**ARTICLE 60**

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TEXT OF ARTICLE 60

Responsibility for the discharge of the functions of the Organization set forth in this Chapter shall be vested in the General Assembly and, under the authority of the General Assembly, in the Economic and Social Council, which shall have for this purpose the powers set forth in Chapter X.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

1. As in the case of the Repertory studies and its Supplements Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, the specific functions exercised by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in the discharge of their responsibilities under Article 60 are dealt with in the present Supplement under the Articles which set forth the functions or powers of the two organs. This study on Article 60 treats certain general aspects of the functioning and interrelationship of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. cf. Supplement No. 5: “A close relationship exists between Article 60 and Article 66, paragraph 1, and it is therefore advisable to examine the two Articles together”.

2. During the period under review, the resolutions and decisions of the two organs made no explicit reference to Article 60.

3. As in the past, there was no change during the period in the manner in which the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council exercised their responsibilities under Article 60. The General Assembly, in a number of instances, endorsed the work of the Economic and Social Council.

4. On one occasion, the General Assembly endorsed economic and Social Council resolution 1979/65 of 3 August 1979, in which the Council decided, inter alia, to establish a working group of governmental experts to review and analyse the activities of the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration in order to assist the Council in carrying out a comprehensive review of the functions, institutional arrangements and repayment system of the Fund”.

5. On another occasion, the General Assembly endorsed “the arrangements made by the Economic and Social Council concerning the programmes, organization, coordination and mobilization of resources to meet the requirements for a World Communications Year, as outlined in Council resolution 1980/69”. In the same context, the Assembly, at its thirty-sixth session, endorsed “the proposal made by the Economic and Social Council in paragraph 1 of its resolution 1981/60 and proclaimed the year 1983 World Communications Year: Development of Communications Infrastructures”.

6. In another instance, the General Assembly, at its thirty-sixth session, endorsed a resolution of the Economic and Social Council “in which the Council reaffirmed the principles and guidelines for the programme activities of the United Nations Children’s Fund, and appealed to all Governments, especially those that are not contributing at a level commensurate with their capacity, to increase their voluntary contributions to the Fund on, if possible, a multi-year basis”.

A. Question of the relationship between the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council

7. As in the past, the general pattern of the relationship between the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council underwent no change during the period under review.

8. On one occasion, the General Assembly requested the Economic and Social Council to consider and recommend for consideration by the Assembly at its thirty-ninth session a proposed biennial programme of work for the

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2G A resolution 34/201.
3G A resolution 35/109.
4G A resolution 36/40.
5G A resolution 36/197.
6E S C resolution 1981/56.
7G A decision 38/429.
Second Committee, “taking into account the biennial programme of work of the Council and the invitation already addressed to the Council in Assembly decision 37/442”. Pursuant to the request of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council recommended\(^8\) to the Assembly the consideration of suggestions relating to the biennial programme of work for the Second Committee of the General Assembly as contained in the annex to decision 1984/182 of the Council\(^9\). Having taken note of decision 1984/182 of the Council, the General Assembly requested\(^9\) the Council, “in discharging its responsibilities in preparing the work of the General Assembly in the economic, social and related fields, to take fully into account the approved programme of work for the Second Committee of the General Assembly in formulating its own biennial programme of work”. The Assembly approved the biennial programme of work for the Second Committee for 1985-1986 contained in annex II to Assembly resolution 39/217.

9. On another occasion, the General Assembly requested\(^10\) “the Economic and Social Council to work out, as envisaged in paragraph 56 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197, mutually convenient procedures for improving communications between the Administrative Committee on Coordination and the intergovernmental bodies concerned, including procedures to enable the members of its Bureau and that of the Committee for Programme and Coordination to participate in an appropriate manner in the work of ACC and to report thereon to the Assembly at its thirty-fifth session”. As a follow-up to that request, the Economic and Social Council informed\(^11\) the General Assembly that “informal consultations relating to improved communication between the intergovernmental bodies and the Administrative Committee on Coordination had taken place” and that the Council would inform the Assembly of the outcome of its consideration of the matter. The General Assembly, at its thirty-seventh session, took note\(^12\) of the report\(^13\) of the Secretary-General on the implementation of section VII of the annex to Assembly resolution 32/197.

10. In another instance, the General Assembly requested\(^14\) “the Economic and Social Council to examine, at its first regular session of 1985, the recommendations of the International Conference on Population for the further implementation of the World Population Plan of Action, in order to provide overall policy guidelines within the United Nations system on population questions, and to undertake or to continue on an appropriate basis the review, monitoring and appraisal of the Plan of Action”.

11. On another occasion, the General Assembly, having endorsed\(^15\) the recommendation of the Second General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to convert that organization into a specialized agency, requested\(^16\) “the Economic and Social Council to arrange for the negotiation with the new agency of an agreement to constitute it as a specialized agency in accordance with Articles 57 and 63 of the Charter of the United Nations, to enter into such agreement subject to the approval of the General Assembly and to arrange for the provisional application of that agreement as appropriate”. As a follow-up to the request of the Assembly, the Economic and Social Council decided\(^17\) “to make arrangements for the negotiation of an agreement to bring the proposed United Nations Industrial Development Organization into relationship with the United Nations as a specialized agency, in accordance with Articles 57 and 63 of the Charter of the United Nations, as soon as a competent organ, acting on behalf of that Organization, was prepared to enter into consultations thereon”.

