/53/226, paras. 81-84.
\bibitem{263} See A/53/226/Add.1, paras. 88-98. UNDAF was proposed in the Secretary-General’s Programme for Reform, see A/51/950, paras. 50 and 160-161, action 10. The initiative arose in response to the request of the Assembly for ensuring a more coherent response on the part of the system, see resolution 50/120, para. 14.
\bibitem{264} A/53/226, para. 73 and A/53/226/Add.1, para. 93.
\bibitem{265} See also G A resolution 50/120, para. 3.
\bibitem{266} A/50/202, paras. 24-27.
\bibitem{267} See also G A resolution 50/227, sect. IV, para. 57 and discussion \textit{supra} on further measures for restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related sectors.
\bibitem{268} A/50/202, para. 97.
\bibitem{269} See also A/53/226, sect. XV.
\bibitem{270} A/50/202, para. 98.
\bibitem{271} \textit{Ibid.}, para. 26, A/53/226, para. 138.
\bibitem{272} \textit{Ibid.}, para. 98.
\bibitem{273} G A resolution 53/192, sect. II, para. 35. See also E S C resolution 1998/44, sect. IV, para. 14.
\bibitem{274} See A/50/202, para. 42. See also discussion under the Study of this Article in \textit{Supplements} 7 and 8.
\bibitem{275} See G A resolutions 50/120, paras. 36 and 37, and 53/192, sect. D.
\bibitem{276} See A/53/226/Add.1, para. 1. The Secretary-General proposed a number of measures to improve the resident coordinator system.
\end{thebibliography}
organizations without field representation.\textsuperscript{78} Additional consideration was given to issues of strategic frameworks and programming such as the Country Strategy Note established by the Assembly in resolution 47/199 to harmonize and integrate system activities at the country level.\textsuperscript{79} Further to the recommendations of the Secretary-General,\textsuperscript{80} the Assembly, by resolution 50/120, decided that the country strategy note should be a common framework for country programming of United Nations system organizations, requesting that the Secretary-General ensure that individual country programmes taken to account the country strategy note.

\textbf{70.} Recommendations also stressed specific types of activity such as capacity-building. The Assembly called for capacity-building to be explicitly articulated as a goal of technical assistance.\textsuperscript{81} In this regard, the Assembly repeatedly called upon organizations of the United Nations system to ensure the coordination of activities in support of national and regional action in such areas as communications\textsuperscript{82} and human resources development.\textsuperscript{83} Concerning the latter, the Assembly specifically called for the Secretary-General to monitor and assess the effectiveness of contributions of the United Nations system to human resources development through operational activities.

c. Population and development

\textbf{71.} Following the endorsement of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) by the Assembly at its forty-ninth session,\textsuperscript{84} the Organization undertook a number of measures aimed at the coordination of activities of the United Nations system, concerning the relationship between population and development.\textsuperscript{85} The ICPD had declared that its objectives and actions would collectively address the critical challenges and inter-relationships between population and sustained economic growth in the context of sustainable development.\textsuperscript{86} The specialized agencies were called upon to undertake the actions required to give full and effective support to the implementation of the Programme.\textsuperscript{87} The ACC declared its recognition of the shared responsibility within the United Nations system for the implementation of the ICPD Programme.\textsuperscript{88}

\textbf{72.} Within this context, the Assembly reiterated the role of the Council in giving guidance on matters of harmonization, cooperation and coordination in the United Nations system in implementation of the ICPD Programme.\textsuperscript{89} The Secretary-General proposed terms of reference for the Commission on Population and Development, a functional commission under the Council formerly called the Population Commission, that included consideration of inter-agency coordination issues.\textsuperscript{90} The Secretary-General also established an inter-agency task force on implementation of the programme to ensure system-wide cooperation.\textsuperscript{91}

\textsuperscript{78} \textit{Ibid.}, para. 11. The Secretary-General went on to provide analysis of issues of management of the resident coordinator system, recruitment and election of the resident coordinator, the resident coordinator and follow-up to conferences, field level committees and funding. \textit{Ibid.} paras. 12-47. \\
\textsuperscript{79} \textit{Ibid.}, para. 58. \\
\textsuperscript{80} See A/50/202, para. 63, recommendation 12. Specific emphasis was placed on participation by the Bretton Woods institutions. \textit{Ibid.}, para. 65 and recommendation 14. \\
\textsuperscript{81} See G A resolution 53/192, sect. II, para. 37. See also A/53/226, paras. 112-115. \\
\textsuperscript{82} See G A resolutions 50/130 and 51/172. \\
\textsuperscript{83} G A resolutions 50/105, para. 6, 52/196, para. 10. See also G A resolution 51/240, annex, paras.109-115. \\
\textsuperscript{84} G A resolution 49/128, para. 2. The Conference was held in Cairo in late 1994. See A/Conf.171/13/Rev.1, ch. I. \\
\textsuperscript{85} As the Programme of Action noted, the Conference was explicitly given a broader mandate on development issues to reflect the growing awareness that population, poverty and the environment were closely inter-connected. \textit{Ibid.}, para. 1.5. \\
\textsuperscript{86} A/Conf.171/13/Rev.1, para. 1.9. See also chapter III. \\
\textsuperscript{87} G A resolution 49/128, para. 10. \\
\textsuperscript{88} E/1996/18, para. 51. \\
\textsuperscript{89} G A resolutions 50/124, para. 21, and 51/176, para. 9 \\
\textsuperscript{90} E/1995/27, annex I, para. 4. The Council endorsed the proposed terms in resolution 1995/55, para. 3. \\
\textsuperscript{91} \textit{Ibid.}, para. 9.
later reconstituted as the ACC task force on Basic Social Services.292 The Assembly, by resolution 50/124, requested that specialized agencies provide full support to the ICPD Programme through the United Nations resident coordinator system at the field level.

73. Further to its resolution 52/188, the Assembly held a special session in 1999 to review and appraise implementation of the ICPD Programme.293 The Special Session produced a number of recommendations directed at the United Nations system, including the promotion of coordination by bodies of the United Nations system in such areas as capacity-building in data collection and ageing,294 gender equality and female empowerment,295 and reproductive health with specific emphasis on the leadership of the WHO.296 The recommendations of the Special Session further emphasized partnerships among the different actors, recommending collaboration between government, civil society and the United Nations system with a view to fostering an enabling environment.297

d. Debt and development

74. With regard to the continuing problem of external debt of a number of countries and its impact on development,298 the Assembly repeatedly called upon organizations of the United Nations system, and specifically the Bretton Woods institutions, to take urgent measures and action for implementation of commitments and decisions of major United Nations conferences on development addressing, inter alia, the question of external debt.299

75. As this suggests, the Assembly emphasized initiatives by the World Bank and the International monetary Fund (IMF). The Assembly welcomed the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative (HIPC Initiative) that emanated from World Bank/IMF meetings as designed to enable HIPCs to achieve sustainable debt through coordinated action.300 Bodies of the United Nations system were requested to closely follow the HIPC Initiative.301 The Assembly invited the IMF to continue devising concrete measures to address the problems faced by indebted countries.302 Following developments in 1997, the Assembly also made recommendations respecting activities in support of countries affected by contemporary events. These included the need to provide emergency financing to economies affected by financial crises and high volatility in international capital flows, as well as those damaged because of natural disasters.303 Additional recommendations of the Assembly stressed the need for the IMF and

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292 See A/51/350, para. 8. The ACC had agreed in the prior year that the mandate of the inter-agency task force on the ICPD would be expanded to focus more broadly on social services for all. E/1996/18, para. 46. The task force established six Working Groups to address key areas. These included: basic education with special attention to gender with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as lead agency; policy-related issues; common approaches to capacity-building in child-maternal mortality; reproductive health under the WHO; women’s empowerment and international migration under the ILO. A/51/350, para. 4. Migration was added to the task force functions. See E/1995/27, annex I, sect. III, para. 3. See also E S C resolution 1995/55, para. 9.
293 See S-21/2. The Council by resolution 1997/42 had recommended the session.
294 S-21/2, sect. II, para. 23 and 38.
295 Ibid., sect. III. This included advocacy of human rights for women and girls, promotion of gender mainstreaming, and support for women’s grass-roots and community organizations. Ibid., paras. 41, 46 and 51.
296 Ibid., sect. IV, para., 55 and 66. This included support for governments in building national capacity to plan, manage and implement reproductive and sexual health services, the development of key indicators on reproductive health programmes, and examination of factors such as poverty linked to maternal mortality. Ibid., paras. 54, 55, 62 and 66.
297 Ibid., sect. V, para. 78.
298 G A resolutions 50/92, 51/164, 52/185, and 53/175. See also Secretary-General comments, A/51/294, paras. 3 and 4.
299 G A resolutions 50/92, para. 23, 51/164, para. 20, 52/185, para. 21, and 53/175, para. 35. See, for example, the Second United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries (LDCs), A/Conf.147/18, Part One and discussion under the Study of this Article in Supplement 8.
300 G A resolutions 51/164, para. 6. See also G A resolution 52/185, para. 8. However, the Secretary-General noted that the initiative met with some skepticism. A/52/290, para. 45.
301 G A resolution 51/164, para. 21.
302 Ibid., para. 14.
303 G A resolution 53/175, paras. 6 and 7. See also discussion infra.
World Bank, in close cooperation with the United Nations system, to address expeditiously the special needs of economies emerging from post-conflict situations.  

