

ARTICLE 62(1)

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ARTICLE 62(1)

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. The material in this study concerns studies and reports made or initiated by the Economic and Social Council with respect to international economic, social, cultural, educational, health, and related matters, and recommendations made with respect to any such matters to the General Assembly, to the Members of the United Nations and to the specialized agencies concerned. In general, only such studies and reports as are made by or initiated through direct action of the Economic and Social Council are dealt with. Furthermore, the study covers other means or methods used by the Council for gathering data or information. Recommendations made by the Council to bodies other than the General Assembly, Member States and the specialized agencies of the United Nations are also included.

2. Decisions of the Economic and Social Council under other Articles of the Charter are included only in so far as matters relating thereto have some bearing on the exercise by the Council of its powers under Article 62, paragraph 1. Thus, the present study does not deal with the following: annual reports submitted to the General Assembly by the Council under Article 15, paragraph 2; regular reports submitted by the specialized agencies to the Council, as well as reports from Member States and specialized agencies concerning their implementation of General Assembly and Council recommendations on economic and social matters provided for under Article 64; agreements with specialized agencies, coordination of their policies and activities, recommendations made pursuant to Articles 58 and 63; recommendations relating to arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations under Article 71; matters relating to functions and powers of the regional and functional commissions and subcommissions, ad hoc or other bodies established under the terms of Article 68 or of Council decisions; the functions entrusted to the Secretary-General by the Economic and Social Council under Article 98; and the general scope given the terms "international economic, social, cultural, educational, health and related matters".¹

¹See also this *Supplement*, under Article 55.

I. GENERAL SURVEY

A. Studies and reports

1. GENERAL

3. During the period under review, the Economic and Social Council continued to exercise its power to initiate studies and reports in the same manner described in the *Repertory* and its *Supplements Nos. 1, 2, and 3*. As in the past, while the Council generally engaged in functions under Article 62, paragraph 1, on its own initiative, it also requested several studies at the invitation of the General Assembly.²

²E S C resolutions 1924 (LVIII), 2070 (LXII), 2078 (LXII).

4. The types of studies and reports were similar to those described in the *Repertory* and included surveys³ and inventories,⁴ progress reports,⁵ summaries of studies⁶ and a review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Second Development Decade.⁷ The Secretary-General was asked to request Governments to submit concise accounts of national developments, including texts of laws and court decisions.⁸ The Secretary-General has been requested to issue a revised

³E S C resolution 2080 (LXII).

⁴E S C resolutions 2061 (LXII), 2080 (LXII)

⁵E S C resolution 2048 (LXII).

⁶E S C resolution 1841 (LVI).

⁷E S C resolution 2060 (LXII).

⁸E S C resolution 1793 (LIV).

version of committee recommendations⁹ and to prepare a consolidated document containing the views expressed in the Council on the desirability of and possible topics for the international water conference.¹⁰ The Council has requested the Secretary-General to prepare, inter alia, reviews and proposals for convening the Committee on Natural Resources in order to enable the Committee to submit an initial report to the Council.¹¹

5. New subjects dealt with included health aspects of malnutrition,¹² punishment of war criminals and persons who have committed crimes against humanity,¹³ employment of qualified women in senior and other professional positions by the secretariats of organizations in the United Nations system,¹⁴ conditions of women and children in emergency or armed conflicts in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence,¹⁵ influence of activities of foreign economic and other interests on the living conditions of women in dependent territories,¹⁶ construction, testing and use of tanks other than those permanently fixed to, or forming part of, the structure of seagoing vessels or inland waterway craft,¹⁷ tax treaties between developed and developing countries,¹⁸ the application of computer technology for development,¹⁹ edible protein,²⁰ budget policy and management,²¹ methods of assessing the impact of the brain drain problem on the economics of developing countries,²² a comprehensive report on the question of studying and utilizing national experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for purposes of social progress,²³ the role of multinational corporations and their impact on the development process and on international relations,²⁴ a comparative analysis of adoption laws,²⁵ a fund for landlocked developing countries,²⁶ the concept of collective economic security,²⁷ assistance to the drought-stricken areas in Ethiopia,²⁸ training of women for the preparation and implementation of project proposals,²⁹ rationalization of the reporting systems on the status of women,³⁰ promotion of tourism³¹ and transnational corporations.³²