B. Question of the reconsideration of decisions by the Economic and Social Council at the request of the General Assembly

12. During the period under review, the General Assembly did not encounter any situation in which it felt the need to request the Economic and Social Council to reconsider any of its decisions.

C. Question of the General Assembly exercising its authority at the request of the Economic and Social Council

13. As in the past, there were several instances in which the Economic and Social Council requested the General Assembly to take a specific action during the period under review.

14. In one instance, the Economic and Social Council recommended\(^18\) “that the General Assembly should adopt the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989\(^19\), incorporating the revisions thereto recommended by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its twenty-second session\(^20\) and the revisions proposed by the Council,\(^21\) taking into account the views expressed by members of the Council at the second regular session of 1982”. Acting upon the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly, at its thirty-seventh session,\(^22\) adopted the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989.\(^23\)

\(^1\)\(^E\) S \(C\) decision 1984/182.
\(^2\)\(^G\) A resolution 39/217.
\(^3\)\(^G\) A resolution 34/214.
\(^4\)\(^E\) S \(C\) decision 1980/185.
\(^5\)\(^G\) A decision 37/442.
\(^6\)\(^A/37/439.\)
\(^7\)\(^G\) A resolution 39/228.
\(^8\)\(^G\) A resolution 3362 (S-VII), sect. IV, para. 9.
15. In another instance, the Economic and Social Council recommended\(^{24}\) that the General Assembly "continue to provide appropriate resources to enable the regional commissions ... to effectively meet their responsibility for programme formulation, implementation and coordination in regard to subregional, regional and interregional economic and technical cooperation among developing countries". The General Assembly, at its thirty-eighth session, endorsed\(^{25}\) "the recommendation made by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1983/66".

16. On another occasion, the Economic and Social Council recommended\(^{26}\) that the General Assembly should establish 1986 as the International Year of Peace. In the same resolution, the Council further recommended that the General Assembly should "request the Secretary-General ... to propose at the thirty-eighth session a draft programme and budget for the observance of the International Year of Peace". Acting on the recommendation of the Council, the Assembly declared\(^{27}\) 1986 the International Year of Peace and requested\(^{28}\) the Secretary-General to prepare a draft programme and to submit a report to the Assembly at its thirty-eighth session. The General Assembly, at its thirty-eighth session, took note\(^{29}\) of the report of the Secretary-General\(^{30}\) and endorsed the principal objectives indicated therein.

D. Question of the General Assembly addressing directly a subsidiary organ of the Economic and Social Council

17. During the period under review, there were several instances where the General Assembly addressed itself directly to subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council.

18. On one occasion, the General Assembly, at its thirty-sixth session, requested\(^{31}\) the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to establish a task force "to review, monitor and coordinate the implementation of the International Drug Abuse Control Strategy and the programme of action and to submit a report to the Commission at each session". In pursuance of the request of the Assembly, the Commission established,\(^{32}\) on a provisional basis, a task force which would meet during each session of the Commission and would report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at the same session.

19. On another occasion, the General Assembly requested\(^{33}\) the Commission on Human Rights to continue its work on the overall analysis of the programme and working methods of the Commission, and of the alternative approaches and ways and means for improving the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/130.

20. Again, on another occasion, the General Assembly directly requested\(^{34}\) the Commission on Human Rights to study "the possibility of extending the mandate of the United Nations Trust Fund for Chile to receive voluntary contributions and further to study criteria for their distribution, and to report thereon to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1981". The Council, having taken note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 35 (XXXVII), recommended\(^{35}\) that the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution contained in Council resolution 1981/39 which would, inter alia, extend the mandate of the United Nations Trust Fund for Chile and redesignate the Fund as a United Nations voluntary fund for victims of torture. The General Assembly, acting upon the recommendation of the Council, extended\(^{36}\) the mandate of the Fund and redesignated it as United Nations Fund for Victims of Torture.

**E. Competence of the Economic and Social Council under Article 60**

\(^{24}\)E S C resolution 1983/66.
\(^{25}\)G A decision 38/435.
\(^{26}\)E S C resolution 1982/15.
\(^{27}\)G A resolution 37/16.
\(^{28}\)Ibid., para. 3.
\(^{29}\)G A resolution 38/56.
\(^{30}\)A/38/413 and Add.1 and 2.
\(^{31}\)G A resolution 36/168.
\(^{32}\)See E S C (1982), Suppl. No. 3, chap. VIII.
\(^{33}\)G A resolution 36/133.
\(^{34}\)G A resolution 35/190.
\(^{35}\)E S C resolution 1981/39.
\(^{36}\)G A resolution 36/151.

**II. ANALYTICAL SUMMARY OF PRACTICE**
Chapter X
THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL