

ARTICLE 62 (1)

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TEXT OF ARTICLE 62 (1)

The Economic and Social Council may make or initiate studies and reports with respect to international economic, social, cultural, educational, health, and related matters and may make recommendations with respect to any such matters to the General Assembly, to the Members of the United Nations, and to the specialized agencies concerned.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

1. This study is organized in the same manner as the study of Article 62 (1) in the Repertory.^{1/} Activities of the Council under other Articles of the Charter are included only to the extent that matters relating thereto have some bearing on the exercise by the Council of its powers under Article 62 (1). The material included hereunder is of a supplementary character and appears in the next section of this study under the heading "I. General Survey". There have been no significant questions during the period under review which would have required their inclusion in the "Analytical Summary of Practice".

^{1/} See in the Repertory, under Article 62 (1), paras. 1-4, which describe the criteria for inclusion and the organization of the material.

I. GENERAL SURVEY

A. Studies and Reports

1. General

2. The Economic and Social Council continued to exercise its power of initiating studies and reports. The types of studies were similar to those described in the Repertory.

3. Many of the studies and reports initiated by the Council covered the same subjects as those mentioned in the Repertory. 2/ Some of the studies initiated in the past were continued; or new aspects of a problem previously considered were dealt with. Among such subjects the following can be mentioned: economic development of under-developed countries especially the problem of industrialization, 3/ social welfare, 4/ transport and communications, 5/ control of narcotic drugs, 6/ public administration, 7/ world food supply, 8/ and housing and community programmes. 9/

4. Studies and reports were requested by the Council with respect to several new subjects, namely, the various aspects of the problem of living standards, including studies of family levels of living, 10/ community development, 11/ economic opportunities for women, 12/ atomic energy and new sources of energy other than the atom as factors in economic development, 13/ the problems of peoples undergoing rapid transition especially through urbanization, 14/ various questions relating to the development and co-ordination of the economic, social and human rights programmes and activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies as a whole. 15/

2. Preparation and submission

5. The Council continued to entrust the preparation of studies and reports primarily to the Secretary-General 16/ but as in the past it also called for their preparation by other bodies such as its commissions, ad hoc committees, groups of experts and the specialized agencies.

6. While as a rule the Council, acting upon the reports of its commissions addressed requests for studies or reports directly to the commission concerned, in one instance, it made such a request through the Secretary-General. In that case, the Secretary-General was asked to obtain for the Council views and suggestions of the Commission on International Commodity Trade, the Interim Co-ordinating Committee for International Commodity Arrangements (ICCICA) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

2/ See in the Repertory, under Article 62 (1), para. 9.

3/ See, for example E S C resolution 560 (XIX).

4/ See, for example E S C resolutions 585 C and D (XX).

5/ See, for example E S C resolution 563 (XIX).

6/ See, for example E S C resolution 588 (XX).

7/ E S C resolution 623 A II (XXII).

8/ E S C resolution 621 (XXII).

9/ E S C resolution 585 E (XX).

10/ E S C resolutions 585 B and F (XX) and 627 (XXII).

11/ See, for example E S C resolution 585 C (XX).

12/ E S C resolution 625 B (XXII).

13/ E S C resolutions 597 B (XXI) and 598 (XXI).

14/ E S C resolutions 618 and 627 (XXII).

15/ E S C resolution 630 (XXII).

16/ See, for example E S C resolutions 570 (XIX), 560 (XIX) and 592 (XX).

concerning the organizational and procedural arrangements governing their activities in the field of international commodity problems and the co-ordination of their functions within the framework of the United Nations. 17/

7. The practice of requesting the Secretary-General to prepare studies and reports in co-operation with specialized agencies was continued by the Council in many instances. On some occasions a particular specialized agency was referred to, thus, the Secretary-General was requested to report in co-operation with the FAO on the question of establishing a world food reserve. 18/ On another occasion he was asked to continue the study of the problems relating to family levels of living, jointly with the Director-General of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and with the other agencies concerned; the Secretary-General was also authorized in this connexion to convene a group of experts 19/ "in joint sponsorship" with the ILO.

8. In requesting 20/ the Secretary-General to report on the possibility of devoting as much as possible of the programme of the second international conference on the exchange of technical information regarding the peaceful uses of atomic energy to the practical applications of nuclear energy to the economic development of under-developed countries and the desirability of convening a separate conference on this subject, the Council asked him to prepare such a report after he had consulted the Advisory Committee established under General Assembly resolution 810 B (IX) 21/ and the competent specialized agencies.

9. In several instances the Council again requested specialized agencies, directly or through the Secretary-General, to participate in the preparation of studies and reports. The Secretary-General was invited by the Council to request the World Health Organization (WHO) to assist in the preparation of recommendations on the mental and physical fitness of motor vehicle drivers. 22/ The ILO and other specialized agencies were invited by the Council to co-operate with the United Nations in a joint study of the problems related to the question of maintenance of family levels of living. 23/ The ILO was also invited by the Council to prepare a report in collaboration with the Secretary-General and with the specialized agencies concerned on the question of economic opportunities for women. 24/ The FAO was invited by the Council to act, in co-operation with the United Nations Secretariat, as a co-ordinating agency for research relating to the problem of cannabis in the field of narcotics. 25/

10. With respect to the assistance of experts in the preparation of studies and reports and the qualifications of such experts, the Council in the decision concerning maintenance of family levels of living, referred to in paragraph 7 above, decided that the experts who were to be invited to examine the technical problems related thereto, not only should be "highly qualified" in the specified field but also be "representative of countries at varying stages of economic development and with varying social structure".

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- 17/ E S C resolution 620 (XXII).
 - 18/ E S C resolution 621 (XXII).
 - 19/ E S C resolution 585 F (XX).
 - 20/ E S C resolution 597 B (XXI).
 - 21/ The Committee was continued by G A resolution 912 (X).
 - 22/ E S C resolution 567 C (XIX).
 - 23/ E S C resolution 585 F (XX).
 - 24/ E S C resolution 625 B (XXII).
 - 25/ E S C resolution 588 C (XX).

11. Closely related to the matter of preparation of studies and reports by the Secretary-General and by the experts was the decision of the Council 26/ in which, acting upon the proposal of the Secretary-General, it set out a plan for arranging a part of the programme of population studies to be carried out by qualified outside scientific institutions in co-operation with the Secretariat.

12. As in the past, sources of materials were usually not specified; the Council indicated, however, sources other than those referred to in the Repertory. Thus, in one instance the Council asked 27/ the Secretary-General to give due consideration when preparing a report on the possible applications of atomic energy to the materials submitted to the International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy. In connexion with this report as well as in its request for a report concerning the question of establishing a world food supply, 28/ the Council indicated that the views expressed and the suggestions made during its discussions as well as during the relevant discussion by the General Assembly should be taken into consideration in the preparation of these reports.

13. Relevant to the question of sources of materials was the decision of the Council 29/ by which the Secretary-General was asked to prepare a report on the prospects for the practical utilization of new sources of energy other than the atom and to consult and obtain any documentary material which may be of value from governments which have special experience or a particular interest in the matter and from the under-developed countries, the specialized agencies, the competent inter-governmental bodies and non-governmental organizations interested in the subject.

**** 3. Action taken by the Council**

B. Recommendations

1. General

14. In making recommendations the Council has seldom made a direct reference to Article 62 (1). During the period under review such a reference to Article 62 in general was made by the Council in its resolutions concerning studies on atomic energy 30/ and of new sources of energy other than the atom 31/ as factors in economic development.

15. In connexion with the terminology used by the Council, there again appeared to be no general pattern. The term "recommends" was used extensively. Other terms were also used but the differences in the terminology did not appear to have any particular significance.

16. The Council's recommendations, as in the past, have been addressed to the General Assembly, to Governments, to States Members and non-members of the United Nations, to the specialized agencies, and to subsidiary organs of the Council, among them the regional economic commissions. 32/

26/ E S C resolution 571 B (XIX).

27/ E S C resolution 597 B (XXI).

28/ E S C resolution 621 (XXII). See also E S C resolution 560 (XIX).

29/ E S C resolution 598 (XXI).

30/ E S C resolution 597 B (XXI).

31/ E S C resolution 598 (XXI).

32/ See, for example, E S C resolution 579 A (XX).

2. To States

17. Recommendations to States covered topics on which recommendations have been made by the Council in the past 33/ such as international trade 34/, narcotics 35/ and population 36/. In addition recommendations were made on several new topics: community development 37/, resources and requirement surveys 38/, and the question of a co-ordinated policy on the national level by the States Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies in regard to the activities of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies in the economic, social and human rights fields. 39/

3. To the General Assembly

18. The recommendations of the Council to the General Assembly dealt with the types of actions most of which were already described in the Repertory. The new types of action proposed by the Council called for establishment of an ad hoc committee to analyse comments of governments concerning the question of a Special United Nations Fund for Economic Development 40/ and for the provision of additional funds by the General Assembly for the programmes specified by the Council, namely, advisory social welfare services 41/ and statistical services. 42/

** 4. To the specialized agencies

** II. ANALYTICAL SUMMARY OF PRACTICE 43/

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- 33/ See in the Repertory, under Article 62 (1), para. 29.
34/ E S C resolutions 579 A (XX) and 614 B (XXII).
35/ E S C resolution 588 (XX).
36/ E S C resolution 587 C (XX).
37/ E S C resolution 585 C (XX).
38/ E S C resolution 614 C (XXII).
39/ E S C resolution 630 A (XXII).
40/ E S C resolution 583 A (XX).
41/ E S C resolution 585 G (XX).
42/ E S C resolution 622 A (XXII).
43/ See in this Supplement, under Article 71.