76. Recommendations in the period highlighted the need for action in particular in regard to LDCs and African countries. At the outset of the period, the Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action of the Second United Nations Conference on LDCs resulted in specific recommendations concerning the issue of external debt. The Assembly in particular encouraged the Bretton Woods institutions to develop a comprehensive approach to assisting countries with multilateral debt problems.

e. Specific development concerns

i. Overall

77. Recommendations of the Organization also continued to recognize the need for a coordinated approach on the part of the specialized agencies with regard to particular groups of States. As indicated, these recommendations emphasized specific policies and measures for different countries, including regions such as Africa or economic circumstance, for example, in respect to economies in transition or affected by global financial crises.

ii. African economic development and recovery

78. The Agenda for Development, referenced above, highlighted the need for programmes of the United Nations system to concentrate on areas where particular needs and the special capacity of the Organization converge, including Africa. The Organization devoted considerable attention to the coordination of activities and policies in response to the critical situation on that continent.

79. In March of 1996, the ACC launched the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa proposed to prompt initiatives to maximize support from the United Nations system to African development and raise the priority given to African development in the international agenda. An ACC declaration called the Special Initiative “…a concrete expression of the commitment of all organizations of the system to enhance substantially their support for the development efforts of African countries.” The ACC observed that the Special Initiative was built around two elements: first, a set of specific development actions to be undertaken jointly by organizations of the system; and second, a year-long campaign of political and resource mobilization. The Special Initiative contained 14 components grouped into five themes: water, food security, capacity-building for governance, social and human development (including basic health and education) and resource mobilization. Subsequent consideration led to the recommendation that the Special Initiative concentrate on areas where results have been achieved: education, health, governance and information technology. For each component, lead agency or agencies, subsequently named “coordinating agency(ies),” were designated with responsibility for resource mobilization and coordinating

304 Ibid., para. 15. The Assembly, in this regard, welcomed the decision of the Executive Board of the IMF to add a degree of flexibility in its evaluation of the track record of policy performance for countries receiving post-conflict assistance. Ibid.

305 GA resolutions 50/92, paras. 7, 10 and 13, 51/164, paras. 13, 15, 16, and 52/185, paras. 13, 16 and 20.

306 See supra regarding debt and development.

307 Ibid., para. 56.

308 See discussion supra regarding debt and development.

309 GA resolution 51/240, annex, para. 40.

310 See G A resolution 51/240, annex, paras. 17 and 186-191. In this context, the Agenda for Development specifically identified the major role of the United Nations system to address the critical economic situation in the region. Ibid., para. 191.

311 E/1996/18, para. 33. See also ACC/1995/23, para. 4.

312 E/1996/18, para. 37.

313 Ibid., para.34.

314 E/1996/18, para. 6.

315 See E/AC.51/1998/7, para. 2.
implementation,\textsuperscript{316} with overall monitoring of implementation undertaken by a steering committee of the ACC.\textsuperscript{317}

80. Concerning the Initiative’s relationship with the New Agenda for Development in Africa\textsuperscript{318} and its companion System-Wide Plan of Action for African Development and Recovery, some concern arose in defining the relationship of the Special Initiative to the ongoing New Agenda for Development and the companion System-Wide Plan of Action. While welcoming the Special Initiative, the CPC, at its thirty-sixth session, expressed strong concern about the prevailing trend to “flood” Africa with new initiatives that were hardly implemented.\textsuperscript{319} The Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole recommended that the Special Initiative become the impetus for implementation of all elements of the New Agenda. While welcoming the Special Initiative, it emphasized the need to focus on coordination and implementation of the New Agenda, avoiding unnecessary duplication of activities,\textsuperscript{320} a point reiterated by the Council in its Agreed Conclusions.\textsuperscript{321} The Assembly, by resolution 51/32, endorsed the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee. To highlight the linkage between the Special Initiative and the New Agenda, the Special Initiative was renamed the “United Nations System-Wide Special Initiative for the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s”.\textsuperscript{322} The Secretary-General subsequently reported that the Special Initiative and its Steering Committee would replace the System-wide Plan of Action, and its Inter-Agency Task Force on African Economic Recovery.\textsuperscript{323} The Secretary-General concluded that the direct implication of this replacement was that the Special Initiative inherited the main characteristic of the System-wide Plan of Action, namely, to serve as an instrument of coordination of the activities of the United Nations system in Africa.\textsuperscript{324} The CPC reaffirmed the role of the Special Initiative as the dynamic instrument for the implementation of the New Agenda.\textsuperscript{325}

81. Recommendations were also addressed to the specialized agencies in respect to issues outside the context of the Special Initiative and the New Agenda. These included, for example, issues of trade, and capacity-building where the role of the Bretton Woods institutions was specifically recognized.\textsuperscript{326} Continuing calls were also made to organizations of the United Nations system, and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in particular, to foster industrial production and development and expand industrial cooperation in the context of the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa.\textsuperscript{327}

\textit{iii. Economies in transition and financial crisis}

82. As requested by Assembly resolution 49/106, the Secretary-General presented updated reports on activities of organizations of the system in support of the transition process of economies from centrally

\textsuperscript{316} See E/AC.51/1996/6, para. 7 and E/AC.51/1997/7, para. 3.
\textsuperscript{317} \textit{Ibid.}, para 6.
\textsuperscript{318} The Assembly had launched the New Agenda at its forty-sixth session in part in recognition of the lack of success of previous plans. See G A resolution 46/151, annex, sect. II. See also discussion under the Study of this Article in Supplement 8
\textsuperscript{319} A/51/16, para. 158.
\textsuperscript{320} A/51/48, para. 95.
\textsuperscript{321} A/54/3/Rev.1 (Agreed Conclusions 1999/2, paras. 22 and 23. See also concerns expressed in the CPC, A/52/16, para. 117.
\textsuperscript{322} A/52/16, para. 356.
\textsuperscript{323} E/AC.51/1998/7, para. 55. See also E/AC.51/1999/6, para. 130. The CPC recommended that the Special Initiative, through its Steering Committee, establish programmes to cover the two areas — regional cooperation and integration, and economic diversification — included in the System-wide Plan of Action but not the Special Initiative. A/52/16, para. 354.
\textsuperscript{324} E/AC.51/1999/6, para. 130.
\textsuperscript{325} A/53/16, para. 331. See also A/54/16, para. 570.
\textsuperscript{326} See, e.g. GA resolution 51/240, annex, paras. 186-191, and E S C Agreed Conclusions 1999/2, para. 16 and A/54/3/Rev.1. Reference was also made to the Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS). \textit{Ibid.}, para. 9.
\textsuperscript{327} See, e.g., G A resolutions 50/94, and 52/208. See also G A resolutions 51/170 and 53/177 on industrial development cooperation.
planned to market-based systems. Taking note of the report, the Assembly called upon the specialized agencies to provide policy advice and technical assistance to such economies on a social and political framework for economic and market reforms. The Assembly in particular stressed the provision of such advice in the development of conditions to attract foreign investors and the early identification of crises affecting financial stability, their integration into the international trading system, as well as support of entrepreneurship, privatization, and de-monopolization.

83. Deeply concerned that the international financial crisis had acquired extremely worrying dimensions posing a threat to world economic development, the Assembly stressed the need for further cooperation and collaboration. The Assembly had recognized that global financial integration presented new issues for the dialogue between the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods institutions. In this context, the Assembly requested that the Secretary-General cooperate with UNCTAD and the Bretton Woods institutions to analyze current needs to improve early warning response, and prevention capability for dealing with emergencies and the spread of financial crises in a timely manner. The Assembly also recognized the need to strengthen both the resources and the role of the IMF in the system-wide response to such events.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS IN SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND CONCERN

a. Advancement of Women

84. At the outset of the period under review, the Fourth World Conference on Women adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which included recommendations for the integration of gender issues in the policies and activities of the United Nations system. The Platform identified twelve critical areas for activities and programmes for specialized agencies, as well as governments, and civil society. The Platform asserted that coordination was crucial to the follow-up, noting that recent conferences and summits have included commitments to the empowerment of women in different areas. Other bodies, such as the CPC also stressed the need for coordination in this area. Endorsing the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, the Assembly repeatedly called upon organizations

329 G A resolutions 51/175, para. 2, and 53/179, para. 3.
330 G A resolution 52/182, sect. I, para. 9 and sect. III para. 15.
331 G A resolution 50/106, para. 2.
332 G A resolution 53/172, para. 7. See also Secretary-General report, A/53/398.
333 GA resolutions 50/91, para. 1, and 51/166, para. 2.
334 Ibid., para. 20.
335 Ibid., para. 6.
336 See A/Conf.177/20/Rev.1, ch.1, resolution 1, annexes I and II. While the Platform recognized that governments had the primary responsibility for its implementation, the Platform also stated that it “…needs to be implemented through the work of all of the bodies and organizations of the United Nations system specifically and as an integral part of wider programming during the period 2000-2005.” Ibid., annex II, paras. 293 and 306.
337 Ibid., annex II, para. 44. These areas were: the persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women, inequalities and inadequacies in and unequal access to education and training, inequalities and inadequacies in and unequal access to health care and related services, violence against women, the effects of armed or other kinds of conflict on women, inequality in economic structures and policies in all forms of productive activities and in access to resources, inequality between men and women in the sharing of power and decision-making at all levels, insufficient mechanisms at all levels to promote the advancement of women, lack of respect for and inadequate promotion and protection of human rights of women, stereotyping of women and inequality in women’s access to and participation in all communication systems especially the media, gender inequalities in the management of natural resources and in the safeguarding of the environment, and persistent discrimination against and violation of the rights of the girl child.
338 Ibid., para. 306. See also observations of the Secretary-General on common themes in his report on coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system and implementation of the results of major international conferences, E/1995/86, para. 57. The Assembly specifically called attention to issues of gender in such areas as poverty. See G A resolutions 50/107, para.4 and 53/198, para. 9.
339 A/53/16, paras. 301-304. See also Council’s agreed conclusions, A/52/3/Rev.1 (Agreed Conclusions 1997/2, para. 4)
of the United Nations system, *inter alia*, to implement the Platform.\(^{340}\) By resolution 52/100, the Assembly decided to convene a special session to appraise and assess progress in implementation of the Platform for Action.\(^{341}\)

**85.** In terms of institutional arrangements, the Platform recognized the role Council in overseeing system-wide coordination, requesting that it devote a coordination segment to the advancement of women prior to the year 2000.\(^{342}\) The period also saw particular consideration given to the role and functioning of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), which the Platform had recognized as having a central role in monitoring implementation within the United Nations system.\(^{343}\) Confirming the mandate of the CSW, the Council strengthened its role by assigning specific functions in implementing the Platform including the identification of issues of system-wide coordination in the United Nations system.\(^{344}\) For its part, the ACC decided to establish the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality (IACWGE), in addition to the three time-bound *ad hoc* inter-agency task forces established in 1995.\(^{345}\) The IACWGE was to address on a comprehensive system-wide basis all aspects of implementation of the Platform and gender-related recommendations of other conferences.\(^{346}\) Welcoming this action, the Council invited the IACWGE to undertake specific functions, such as the preparation of performance indicators.\(^{347}\)

**86.** Following the Conference, the Council’s 1997 Coordination Segment focused on the issue of mainstreaming a gender perspective in all parts of the United Nations system.\(^{348}\) The Assembly had called for organizations of the system to implement the Platform in particular by mainstreaming a gender perspective at all levels including the design, monitoring and evaluation of all policies.\(^{349}\) Recognizing that such a perspective was not yet fully integrated into the mainstream of United Nations activities, the Council expressed its aim of promoting a coordinated policy of gender mainstreaming by further clarifying the concept, its central principles as well as addressing specific recommendations to the United Nations system.\(^{350}\) The Council called for all entities of the United Nations system, and specifically the IACWGE, to institute mainstreaming the gender perspective at all levels through a number of steps, including formulation of mainstreaming strategies in sectoral areas, use of institutional directives rather than discretionary guidelines for gender mainstreaming, improvement of tools for mainstreaming such as analysis and disaggregated data, establishment of instruments for monitoring and evaluation, and the creation of accountability mechanisms.\(^{351}\) By resolution 52/100, the Assembly welcomed the Council’s Agreed Conclusions on mainstreaming to serve as a comprehensive basis for steps to achieve measured progress in mainstreaming, endorsing the Council’s recommendations therein.\(^{352}\)

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\(^{340}\) See, e.g., G A resolutions 50/42, paras. 3 and 4, 50/203, paras. 2 and 3, 51/69, para. 3, 52/100, para. 4 and 53/120, para. 3.

\(^{341}\) See also G A resolutions 52/231, paras. 1 and 2, and 53/120, para. 36. The Special Session was called for June of 2000. The Session would also consider progress since the previous World Conference in Nairobi, and the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies adopted therein.


\(^{343}\) A/Conf.177/20/Rev.1, annex 2, para. 318.

\(^{344}\) E S C resolution 1996/6, see especially sect. II, para. 2(c). The Assembly welcomed this action by resolution 51/69.

\(^{345}\) See E/1997/54, para. 25. The Council nevertheless reiterated that a gender perspective should be fully integrated in the work of all ACC inter-agency task forces. E S C resolution 1996/6 I, para. 2.

\(^{346}\) Ibid.

\(^{347}\) See E S C resolution 1996/34, para. 3. See also G A resolution 52/100, para. 40.

\(^{348}\) See Agreed Conclusions 1997/2, A/52/3/Rev.1, para. 4. The Secretary-General reported on activities in mainstreaming the gender perspective by the specialized agencies, see E/1997/66.

\(^{349}\) See G A resolution 53/120, para. 3.

\(^{350}\) Agreed Conclusions 1997/2. The Council defined mainstreaming the gender perspective as a process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including policies and programmes at all levels and areas. *Ibid.*, sect. I

\(^{351}\) *Ibid.*, sect II D.

\(^{352}\) See also G A resolution 53/120, para. 5.
87. In the context of a revised system-wide medium term plan for 1996-2001, the Medium-term Plan included proposed measures under each of the critical areas of concern identified by the Platform, as well as institutional and financial arrangements. In this context, various bodies stressed a coordinated approach. Presenting the proposed plan, the ACC commented that organizations of the United Nations system recognize the importance of an integrated approach to implementation. Reviewing the proposed plan, both the CSW and the CPC similarly stressed the need for a coordinated and collaborative approach by the United Nations system. The CSW and the CPC, however, cited the need for the medium-term plan to be more strategic in outlook indicating measurable outputs. The CPC recommended that consideration be given to designating lead agencies in activities where there was a multitude of participating entities to avoid duplication. The Council endorsed the proposed plan, requesting system-wide implementation in light of the comments of the CSW and the CPC.

88. Further to the recommendation of the CSW, the Council decided to undertake a comprehensive mid-term review of implementation of the revised plan in 1998. Following this review, the Council adopted resolution 1998/26 which recognized, inter alia, the need for the United Nations system to adopt a coordinated and coherent policy for gender mainstreaming that includes establishment of gender units/focal points, and guidelines and directives on mainstreaming the gender perspective.

b. Poverty

89. During the period under review, the eradication of poverty emerge as a primary objective for the Organization. The World Summit for Social Development at the outset of the period under review resulted in a declaration in which the participants called for the eradication of poverty, and in this regard, the Secretary-General observed that poverty had featured as a priority objective of all major United Nations conferences of the previous five years. Recognizing its international as well as national origins, recommendations of the Organization cited the central and essential role the United Nations system should play in supporting the poverty eradication efforts of States. An ACC statement reaffirmed that poverty eradication was a key international commitment and a central objective of the United Nations system.

90. Given the need for a multi-dimensional and multi-sectoral approach to poverty eradication, the coordination of policies programmes and activities of the United Nations system became a significant area of consideration and effort. The Council devoted the Coordination Segment of its 1996
Substantive Session to the subject. Following an assessment of poverty eradication efforts, the ACC issued a statement indicating that member organizations were committed to renewed effort to coordinate policy approaches, and give new impetus to collaborative actions by United Nations organizations. In this regard, the Programme of Action of the World Summit had indicated a series of actions for the eradication of poverty, which included specific functions for international organizations. These actions included the formation of integrated strategies with international organizations focusing on assisting different types of developing countries in the development of capacity-building in monitoring the progress of national programmes; improving access to productive resources and infrastructure with attention to both rural and urban poverty; meeting basic human needs including basic education and health care; and enhanced social protection and reduced vulnerability.

91. The Assembly at its fiftieth session proclaimed 1997-2006 as the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty. Organizations of the United Nations system, inter alia, were called upon to provide financial and technical support for the Decade with the ACC ensuring their involvement and coordination through its inter-agency task forces. The Assembly also organizations of the system to pursue implementation of the outcome of United Nations conferences related to the eradication of poverty, particularly that of the World Summit. For its part, the Council, after consideration of the issue at the Coordination segment of its 1996 substantive session, outlined a number of measures towards coordinating United Nations system support in poverty eradication. These included firstly a commitment to coordination of poverty eradication activities at the country-level, with organizations ensuring their country representatives are committed to poverty-eradication activities, to joint action and to the resident coordinator system. Secondly, the Council called for a common system-wide approach in country assessments, supporting monitoring by national governments and assessing achievements. Additional recommendations included support for national capacity in developing indicators and assessing data.

92. In addition to affirming the overall role of the Council and coordination functions of the ACC through its task forces, the focus on coordinated programmes at the country-level also led to a focus on the role of the resident coordinator. The Secretary-General repeatedly recommended strengthening the role of the resident coordinator. Adopting the Secretary-General’s recommendation, the Council urged

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368 The Secretary-General noted the decline in official development assistance and the growth in the number of people in poverty, highlighting several issues regarding coordination in the system. See A/52/573.
370 A/Conf.166/9, ch. I, resolution 1, annex II, paras. 26-41.
371 Ibid., para. 30.
372 Ibid., paras. 31-34.
373 Ibid., paras. 35-37.
374 Ibid., paras 38-41.
375 GA resolution 50/107, sect. II, para. 16. By resolution 48/183, the Assembly had already decided that 1996 would be the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty.
376 GA resolution 50/107, sect. II, paras. 22 and 23.
377 Ibid., para. 19. The Secretary-General was requested to pursue the establishment of focal points within organizations of the system for the implementation of such outcomes. Ibid., para. 17.
378 See E/C conclusions, 1996/1 I. For a report on implementation by the specialized agencies, see E/1997/58.
379 Ibid., para. 9. See also conclusions of the Joint Meeting of the ACC and CPC, E/1996/4, para. 10 (a).
380 Ibid., para. 11.
381 Ibid., para. 12.
further progress in harmonizing United Nations system support for national poverty eradication programmes using mechanisms within the resident coordinator system, such as thematic groups. 383

93. A specific initiative undertaken in the period cited in the context of the eradication of poverty was that of micro-credit. By resolution 51/178, the Assembly called on the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions to support the development of micro-credit. At its following sessions, the Assembly called for organizations of the United Nations system in particular to explore the incorporation of micro-credit approaches in their programmes, and the further development of micro-credit instruments. 384

c. Human settlements

94. The United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in 1996, resulted in the adoption of an Agenda and Global Plan of Action, which incorporated specific provisions on the involvement of the specialized agencies in policies and activities in implementation of the two goals of adequate housing for all and sustainable human settlements. 385 The Agenda called for, inter alia, organizations of the system to establish and strengthen cooperation mechanisms to integrate their policies, programmes and operations, as well as establish and foster partnerships with authorities, civil society and other organizations. 386 In this context, the Agenda recognized a need to renew and reform the operational activities of the system, calling for relevant specialized agencies to adjust their activities, programmes and medium-term strategies to take into account Habitat II, particularly at the field level. 387 In terms of cooperation mechanisms, the Habitat Agenda also placed emphasis on the role of the ACC, calling for the ACC to review procedures at the inter-agency level and include the Agenda in the mandates of its task forces. 388 The ACC requested that its task force on Basic Social Services for All pursue integration of relevant aspects of the outcome of Habitat II, inviting its other task forces and subsidiary bodies, notably the CCPOQ and the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development, to consider implementation of Habitat for their programmes of work. 389 The ACC subsequently decided that arrangements to follow up implementation of the results of Habitat II should focus on supporting country-level action, and should involve the development of guidelines to orient the resident coordinator system. 390

95. The Habitat Agenda also recognized the central role of the Commission on Human Settlements, as a standing committee of the Council, in monitoring implementation of the Agenda within the United Nations system. 391 Recommendations of the Commission requested that its Executive Director pursue this role. 392 Endorsing the Conference, in several resolutions the Assembly called upon organizations of the system, inter alia, to fully implement the Habitat Agenda. 393

383 E S C resolution 1999/5, para. 10.
384 G A resolutions 52/194, para. 9 and 53./198, para. 16. The Secretary-General reported for the first time on the role of micro-credit highlighting both its potential and limitations. A/53/223. The Assembly took note of the report by decision 53/448.
385 A/Conf.165/14, ch. I, resolution 1, annex II, especially sect. IV E and F and para. 234. Nevertheless, the primary responsibility of governments for implementation was recognized. Ibid., para. 213.
386 Ibid., para. 211 (a-g).
387 Ibid., para. 235. The Agenda included specific recommendations to the IMF, World Bank to integrate the Agenda’s goals into their policies and programmes, for example, by giving the goals a higher priority in lending programmes. Ibid., para. 236(a).
388 Ibid., para. 231.
390 See E/1997/73, para. 58. in this context, the focus would be on key issues such as urbanization, decentralization and capacity building.
391 A/Conf.165/14, ch. I, resolution 1, annex II, para. 225. Similarly, the Agenda recognized the role of the Centre for Human Settlements in assisting the Commission in formulating recommendations regarding the system. Ibid., para. 228.
392 See Commission on Human Settlements resolutions, A/52/8, resolution 16/21, para. 5 and A/54/8, resolution 17/17, para. 3.
393 G A resolutions 51/177, paras. 2 and 7, and 52/190, para. 8.
96. By resolution 52/190, the Assembly decided to hold a special session in 2001 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Habitat II. The Assembly called upon specialized agencies, *inter alia*, to identify specific initiatives and actions undertaken in preparation for the special session for overall review and appraisal of implementation of the Habitat Agenda. In this context, the Council decided to discuss human settlements at the Coordination Segment of its 2000 Substantive Session with coordinated implementation of the Agenda as its sectoral theme.

d. Youth and children

97. Consideration of programmes and activities in youth and children’s issues included a number of recommendations directed to specialized agencies. The World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, adopted by the Assembly at its fiftieth session, urged interested organizations of the United Nations system to review their medium-term planning process to give appropriate consideration to a youth perspective in their activities. The Programme of Action recommended that organizations further identify current and projected programmes that correspond to the priorities of the Programme of Action so they can be reinforced throughout the system, with certain specialized agencies identified in some of the priority areas, such as the ILO and FAO in respect to hunger and poverty, or the WHO concerning drug abuse. The Organization called on the specialized agencies, *inter alia*, to make all possible efforts to implement the Programme of Action.

98. Subsequently, the Lisbon Declaration of the Third World Youth Forum of the United Nations System held in 1998, invited the specialized agencies, in particular the ILO, UNESCO, WHO and the World Bank, to give greater support to national youth policies and programmes within their country programmes. In this regard, the Secretary-General noted a decline in United Nations system activities in support of national youth policies and programmes. The Assembly endorsed the Declaration’s call to specialized agencies by resolution 54/120.

99. As regards children, the Assembly decided to convene a special session in 2001 to review the achievement of goals of the World Summit for Children to which organizations of the system were invited to participate. Following the mid-decade review of implementation of the World Summit at the outset of the period under review, the Assembly called upon organizations of the United Nations system to take account of the lessons learned, and to consider specific measures to address the special needs for children. The Assembly cited the important role of the United Nations system in providing coordinated support for implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the World Summit Declaration and Plan of Action. In this context, the Assembly called upon organizations of the United Nations system to

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394 G A resolution 54/209, para. 2.
395 E S C decision 1999/281. The Assembly welcomes this decision. See G A resolution 54/208, para. 10.
396 See G A resolution 50/81, para. 1.
398 *Ibid.*, para. 133. The Programme of Action included 10 priority areas: education, employment, hunger and poverty, health, environment, drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, leisure-time activities, girls and young women, and full and effective participation of youth in the life of society and decision-making.
401 See G A resolution 54/120, para. 3, and E S C resolution 1997/55, para. 2.
402 WCMRY/1998/28, ch. I, resolution 1, para. 82.
403 A/54/59, para. 82.
404 See G A resolutions 51/186, para. 27 and 54/93, paras. 1 and 10. The Secretary-General proposed the special session in his mid-decade review of Implementation of the World Summit. A/51/256, para. 299. For the text of the World Summit Declaration and Plan of Action, see G A resolution 45/625, annex.
405 See A/51/256.
406 G A resolution 51/186, para. 20.
strengthen inter-agency collaboration in policies and programmes regarding improved protection of children in difficult circumstances, such as those internally displaced or refugees. 

100. The principal organs took a number of decisions with respect to system-wide coordination and inter-agency cooperation in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child. A series of resolutions included specific calls to the Secretary-General, as the ACC chair, to ensure that organizations of the United Nations system take into account the rights and particular needs of girls. The Assembly also made specific recommendations for coordinated action on the part of the specialized agencies in respect to children affected by armed conflict, including collaboration with the Special Representative appointed to work on the issue.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL DISASTERS

a. Environment

101. The Assembly held its Nineteenth Special Session on the review and appraisal of implementation of Agenda 21, which had been adopted at UNCED in 1992. In this context, the Assembly observed that, five years after UNCED, the state of the global environment continued to deteriorate. Consequently, the Assembly endorsed a programme for further implementation of Agenda 21, including three proposals for urgent action. Firstly, the Assembly called for the integration of economic, social and environmental objectives by making trade and environment mutually supportive with great responsiveness through action from, inter alia, the Bretton Woods Institutions and the WTO. Secondly, the resolution identified a number of sectors and issues of widespread concern in which to focus implementation, such as water, or the management and international regulation of hazardous and radioactive wastes under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency and the International Maritime Organization. Thirdly, the resolution identified means of implementation through such action as mobilizing financial resources and mechanisms within concessional mechanisms of multilateral financial institutions. The Assembly underscored the importance of continued active and collaborative involvement on the part of all bodies of the United Nations system in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for Further Implementation of Agenda 21.
102. In this context, increasing awareness of the environment within international public opinion had led a number of United Nations agencies in recent years to involve themselves increasingly in the environmental field. The Programme for Further Implementation consequently called for ever greater policy coordination. The Programme consequently included specific sections on greater coherence in various intergovernmental organizations and the role of relevant organizations of the United Nations system.

103. As the principal United Nations body in the field of the environment, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and its role were examined during the period under review. While the catalytic and coordinating role of UNEP had been recognized in the context of Agenda 21, the role and function of UNEP was seen to have diminished in recent years with the involvement of other organizations of the system and the advent of other coordination bodies, such as the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). Nevertheless, as the only programme of the United Nations mandated to address environmental issues globally, recommendations in the period consequently emphasized the strengthening of UNEP. In this regard, recommendations stressed the need for UNEP to refocus its role in terms of coordination with other bodies, assuming leadership at the strategic and intellectual level rather than responsibility for operational activities. An in-depth evaluation at the end of the period presented a series of recommendations on strengthening and distinguishing UNEP. These included general recommendations for increased communication and inter-action with organizations of the system on the part of UNEP in overall policy formulation and identification, particularly with respect to emerging environmental issues. Other recommendations concerned UNEP activities in substantive areas, such as environmental assessment, management, and support. The CPC stated its general agreement with the main thrust of the report on refocusing UNEP by strengthening its partnership with other organizations. At its subsequent session, the UNEP Governing Council undertook a number of measures, including the establishment of a High-level Committee to consider the international environmental agenda, make policy recommendations, and provide guidance on emerging environmental issues, as well as enhance collaboration with other multilateral bodies. The Assembly specifically cited the relevance of this decision in the Programme for Further Implementation.

104. As noted, the implications of the creations of the CSD for the role and function of UNEP were a matter of consideration. The Assembly recognized the need for close cooperation between UNEP and the

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419 See observations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), A/51/810, para. 6.
420 S/19-2, annex, sect. IV, para. 117.
421 Ibid, paras. 117-121.
422 Ibid, paras. 122-129.
423 Ibid., para. 123.
424 The role and functioning of UNEP were the focus of the in-depth evaluation of the programme on the environment and a triennial review during the period. See E/AC.51/1995/3 and E/AC.51/1998/5.
425 A/Conf.151/26/Rev.1, para. 38.21 and 38.22. See also GA resolution 2997 (XXVIII).
426 See A/51/810, paras. 6 and 12. The number and influence of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) was also seen to have had an impact in diminishing UNEP’s “catalytic” role. Ibid., para. 10.
428 See GA resolution 50/110, paras. 1 and 2, 53/187, paras. 1, 2 and 5.
429 Consultations were held immediately prior to the period offering such a conclusion. See E/AC.51/1995/3, para. 12. See also conclusions of the CPC, A/50/16, paras. 244 and 246.
430 E/AC.51/1995/3, recommendations 1 and 2. Recommendation 2(a) called for UNEP to coordinate, under the guidance of the Governing Council, in a manner conducive to other institutions assuming greater operational and financial responsibility. Ibid.
432 A/50/16, para. 246. UNEP similarly welcomed the recommendations. See UNEP decision 18/5, A/50/25.
433 UNEP decision 19/32. Additional measures concerned the functioning of the Committee of Permanent Representatives of UNEP. See ibid., sect. (g).
434 GA resolution S/19-2, annex, sect. IV, para. 123.
CSD in implementing the recommendations of UNCED, in accordance with chapter 38 of Agenda 21. At the same time, the Assembly reaffirmed the role of the Commission as the central forum for reviewing progress in the implementation of Agenda 21, highlighting its significance in the context of the Programme for Further Implementation in providing linkages to the work of the system in the field of sustainable development. Within this context, the General Assembly called upon the CSD, working under the guidance of the Council, to establish closer interaction with inter alia international financial institutions, as well as other relevant bodies within and outside the United Nations system.

105. An additional focus of attention was the role of the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development (IACSD), established to coordinate implementation by the United Nations system of Agenda 21 recommendations, and to provide leadership in specific programme areas. Further to its decision in 1994, the ACC undertook a three-phased assessment of IACSD functioning prior to the Assembly’s Nineteenth Special Session, which resulted in the recommendation that the IACSD place greater emphasis on policy issues, such as the promotion of policy advice, strategy development and the promotion of joint programming at the country level. Referencing the IACSD, the Assembly emphasized the need for enhanced system-wide intersectoral cooperation and coordination for the implementation of Agenda 21. To this end, the Committee discussed the possibility of broadening its current task-manager system and clarifying the division of labor between the standing committees of the ACC.

b. Marine conservation and protection

106. The period under review saw new emphasis placed on the role of specialized agencies in the protection of the marine environment. A primary feature of concern became implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA).

107. The organization took decisions with regard to the implementation of the GPA, in particular the creation of coordination mechanisms for specialized agencies and other bodies involved in the protection of the marine environment. In this context, the GPA itself emphasized in particular the creation of linkages among inter alia specialized agencies with relevant expertise and responsibilities with respect to particular sources of land-based pollution. Specialized agencies would be involved in activities including responses to environmental emergencies, and the development of a clearing-house mechanism addressing the various sources of land-based pollution. In endorsing the GPA, the Assembly continued to emphasize the role of specialized agencies in the coordinated implementation of

435 See GA resolution 50/110, para. 1. See also A/50/25, para. 49.
436 See GA resolution S/19-2, para. 130.
437 Ibid, para. 133.
438 See E/1996/18, paras. 56-66.
439 See E/1993/81, para. 30. See also discussion under the study of this Article in Supplement 8.
441 ACC annual overview report, E/1996/18, para. 64.
442 See GA resolution S/19-2, para. 120.
443 Ibid.
444 See GA resolutions 51/189, para. 1, and 54/33, para. 8.
446 See generally, GA resolution 51/189. On SOCA reform, see GA resolution 54/33, para. 8.
447 See A/51/116, annex II, para. 41(a).
448 Ibid, para. 41(i).
449 Ibid, para. 42.
the GPA, defining the categories of pollution to be included in the clearing-house mechanism, and assigning specific specialized agencies the lead role in the relevant categories of pollution.\(^{450}\)

108. The Assembly called upon UNEP to take expeditious action in providing for the establishment of the clearing-house mechanism to coordinate the activities of the lead agencies.\(^{451}\) To this end, UNEP first invited two subcommittees of the ACC—the Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas (SOCA) and the Subcommittee on Water Resources (SWR), composed of representatives of the specialized agencies, to act as the Steering Committee on Technical Cooperation and Assistance in overseeing the basic design and structure of the clearing-house mechanism.\(^{452}\)

109. The expanded involvement of specialized agencies and their role in the functioning of such coordination mechanisms during the period prompted concerns among specialized agencies.\(^{453}\) A number of specialized agencies expressed reservations concerning the expansion of their responsibilities without sanction from their own governing bodies, and absent additional financial resources.\(^{454}\) SOCA in turn requested greater guidance from UNEP.\(^{455}\) In this context, the ACC’s Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development suggested that UNEP prepare some concrete guidelines for SOCA and SWR, which could take account of the recommendations made by SOCA to define its functions as a coordinating body for inter-agency cooperation on the Global Programme of action.\(^{456}\) The Assembly also requested that the Secretary-General take measures to improve the effectiveness, transparency and responsiveness of SOCA.\(^{457}\)

110. In other areas, the Organization made repeated recommendations to specialized agencies concerning the conservation of living marine resources and the regulation of fishing.\(^{458}\) More specifically, the Assembly consistently invited the relevant specialized agencies, and specifically the FAO, to assist the Secretary-General in reporting on developments in the conservation and management of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks.\(^{459}\)

c. Natural disasters

111. In light of increasing human loss and damage from natural disasters, the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action, adopted prior to the period under review, had called for effective coordination of international disaster management, particularly by the United Nations system, as a matter of paramount importance.\(^{460}\) A feature of the review of the International Decade for Natural Disaster reduction

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\(^{450}\) See GA resolution 51/189, para. 9. With regard to the role of specialized agencies, for example the WHO was asked to take the lead in sewage, IAEA in radioactive substances, FAO in nutrients and sediment mobilization; and IMO in oils and litter. \textit{Ibid.}

\(^{451}\) See GA Resolution 51/189, para. 8 in which the Assembly called upon UNEP, “within its available resources, and with the aid of voluntary contributions from States for this purpose, to take expeditious action to provide for the establishment and implementation of the clearing-house mechanism referred to in the Global Programme of Action.”


\(^{453}\) See SOCA report, ACC/1996/8, para. 1(a), and ACC/1997/3, para. 10.

\(^{454}\) See ACC Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas Report, ACC/1998/8, para. 32.

\(^{455}\) See ACC/1999/8, para. 6.

\(^{456}\) The IACSD agreed to re-consider implementation of the GPA at its next session in 2000. ACC/1999/12, para. 22. In this regard, the IACSD noted concerns expressed by a number of States over the slow progress in implementation of the GPA. See ACC/1999/12, paras. 18 and 22.

\(^{457}\) See GA resolution 54/33, para. 8.

\(^{458}\) See GA resolutions 50/24, paras 5-6, 51/35, paras 7-9, 52/28, paras 8-10, 54/32, paras 8-10.

\(^{459}\) See GA resolutions 50/24, paras 5-6, 51/35, paras 7-9, 52/28, paras 8-10, 54/32, paras 8-10.

\(^{460}\) A/Conf.172, ch. I, resolution 1, annex, paras. 1 and 9. The Yokohama Plan called for disaster prevention to become an integrated component of development programmes. \textit{Ibid.}, para. 13(c).
(IDNDR), the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action prompted a number of measures directed at the coordination of the specialized agencies in response to natural disasters in the period under review.462

112. While the Secretary-General observed that the Yokohama Conference confirmed the validity of the concept and potential of the IDNDR, he noted however that the Decade was at a crossroads, recommending that the focus of activity shift from promotional aspects of disaster reduction to practical implementation of disaster reduction measures.464 The Secretary-General subsequently stressed the need for United Nations agencies and organizations to incorporate disaster reduction in national planning activities.465 He further recommended the identification of natural disasters in the coordinated follow-up and implementation of major United Nations conferences, particularly its identification as a crosscutting issue on the evaluation and implementation of Agenda 21.466 The Assembly and the Council reiterated this recommendation.467

113. A subsequent Secretary-General report identified the over-riding need for a common approach to disaster reduction activities through the adoption of a global policy approach to be designated the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.468 The Strategy included the objective of enabling communities to become resilient to the effects of hazards, and to proceed from protection against hazards to management of risk by integrated risk prevention strategies.469 The Secretary-General stressed that it was essential that the International Strategy serve as both an overall strategy and a cooperative effort to promote cost-effective approaches to disaster prevention.470

114. The organization sought to take measures to improve the early warning capacity of the system in response to natural disasters, and especially technical hazards. In light of gaps in coverage of the issue, the Secretary-General recommended a collective United Nations approach to define a doctrine reflecting the true cross-sectoral, multi-disciplinary, and inter-agency nature of comprehensive global early warning activities with an authority or mechanism designated to provide comprehensive oversight.471 By resolution 50/117, the Assembly took note of the Secretary-General recommendations and invited him within the international framework of the IDNDR to develop proposals for international mechanisms. Further to Secretary-General recommendations, responsibility for the coordination of operational activities in natural disaster mitigation, prevention and preparedness were transferred from the Emergency Relief Coordinator to the UNDP.473 Council resolution 1999/63 also endorsed the Secretary-General recommendations.

461 G A resolution 44/236, annex. See also discussion under the Study of this Article in Supplement 7.
463 A/50/201, para. 88.
464 Ibid., para. 90.
465 A/51/186, para. 74(b).
466 Ibid., paras. 73(f) and 74(c).
467 See G A resolution 51/185, para. 8. and E S C resolution 1996/45, paras. 5 and 7.
468 A/54/497, para. 5. The Secretary-General also outlined further implementation of the institutional successor arrangements to the IDNDR indicated above, emphasizing synergies and interface with the inter-agency committees and sub committees of the ACC. Ibid., sect. III.
469 Ibid., para. 7. The Secretary-General included four goals including increasing public awareness and participation, the commitment of public authorities and reduction of socio-economic loss. Ibid., para. 8 (a-d).
470 Ibid., para. 10.
471 A/50/526, paras. 101 and 102. In its 1999 Agreed Conclusions, the Council reaffirmed that early warning must be strengthened at regional and national levels through better coordination among United Nations bodies. A/54/3/Rev.1 (Agreed Conclusions 1999/1, para. 12).
472 A/51/950, para. 189.
473 G A resolution 52/12 B and para. 16. The Emergency Relief Coordinator was renamed the United Nations Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator and retained responsibilities for natural disaster relief. Ibid., para. 15. See also A/51/950, para. 189 and discussion infra.
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proposals to establish an inter-agency task force on natural disaster reduction to serve as the main forum of the United Nations system for devising strategies and policies.474

115. During the period under review, the organization also examined the El Nino phenomenon. An inter-agency task force was established to coordinate information and activities respecting the phenomena.475 The Secretary-General stressed that the prevention of the impact of future El Nino events must be the highest priority of international disaster management, observing that the United Nations offers the unique platform for the study of causes, evaluation of capabilities, analysis of needs and implementation of preventive action.476 The Secretary-General consequently called for active collaboration and exploitation of synergies between science, technical and operational entities of institutions of the United Nations system to understand and predict the impact of El Nino, and the development of preventive activities.477 The Assembly endorsed the Secretary-General’s recommendations by resolution 53/185. A subsequent report by the Secretary-General reviewing action taken highlighted the value of inter-agency coordination pursuant to that resolution, recommended continued efforts to coordinate the United Nations system after the end of the IDNDR, and inviting the Assembly and Council to ensure the continuation of the inter-agency task force on El Nino.478 The Council welcomed the conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary-General’s report by resolution 1999/46.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO POLITICAL AND SECURITY QUESTIONS

a. Sanctions

116. Following the imposition of sanctions against certain States by the United Nations in the early 1990s, the Organization undertook consistent efforts to coordinate the activities and policies of specialized agencies in providing assistance to neighboring third States adversely affected by such sanctions.479 These efforts resulted in repeated consideration of a collective approach and methodology for the system as a whole, including measures to enhance its ability to address the needs of affected third States.480 In this regard, while the coordinated assistance by specialized agencies with respect to ongoing sanctions had been undertaken in the past by subsidiary bodies, notably in the case of Iraq,481 the complexity and diversity among sanctions regimes prompted recognition of the need to develop a more collective approach to the issue.482

474 See Secretary-General proposal, A/54/136, para. 20. A secretariat for the Task Force was also proposed. Ibid., para. 21.
475 See A/53/487, para. 30.
476 Ibid., paras. 45 and 46(a).
477 Ibid., para. 46(b).
478 A/54/135, paras. 18 and 19. The Secretary-General also attested to the crucial importance of continuing the institutional connections between the Inter-Agency Committee on Climate Agenda, formed in 1997, and the United Nations system-wide disaster prevention constituency in the successor arrangements to the IDNDR. Ibid., para. 20.
479 See G A resolutions 50/51, paras. 3, 4, and 6, 50/58 E, paras. 4, 5, and 8, 51/30 A, paras. 3 and 5, 53/107, para. 6, and 54/96 G, para. 4. At the request of the CPC, the ACC regularly considered the issue of third States adversely affected by the imposition of sanctions in its annual reports during the period. See ACC Annual Overview Reports, E/1996/18, para. 81, E/1997/54, para. 57, and E/2000/53, para. 66. See also Study of Article 50 in this Supplement.
482 See CPC report, A/51/317, paras. 13 and 14. See also GA resolution 50/51, paras 3-6. In this context, in his report “An Agenda for Peace,” the Secretary-General had recommended that the Security Council “devise a set of measures involving the financial institutions and other components of the United Nations system that can be put in place to insulate States from such difficulties.” See Secretary-General report, A/47/277, para. 41. Following its adoption of the Agenda for Peace at its forty-seventh session, the Assembly, by resolution 47/120, decided to explore ways to support Secretary-General recommendations.
117. The organization considered an overall approach to the issue of assistance to third States during the period under review: the General Assembly, at its fiftieth session, adopted a resolution specifically inviting the organizations of the UN system to address the matter. In its resolution, the Assembly asked the Secretary-General to explore expeditiously innovative and practical measures for assisting third States by cooperating with institutions within the UN system. In particular, the Assembly asked the Secretary-General to report with guidelines to include, *inter alia*, a possible methodology for assessing the consequences incurred by third States and the coordination of information about available assistance. The Secretary-General proposed the formation of an *ad hoc* group of experts, made up of representatives of organizations inside and outside the United Nations system, to consider the implementation of Charter provisions involving assistance to third States affected by the imposition of sanctions, and the development of a possible methodology for assessing the impact upon third States within this context.

118. Reporting to the Assembly during the subsequent year, the Secretary-General presented the recommendations and conclusions of the experts, which had concluded that the development of a methodology and technical measures were mutually complementary. It accordingly identified a number of areas for the Organization to focus on. These included: a greater focus on impact assessment, emphasizing the financial, humanitarian, and secondary effects associated with sanctions enforcement confronting third States; the establishment of a framework for action at the national level, including appropriate adjustments; the creation of inter-agency task forces with the participation of international organizations within and outside the United Nations system in response to the most severe cases; and the use of fact-finding missions. The Assembly welcomed the report of the *ad hoc* meeting at its fifty-fourth session.

119. A primary focus became the role of the ACC in coordination of assistance to third States prior to the period. Repeated reference was also made to the specific contribution of international financial institutions, and the Bretton Woods institutions in particular, both in the context of the development of a possible methodology or response, as well as in the context of Yugoslavia. The Assembly also took decisions with regard to assistance to regional third States adversely affected by the on-going imposition of sanctions in the case of Iraq. The Assembly repeatedly renewed its request for assistance from *inter alia* specialized agencies in developing potential remedies for the problems experienced by third States.

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483 See G A resolution 50/51, para. 6.
484 Ibid., para. 3(d).
485 Ibid, para. 4. The Secretary-General was also called upon to cooperate with institutions outside the United Nations system. See G A resolution 50/51, para. 3(d).
486 A/52/308, para. 12. The Assembly adopted the recommendation of the Secretary-General. See G A resolution 52/162, para. 4.
487 See Secretary-General report, A/53/312, para. 49.
488 Ibid.
489 Ibid., para. 50.
490 Ibid., para. 53.
491 Ibid., para. 54. With regard to the inter-agency task forces, each group was to be comprised of three subgroups reflecting the financial, humanitarian, and effects associated with sanctions in outlined above. Accordingly, each subgroup would deal with each issue drawing on the experience of relevant bodies. To this end, the World Bank and IMF might be called on to deal with the financial effects of sanctions on third States, while the ILO, FAO, and WHO might be asked to address humanitarian concerns. See Secretary-General report, A/53/312, para. 54.
492 Ibid., para. 56.
493 See GA resolution 54/107, para. 4.
494 The CPC called for the ACC to give continuous consideration of third States affected by the imposition of sanctions. See CPC report, A/50/16, para. 277
495 See G A resolutions 50/51, para. 6, 51/208, para. 8, 52/162, para. 6, 53/107, para. 6, and 54/107, para. 8. See also report of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Task Forces, A/53/312, para. 54.
496 See G A resolutions 50/58 E, para. 4, 51/30 A, para. 4, 52/169 H, para. 3, and 54/96 G, para. 4 dealing specifically with third States adversely affected by the imposition of sanctions on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.
from the imposition of sanctions on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Organizations and specialized agencies were also called upon to take steps in material and food supply for the United Nations Protection Force and other United Nations contingents, particularly by sourcing goods from the States affected by the implementation of the Security Council sanctions. The Assembly recommended that specialized agencies maintain their assistance even after sanctions on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia were lifted in November of 1995, given the continuing negative repercussions of the sanctions.

b. Democratization and institutional support

120. Stressing the need to ensure an integrated approach to the consideration, planning and conduct of activities from potential conflict to post-conflict peace-building, the Assembly, in its Supplement to an Agenda for Peace, adopted a number of recommendations on the coordination of the United Nations system. The Assembly encouraged the establishment of coordination procedures to contribute to the prevention of conflict and the transition from peace-keeping to peace-making. The Assembly encouraged representatives of the organizations within the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, to meet and develop arrangements for coordination and the provision of assistance to institution-building and social and economic development.

121. In this context, a series of resolutions of the Assembly addressed the question of support by the United Nations system to the promotion and consolidation of new or restored democracies. Following the Third International Conference of New or Restored Democracies in 1997, the Assembly invited the specialized agencies to contribute actively to the follow-up to the guidelines and recommendations adopted at the Third International Conference, as well as collaborate in the Fourth.

122. A primary objective identified at the outset of the period was enhancing coordination within the United Nations system in promoting democratic institutions in light of the breadth of activities and programmes. The ACC subgroup on Capacity Building for Governance noted that despite recognition of the need for cooperative efforts, few instances of significant collaboration amongst United Nations organizations existed in the planning and implementation of governance programmes. The ACC therefore undertook consideration of ways to reinforce the capacity of the system as a whole with a focus on the development of linkages between the system’s analytic capacities and its operations in political, humanitarian and development fields. The ACC also endorsed the elaboration of a strategic framework for response to and recovery from crisis to be developed in consultation with authorities concerned and

498 See GA resolutions 50/58E, paras. 4 and 5, 51/30A, paras. 5, 7, and 8, and 52/169H, paras. 3 and 5.
499 See GA resolution 50/58E, para. 8.
500 See GA resolutions 51/30A, 52/169H, and 54/96G.
501 See GA resolutions 47/120 A and 47/120 B.
502 See G A resolution 51/242, annex I, sect. II. See also Secretary-General report, A/50/60.
504 Ibid. The Assembly in this context also welcomed efforts to make the ACC more effective by bringing the heads of specialized agencies together to achieve coordination in respect to humanitarian activities towards the consolidation of peace and security. Ibid., para. 9.
505 See GA resolutions 50/133, 51/31, 52/18, 53/31 and 54/36. See also the Declaration and Plan of Action of the Second International Conference of New and Restored Democracies, A/49/713, annex I and II.
506 See A/52/334, annex, appendix.
507 See GA resolutions 52/18, para. 11 and 54/36, para. 3. The Conference included guidelines on matters from judicial reform to political opposition to accountability and transparency, and included recommendations addressed to the United Nations system and the international financial institutions. See A/52/334, annex, appendix, sects. I and IV.
508 G A resolution 54/36, para. 6.
509 See observations of the Secretary-General, A/50/332, para. 130/ See also A/52/513, para. 46.
510 A/52/513, para. 47.
tested in selected countries.\textsuperscript{511} The Assembly welcomed the measures undertaken by the ACC in resolution 53/31.

\textbf{123.} For his part, the Secretary-General entrusted the Deputy Secretary-General with responsibility for steering the further development of the strategic framework.\textsuperscript{512} He also identified measures within the Secretariat such as the creation of an Executive Committee in peace and security and a Strategic Planning Unit with access to information and research relevant to policy.\textsuperscript{513}

\textbf{124.} Within the context of institution-building and democratization, resolutions of the Assembly stressed coordination in such matters as human rights and the administration of justice.\textsuperscript{514} The Assembly also highlighted the importance of increased synergy, cooperation and coordination between the Secretariat, the specialized agencies and Bretton Woods institutions in activities in support of national development of public administration.\textsuperscript{515}

c. \textit{Humanitarian assistance}

\textbf{125.} In his report to the fifty-first session of the Assembly, the Secretary-General observed that humanitarian action was at a crossroads with the escalation of conflicts and displacement causing a “quantum leap” in the need for response by the international community.\textsuperscript{516} The period under review consequently saw a significant degree of attention paid to enhancing the contribution of the United Nations system, including the specialized agencies, to the provision of humanitarian assistance. Decisions of both the Assembly and the Council addressed a number of recommendations to organizations of the system on the subject.\textsuperscript{517} Following the recommendation of the Secretary-General in his Programme for Reform,\textsuperscript{518} the Council added a Humanitarian Affairs Segment to the consideration of issues at its Substantive Sessions.