6. Studies and reports, as in the past, have been prepared primarily for the purpose of aiding the Economic and Social Council in its policy-making role; thus, for example, the Council has requested reports containing recommendations³³ and conference agendas.³⁴ In addition, the Council requested the Secretary-General to prepare a study for the purpose of formulating better analytical measures for gauging changes in social development and creating a better focus for governmental decision-making.³⁵ The Council has requested studies and reports for the purpose of addressing the situation of malnourished populations,³⁶

and of ensuring readily obtainable information for use by developing countries in their technological planning.³⁷ For the purposes of review and appraisal of the objectives set out in the International Development Strategy for the Second Development Decade,³⁸ the Council requested various reports for its consideration during the review process.³⁹

2. PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION

7. As in the past, the Economic and Social Council has entrusted the preparation of studies and reports to the Secretary-General,⁴⁰ or to the Secretary-General in cooperation with other bodies or agencies.⁴¹ In other instances, the Council has requested its subsidiary bodies to undertake specific studies.⁴² At its forty-eighth session, the Council requested the General Assembly to invite the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to undertake a study on the influence of activities of foreign economic and other interests on the living conditions of women in dependent Territories.⁴³

8. The Economic and Social Council continued to invite Member States to furnish information on measures taken to implement Council resolutions.⁴⁴ In one instance, the Council invited Member States to study the integration of unmarried mothers and their children in all spheres of society.⁴⁵

9. The Economic and Social Council, at its forty-ninth session, invited the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency, in the future, to include in their analytical summaries: recommendations for specific action by the Council, and a description of achievements and problems in the chapter on "Co-ordination with other organizations of the United Nations system."⁴⁶ In its resolution 1728 A (LIII) of 28 July 1972, the Council invited ACC to submit and recommend for its consideration a schedule for future in-depth reviews of the reports of specialized agencies.⁴⁷

10. Also in conformity with past practice, the Economic and Social Council has requested studies of non-governmental organizations.⁴⁸ At its fifty-fourth ses-

⁹E S C resolution 1488 (XLVIII).

¹⁰E S C resolution 1572 D (L), sect. D.

¹¹E S C resolution 1535 (XLIX).

¹²E S C resolution 1492 (XLVIII).

¹³E S C resolutions 1500 (XLVIII), 1691 (LII), 1791 (LIV).

¹⁴E S C resolution 1510 (XLVIII).

¹⁵E S C resolution 1515 (XLVIII).

¹⁶E S C resolution 1516 (XLVIII).

¹⁷E S C resolution 1488 (XLVIII).

¹⁸E S C resolution 1541 (XLIX).

¹⁹E S C resolution 1571 (L).

²⁰E S C resolution 1640 (LI).

²¹E S C resolution 1633 (LI).

²²E S C resolution 1573 (L).

²³E S C resolution 1667 (LII).

²⁴E S C resolution 1731 (LIII).

²⁵E S C resolution 1750 (LIV).

²⁶E S C resolution 1755 (LIV).

²⁷E S C decision (LIV), agenda item 7, p. 21.

²⁸E S C resolution 1876 (LVII).

²⁹E S C resolution 2059 (LXII).

³⁰E S C resolution 1978/28.

³¹E S C resolutions 1540 (XLIX), 1758 (LIV), E S C decision 1978/46.

³²E S C resolution 1978/71.

³³E S C resolution 1706 (LIII).

³⁴E S C resolutions 1672 (LII), sect. B, and 1673 (LII), sect. E.

³⁵E S C resolution 1841 (LVI).

³⁶E S C resolution 1492 (XLVIII).

³⁷E S C resolution 1901 (LVII).

³⁸See E S C resolutions 1621 C C (LI), and 1625 (LI) and 1666 (LII).

³⁹E S C resolutions 1667 (LII) and 1672 (LII), sect. A, para. 5(a).

⁴⁰See, e.g., E S C resolutions 1510 (XLVII), 1542 (XLVIII), 1633 (LI), 1855 (LVI), 2048 (LXII).

⁴¹See, e.g., E S C resolutions 1553 (XLIX), 1568 (L), 1658 (LII), 1666 (LII), 1734 (LIV), 1754 (LIV), 1841 (LVI), 1855 (LVI), 2064 (LXII).

⁴²See, e.g., E S C resolutions 1506 (XLVIII), 1666 (LII), 1920 (LVIII), 1930 (LVIII), 1978/17, 1978/35.

⁴³E S C resolution 1516 (XLVIII).

⁴⁴E S C resolution 1841 (LVI).

⁴⁵E S C resolution 1514 (XLVIII).

⁴⁶E S C resolution 1548 (XLIX).

⁴⁷See Repertory of Practice; also this volume and *Supplement*, under Article 64.

⁴⁸See, e.g., E S C resolutions 1588 (L), 1591 (L), 1919 (LVIII).

sion, for example, the Council requested the Secretary-General to invite the International Union of Official Travel Organizations (IUOTO), in cooperation with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to prepare a study on the impact of international tourism on the economic development of developing countries for deliberation by the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session.⁴⁹

11. The Economic and Social Council has continued to establish, and in some instances requested the Secretary-General to establish, ad hoc bodies of experts or of eminent persons for the purpose of preparing studies and reports.⁵⁰ Thus, in one instance, at its fifty-second session, the Council decided to convene an intergovernmental panel of specialists to prepare a precise draft agenda and organizational proposals for a United Nations water conference.⁵¹

12. During the period under review, the Economic and Social Council has taken various actions in relation to reports. The Council has, as in the past, taken note of studies and reports,⁵² endorsed proposals,⁵³ recommendations,⁵⁴ conclusions⁵⁵ and programmes of work.⁵⁶ At its fifty-fifth session, the Council endorsed the policies of the United Nations Children's Fund.⁵⁷ At its fifty-second session, the Council approved guidelines for action in the development of natural resources contained in the report of the Committee on Natural Resources "as providing an adequate provisional framework for the establishment of dynamic programmes in this field".⁵⁸ By its resolution 1827 (LV) of 10 August 1972, the Council transmitted to the General Assembly, for further deliberation, the working paper regarding the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, and recommended that the Assembly consider the working paper in the light of views expressed during the fifty-fifth session of the Council.

B. Recommendations

1. GENERAL

13. With regard to the power of the Economic and Social Council to make recommendations, the General Assembly, in adopting, at its thirty-second session, the recommendations and conclusions of the Ad hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System, reaffirmed the central role of the Council in the formulation of policy recommendations in the international economic and social sector.⁵⁹

14. While the Economic and Social Council did not refer to Article 62, paragraph 1, during the period under review,

⁴⁹E S C resolution 1758 (LIV).

⁵⁰See E S C resolutions 1509 (XLVIII), 1683 (LII), 1721 (LIII), 19395 (LVIII), 1943 (LVIII).

⁵¹E S C resolution 1673 E (LII).

⁵²See, e.g., E S C resolutions 1489 (XLVIII), 1520 (XLIX), 1688 (LII), 1734 (LIV), 1739 (LIV), 1978/60, 1978/71.

⁵³See, e.g., E S C resolutions 1489 (XLVIII).

⁵⁴See, e.g., E S C resolutions 1699 (LIII), 1720 (LIII), 1725 (LIII), 1978/21, 1978/46, 1978/47, 1978/47, 1978/46, 1978/55.

⁵⁵See, e.g., E S C resolutions 1534 (XLIX), 1707 (LIII), 1978/21.

⁵⁶See, e.g., E S C resolutions 1517 (XLVIII), 1521 (XLIX), 1978/48.

⁵⁷E S C resolution 1821 (LV).

⁵⁸E S C resolution 1673 B (LII).

⁵⁹G A resolution 32/197, annex, sect. II, para. 5(a).

it took several decisions directly bearing on the issue of recommendations. At its fifty-fourth session, the Council adopted resolution 1768 (LIV) of 18 May 1973, in which it decided that it would orient its deliberations to focus on major issues and developments requiring action to bring about "more equitable and harmonious economic and social relationships". For that purpose, it resolved to make policy recommendations to Governments of Members States and establish policy guidelines and directives for the activities of the United Nations system. At its fifty-fifth session, the Council decided to concentrate its attention at future sessions on a limited number of carefully selected major policy issues, to be studied in depth with a view to elaborating concrete action-oriented recommendations.⁶⁰

2. TO STATES

15. During the reporting period, recommendations to Member States relating to new matters included the role of the development of tourism,⁶¹ the establishment of an emergency fund for disasters,⁶² the Second United Nations Development Decade,⁶³ rehabilitation of transitional urban settlements,⁶⁴ programmes for the advancement of women,⁶⁵ mass poverty and unemployment,⁶⁶ cultivation and chewing of the coca leaf,⁶⁷ the impact of transnational corporations on the development process and on international relations,⁶⁸ drought control in the Sahel,⁶⁹ and popular participation and its practical implications.⁷⁰

16. As in the past, resolutions of the Economic and Social Council have envisioned a variety of actions. In numerous decisions the Council invited States to take action at the national level, recommending the application of severe control measures to prevent the abuse and illicit traffic in cannabis,⁷¹ the adoption of legislative or other measures,⁷² the ratification of or accession to specified international conventions,⁷³ the support and promotion of programmes and activities of NGOs during the World Conference of the International Women's Year, as well as other initiatives on behalf of women and their role in development,⁷⁴ the adoption of basic policy concepts,⁷⁵ and the establishment of mechanisms and national machinery for addressing economic and social problems.⁷⁶ By its resolution 1491 (XLVIII) of 26 May 1970, the Council in-

⁶⁰E S C resolution 1807 (LV).

⁶¹E S C resolution 1540 (XLIX).

⁶²E S C resolution 1533 (XLIX).

⁶³E S C resolution 1556 (XLIX).

⁶⁴E S C resolution 1670 (LII).

⁶⁵E S C resolution 1855 (LVI).

⁶⁶E S C resolution 1727 (LIII).

⁶⁷E S C resolution 1846 (LVI).

⁶⁸E S C resolution 190811 (LVII).

⁶⁹E S C resolution 1918 (LVIII).

⁷⁰E S C resolution 1929 (LVIII).

⁷¹E S C resolution 1659 (LII).

⁷²See, e.g., E S C resolutions 1668 (LII), 1679 (LII), 1695 (LII), 1836 (LVI), 1921 (LVIII), 2018 (LXI).

⁷³E S C resolutions 1773 (LIV), 1774 (LIV), 1789 (LIV).

⁷⁴E S C resolution 1854 (LVI). E S C resolution 1858 (LVI), urging States to seek new ways and means of developing entrepreneurial skills of among women and establish decentralized industries providing work for women as well as men; E S C resolution 1862 (LVI), inviting Member States to urge the mass media to adapt their programmes in order to provide for men and women a continuing education; E S C resolution 2063 (LXII), recommending that Member States should encourage the elimination of sex-role stereotyping in educational and informational activities, and create committees composed of men and women to meet with mass media representatives.

⁷⁵E S C resolution 1929 (LVIII).

⁷⁶See, e.g., E S C resolutions 1668 (LII), 1978/26.

vited Governments, in particular those of developing countries, to review their cooperative policies and programmes in relation to national economic and social development policies.⁷⁷ At its fifty-fourth session, the Council recommended that Member States closely link planning with national goals, pursue a policy directed at establishing social equality and justice, and examine development strategies, plans and structures from the viewpoint of a comprehensive and unified approach in line with the principles of social development.⁷⁸

17. Other recommendations related to actions to be taken in concert with other States included the following: the Council recommended that the States Members of the United Nations establish a voluntary emergency fund for disasters,⁷⁹ urged Members to provide all possible assistance and participation in emergency relief efforts⁸⁰ and urged Governments of developed countries to enlarge the volume of their assistance to the developing countries to combat mass poverty and unemployment.⁸¹

18. The Economic and Social Council made several recommendations relating to the work of the United Nations programmes and specialized agencies. In one instance, the Council requested the Governments of States members of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Development Association to ask their directors in the Bank and the Association to give particular attention, if necessary, to Nicaragua's need for emergency funds.⁸² The Council also drew the attention of Member States to the recommendations of subsidiary bodies and organs.⁸³ At its fifty-fifth session, the Council urged a favourable response from Member States to decisions and recommendations contained in a resolution of UNCTAD.⁸⁴

3. TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

19. Recommendations of the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly dealing with new topics included the question of the establishment of a United Nations revolving fund for natural resources exploration,⁸⁵ international environment cooperation,⁸⁶ the World Plan of Action for the Application of Science and Technology to Development,⁸⁷ the Conference on Human Settlements,⁸⁸ the International Year of the Child,⁸⁹ convening a conference on science and technology for development,⁹⁰ a possible convention on the rights of the child,⁹¹ a conference on new and renewable energy sources,⁹² employment of women by the secretariats of organizations within the

⁷⁷E S C resolution 1491 (XLVIII).

⁷⁸E S C resolution 1747 (LV).

⁷⁹E S C resolution 1533 (XLIX).

⁸⁰E S C resolutions 1655 (LII), 1985 (LX), 2047 (LXII).

⁸¹See, e.g., E S C resolutions 18808 (LVH), 1978/66.

⁸²E S C resolution 1733 (LIV).

⁸³See, e.g., E S C resolutions 1806 (LV), 1978/11.

⁸⁴E S C resolution 18058 (LV).

⁸⁵E S C resolution 1711 (LIII).

⁸⁶E S C resolution 1820 (LV).

⁸⁷E S C resolution 1823 (LV).

⁸⁸E S C resolution 2040 (LXI).

⁸⁹E S C decision 178 (LXI).

⁹⁰E S C resolution 2028 (LXI).

⁹¹E S C resolution 1978/18.

⁹²E S C resolution 1978/61.

United Nations system⁹³ and the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa.⁹⁴

20. As in the past, the Economic and Social Council recommended that the General Assembly adopt several draft resolutions⁹⁵ and guidelines⁹⁶ and urged the consideration of certain questions,⁹⁷ some as a matter of priority.⁹⁸ The Council requested the inclusion of an item in the agenda of the Assembly,⁹⁹ and invited the Assembly to inform the Security Council concerning matters posing "a serious threat to world peace and security."¹⁰⁰ The Council recommended that the Assembly proclaim 1979 as the International Year of the Child,¹⁰¹ that the Assembly convene regional meetings for certain purposes¹⁰² and that the Assembly take practical steps towards implementation of an Assembly resolution.¹⁰³ The Council has urged the convening of and recommended the main objectives and framework for conferences,¹⁰⁴ made recommendations inviting the Assembly to take action on matters concerning the increase in budget allocations¹⁰⁵ and recommended that the Assembly take into consideration or give special attention to the recommendations and comments of certain subsidiary bodies of the Council.¹⁰⁶

21. The Economic and Social Council recommended that the General Assembly take a decision on the establishment of an international university, taking into account the comments and observations of the Council and of UNESCO.¹⁰⁷ In another resolution the Council put forth principles and objectives for the establishment of a United Nations revolving fund for natural resources exploration, and recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps for the establishment of the fund.¹⁰⁸

4. TO THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

22. Recommendations to the specialized agencies during the period under review included such topics as inter-agency cooperation relating to computers,¹⁰⁹ the application of computer technology for development,¹¹⁰ science education,¹¹¹ the problem of indigenous populations,¹¹² the green revolution,¹¹³ the United Nations/IMCO Conference on International Container Traffic,¹¹⁴ integration of women at all levels in technical assistance projects,¹¹⁵ mass poverty and unemployment,¹¹⁶ concerted in-

⁹³E S C resolution 1857 (LVI).

⁹⁴E S C resolution 1978/59.

⁹⁵E S C resolutions 1681 (LII), 1785 (LIV), 1831 (LV), 1863 (LVI), 1938 (LVIII), 2005 (LX), 1978/15.

⁹⁶E S C resolutions 1708 (LIII), 2078 (LXII).

⁹⁷E S C resolution 1711 (LIII), 2058 (LXII).

⁹⁸E S C resolution 1696 (LII).

⁹⁹E S C resolutions 2074 (LXII) and 1978/18.

¹⁰⁰E S C resolution 1869 (LVI).

¹⁰¹E S C decision 178 (LXI).

¹⁰²E S C resolution 2040 (LXI).

¹⁰³E S C resolution 1731 (LIII).

¹⁰⁴E S C resolution 2028 (LXI).

¹⁰⁵E S C resolution 1978/19.

¹⁰⁶E S C resolutions 1945 (LVIII) and 2040 (LXI).

¹⁰⁷E S C resolution 1731 (LIII).

¹⁰⁸E S C resolution 1762 (LIV).

¹⁰⁹E S C resolution 1551 (XLIX).

¹¹⁰E S C resolution 1538 (XLIX).

¹¹¹E S C resolution 1545 (XLIX).

¹¹²E S C resolution 1589 (L).

¹¹³E S C resolution 1645 (LI).

¹¹⁴E S C resolution 1725 (LIII).

¹¹⁵E S C resolution 1684 (LII).

¹¹⁶E S C resolution 1808 (LV).

ternational action to promote the advancement of women and their integration into development,¹¹⁷ prevention of disability and rehabilitation of disabled persons,¹¹⁸ the

Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States,¹¹⁹ transport of dangerous goods¹²⁰ and the World Climate Programme.¹²¹

¹¹⁷E S C resolution 1855 (LV1).

¹¹⁸E S C resolution 1921 (LVIII).

¹¹⁹E S C resolution 2027 (LXI).

¹²⁰E S C resolution 2050 (LXII).

¹²¹E S C resolution 1978/45.

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