\textbf{126.} The coordination of humanitarian assistance emerged as one of the primary issues to which bodies of the Organization devoted consideration and action.\textsuperscript{519} Decisions of both the Assembly and the Council provided a number of recommendations concerned with measures to ensure cooperation and coherence among organizations of the system in their humanitarian activities.\textsuperscript{520} The Secretary-General had identified coordination as a main area of weakness in the provision of humanitarian assistance by the system, noting that despite widespread agreement on its necessity, there were differences in perception as to what coordination implied in practice and how it applied in the field.\textsuperscript{521}

\textsuperscript{511} See ACC annual overview report for 1997, E/1998/21, paras. 49 and 51. The ACC considered a draft framework for Afghanistan in the following year. It also agreed that in developing the process further, due account should be taken of existing coordination mechanisms and structures such as the CCPOQ, the inter-agency standing committee and the Consolidated Appeals Process. See E/1999/48, paras. 32-34.
\textsuperscript{512} E/1999/48, para. 33.
\textsuperscript{513} A/52/513, para. 48.
\textsuperscript{514} See, e.g., GA resolutions 50/181, para. 7, and 54/163, para. 12.
\textsuperscript{515} See GA resolution 50/225, para. 12.
\textsuperscript{516} A/51/172, para. 105. See also A/50/203, para. 4.
\textsuperscript{517} See GA resolutions 51/194, and 53/88. See also ESC resolutions 1995/56 and 1996/33. The Humanitarian Assistance Segments of the 1998 and 1999 Substantive Sessions of the Council were also substantially concerned with the role and contribution of organizations of the system to humanitarian assistance. See A/53/3 (Agreed Conclusions 1998/1) and A/54/3/Rev.1 (Agreed Conclusions 1999/1).
\textsuperscript{518} A/51/950, para. 193.
\textsuperscript{519} The Secretary-General identified coordination in humanitarian action as one of the three main issues of debate among organizations of the system, A/51/172, para. 32.
\textsuperscript{520} See GA resolution 51/194, and 53/88. See also ESC resolutions 1995/56 and 1996/33. See further A/53/3 (Agreed Conclusions 1998/1) and A/54/3/Rev.1 (Agreed Conclusions 1999/1).
\textsuperscript{521} A/51/172, para. 111. Additional weaknesses identified in the provision of humanitarian assistance by the system included: prevention, preparedness and contingency planning; the availability of resources; and accountability and the need to assess impact. \textit{Ibid.}, paras. 110, 112 and 113.
127. In light of identification of the need for humanitarian assistance, the Organization undertook consideration of mechanisms for its provision. As noted, the Council assumed a specific role providing recommendations on humanitarian assistance with the adoption of a Humanitarian Assistance Segment. At the Secretariat-level, the Secretary-General sought to strengthen the Office of Emergency Relief Coordinator, to be renamed the United Nations Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator, by assigning it the core functions of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs.\textsuperscript{522} The Coordinator would focus on three core functions: policy development and coordination functions in support of the Secretary-General, advocacy of humanitarian issues with political organs, notably the Security Council, and coordination of humanitarian emergency response through consultations with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC).\textsuperscript{523} The Economic and Social Council welcomed the efforts of the Secretary-General and fully supported the leadership role of the Emergency Relief Coordinator for ongoing coordination of humanitarian assistance activities.\textsuperscript{524} Additional consideration was given to improving the effectiveness of the IASC, \textsuperscript{525} notably through moving to a more strategic approach that emphasizes the importance of ensuring humanitarian assistance contribution to the peace-making and peace-building activities of the United Nations.\textsuperscript{526} Additional note should be taken of such approaches as the strategic framework process aimed at strengthening the capacity of the United Nations system in a mutually reinforcing way in response to crisis situations.\textsuperscript{527}

128. The Organization devoted further attention to the issue of coordination at the country-level; an issue, which the Secretary-General considered paramount.\textsuperscript{528} The IASC had concluded that it was desirable to maintain a unitary system of coordination in the field under the Resident Coordinator system to better link relief with development assistance and streamline the coordination structure, though other options were recognized for complex or overtly political situations.\textsuperscript{529} The IASC and the United Nations Development Group therefore agreed to improve the training and selection of resident/humanitarian coordinators, including the establishment of criteria for selection and to establish a roster of potential humanitarian coordinators.\textsuperscript{530}

129. Recommendations identified the need to develop a comprehensive and linked approach to countries in crisis in which recovery, peace-building, human rights and sustainable development were cited as key aspects.\textsuperscript{531} The Council in this context highlighted that relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development overlap, welcoming the World Bank decision to enter into early dialogue with humanitarian agencies.\textsuperscript{532} At the same time, there was recognition of the need for activities directed to particular

\textsuperscript{522} See A/51/950, paras. 186 and 188 and Action 13.
\textsuperscript{523} Ibid. The emphasis on the role of the Emergency Relief Coordinator on the coordination of humanitarian assistance was also underscored through the assignment of capacity-building functions in prevention, mitigation and preparedness for natural disasters to UNDP. Ibid., paras. 187 and 189.
\textsuperscript{524} See A/53/3 (ES C Agreed Conclusions 1998/1, para. 9).
\textsuperscript{525} See GA resolution 51/194, para. 4. See also E/1997/98.
\textsuperscript{526} A/53/139, para. 22. The Secretary-General also commented that the Emergency Relief Coordinator sought to engage the IASC in proactive and collaborative efforts to deal with a limited number of key humanitarian issues, such as the question of internally displaced persons, the development of a consolidated appeals process, the security of humanitarian workers and field coordination. Ibid., para. 17.
\textsuperscript{527} The Secretary-General underscored the need to develop such a framework in his report to the fifty-third session. See A/53/139, para. 78. Consideration of the matter was undertaken by the ACC at its Spring 1998 session. See E/1999/48, paras. 32-34.
\textsuperscript{528} A/53/139, para. 25.
\textsuperscript{529} These included the designation of a lead agency to coordinate the international humanitarian response, or the appointment of a humanitarian coordinator separate from the resident coordinator. See E/1997/98, paras. 24 and 25. See also A/53/139, para. 24.
\textsuperscript{530} A/53/139, para. 26. The Council fully supported these efforts. See A/53/3 (ES C Agreed Conclusions 1998/1, para. 12).
\textsuperscript{531} See A/53/3 (ES C Agreed Conclusions 1998/1, para. 17).
\textsuperscript{532} Ibid. The participation of the Bretton Woods institutions, such as in the context of the development of the Strategic Framework, was repeatedly recognized. A/53/139, para. 78. See also A/52/871, para. 70.
humanitarian assistance issues, such as displaced persons. Additional recommendations called for consideration and activities concerning the humanitarian effects of sanctions. Respecting sanctions, the Council called for particular attention to minimize the humanitarian effects of sanctions on women and children. Additional issues concerned early warning and contingency planning, demobilization and reintegration, and mine-related activities.

130. Reference may be made to recommendations to the specialized agencies in support of humanitarian assistance to individual countries or regions. The Council in its Agreed Conclusion highlighted several examples of programmes meriting further development, such as the Strategic Framework launched for Sierra Leone. In addition, the Assembly made repeated appeals to, inter alia, specialized agencies, for example, to provide financial, technical and material assistance for the restoration of basic services and the reconstruction of Afghanistan, including the safe return of refugees. Other resolutions concerned the provision of assistance by specialized agencies for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Nicaragua in the aftermath of war and natural disasters, which the Assembly recognized as important for the consolidation of peace, democracy and sustainable development. The Assembly also addressed recommendations to specialized agencies concerning humanitarian and disaster relief assistance to a range of other individual States and regions.

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534 A/54/3/Rev.1 (E S C Agreed Conclusions 1999/1, para. 10). The Council repeatedly emphasized incorporation of the gender perspective in cooperation with the Division for the Advancement of Women. A/53/3 (E S C Agreed Conclusions 1998/1, para. 8) and A/54/3/Rev.1 (E S C Agreed Conclusions 1999/1, para. 24).
535 A/54/3/Rev.1 (E S C Agreed Conclusions 1999/1, paras. 10 and 12). See also E.1997/98, sect. III A. See also discussion supra concerning natural disasters.
537 A/54/3/Rev.1 (E S C Agreed Conclusions 1999/1, para. 21). See also E.1997/98, para. 14(c).
538 A/54/3/Rev.1 (E S C Agreed Conclusion 1999/1, para. 19). The Council also stresses the importance of coherent regional strategy as applied in the Balkans. Ibid., para. 18.
540 G A resolutions 50/88, para. 5, 51/195, para. 8, 52/211 A, para. 8 and 53/203 B, para. 12. Provision of assistance was conditioned by policies and measures recommended by the Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs, A/52/211 A, para. 11.
541 G A resolutions 50/85, para. 2 and 7, 51/8, para. 7 and 53/1 D.
542 See, e.g., G A resolutions 50/58, 51/30, 52/168 and 53/1.