

ARTICLE 64

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ARTICLE 64

TEXT OF ARTICLE 64

1. The Economic and Social Council may take appropriate steps to obtain regular reports from the specialized agencies. It may make arrangements with the Members of the United Nations and with the specialized agencies to obtain reports on the steps taken to give effect to its own recommendations and to recommendations on matters falling within its competence made by the General Assembly.

2. It may communicate its observations on these reports to the General Assembly.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

1. The structure of this study is similar to that of Article 64 in the *Repertory* and its *Supplements Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4*. This study continues to deal primarily with the annual reports of the specialized agencies submitted to the Economic and Social Council.¹ It also deals with the modifications of the format of the analytical summaries of those reports. New subheadings are included under this Article in order to best organize the many changes that occurred during the period under review.² Special reports by the agencies are dealt with only in so far as they pertain specifically to the implementation by them of General Assembly or Council recommendations. Special reports, in general, and reports requested of the Secretary-General in cooperation with the specialized agencies continue to be dealt with primarily under Article 13, paragraphs 1(b) and 2, and under Article 62, paragraph 1. Reports on matters in the field of human rights, of which brief mention is made here, are dealt with more extensively under Article 62, paragraph 2.

¹See *Repertory*, vol. III, under Article 64, paras. 1-4.

²Because the new trends were also discontinued at the end of the period under review, these subheadings will not appear in later *Supplements*.

I. GENERAL SURVEY

A. Reports from the specialized agencies

2. During the period under review, in accordance with established procedure, the Economic and Social Council continued to obtain regular reports from the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency and special reports on their implementation of recommendations of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.³

1. ANALYTICAL SUMMARIES OF THE REGULAR, OR ANNUAL, REPORTS FROM THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND IAEA

3. During the period under review, the specialized agencies and IAEA submitted analytical summaries of their annual or regular reports to the Economic and Social Council

until the end of 1977.⁴ As discussed below, the Council modified this practice by limiting its agency review to an in-depth examination of only two or three agencies per year in order to improve its consideration of the analytical summaries.⁵ At the close of the period under review, the Council terminated the practice of in-depth review and analytical summary reporting and introduced a programme-sector-by-programme-sector method of reporting by the specialized agencies and IAEA through the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC).⁶

4. At its mid-year sessions from 1970 to 1977, the Economic and Social Council discussed the analytical reports of the specialized agencies and IAEA during its general review of the development and coordination of activities of the United Nations family of organizations. As in the past,

³The primary practices are: (a) including specific, relevant provisions in the agreements between the United Nations and the specialized agencies and (b) adopting resolutions on these issues. Any other steps, such as holding joint sessions or maintaining informal contacts are noted under rule 71 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, since it entitles the specialized agencies to be represented at the meetings of these functional commissions. See E/5975/Rev.1.

⁴See, for example, E S C resolutions 1090 (XXXIX) and 1458 (XLVII).

⁵E S C resolution 1642 (LI). See also this *Supplement*, under Article 64, paras. 31-32. The suggestion for an annual in-depth review of two or three agencies was initiated by the Director-General of WHO at its 1780th meeting. See E S C (51), Suppl. No. 9, paras. 41-43.

⁶E S C resolution 2098 (LXIII), Sect. II.

the results of the Council's consideration of those reports are embodied in its decisions⁷ and resolutions.⁸

5. On 30 July 1971, the Economic and Social Council noted in particular "the improvements introduced in the summaries"⁹ and, by its resolution 1548 (XLIX) of 30 July 1970, modified the format of the required analytical summaries to obtain greater effectiveness from the reporting system.¹⁰

6. At its fifty-first session, the Economic and Social Council requested a modification of its procedures and schedules in order to improve its consideration of the analytical summaries.¹¹ The Council instructed the Committee for Programme and Coordination to recommend that the Council approve at its spring session the choice of the reports of two or three agencies which the Council might appropriately examine in depth, and to recommend procedures to be followed, having regard to the desirability of ensuring that the reports of all the agencies should receive detailed consideration over a five-year period.¹² In addition, at its fifty-third session, the Council requested ACC to prepare a schedule which would enable the Council to consider all specialized agencies of the system, in depth, over a five-year period.¹³

7. CPC recommended new approaches for reviewing agency activities during the period under review. Under its 1970 terms of reference,¹⁴ CPC had been granted the authority to "advise and assist the Council in discharging its coordination functions under Articles 58, 63 and 64 of the Charter of the United Nations".¹⁵ From 23 May to 17 June 1977, during its organizational meetings, CPC held a general exchange of views on the manner in which it could best discharge its responsibilities for the review of agency activities in the future, noting that no satisfactory way had been found yet to deal with the agencies' reports.¹⁶ CPC determined that neither the ad hoc analytical summaries, including the changes in the format of those summaries, nor the procedure of in-depth reviews of select agency reports had brought about significant improvements. Moreover, for several years CPC had not been able to give more than a cursory review to such submissions.¹⁷ Even though CPC had not been able to review the analytical summaries of the reports owing to a lack of time,¹⁸ the Council took

note of the analytical summaries of the reports of the specialized agencies and IAEA on 3 August 1977.¹⁹

8. CPC recommended new approaches for reviewing agency activities. In particular, it was suggested that, in line with the 1977 consolidated terms of reference of CPC,²⁰ which emphasized a programme-sector-by-programme-sector rather than an organization-by-organization review of activities, it might be preferable, rather than attempting to deal with the reports of individual agencies, to identify areas in which several organizations were involved and to ask those organizations to submit reports which would enable CPC to consider their involvement in those areas and to assess the extent to which their activities were complementary and mutually supporting.²¹ It was suggested that the joint meetings of CPC and ACC should consider those issues.²²

9. The Economic and Social Council considered the reports of the specialized agencies in depth²³ and often expressed its appreciation to participating executive heads of organizations whose reports were considered. The Council usually requested the organizations to take into account the comments made during the discussion.²⁴

10. By its resolution 2098 (LXIII) of 3 August 1977 concerning programming and coordination in the United Nations system, the Economic and Social Council decided to discontinue the submission of analytical summaries of the reports of the specialized agencies.²⁵ The agencies were invited to cooperate actively, through ACC, in the preparation and timely submission of reports on United Nations system-wide programme sectors for consideration by CPC.²⁶

2. ADDITIONAL SUBJECTS IN THE ANNUAL OR REGULAR REPORTS

11. During the period under review, the Economic and Social Council requested individual specialized agencies to provide information on particular additional subjects in their regular reports. On 28 July 1972, the Council adopted resolution 1729 (LIII), by which it "invite[d] the agencies and programmes concerned in the United Nations system

⁷E S C decision (XLIX), p. 21; E S C decision (LV), agenda item 17(a), p. 31; E S C decision 120 (LIX), para. (e); E S C decision 176 (LXI). For example, by E S C decision 176 (LXI), the Council took note with satisfaction of the reports of the specialized agencies and IAEA, the annual report of ACC for 1975/76, and the second progress report by ACC on the development of the Common Register of Development Activities (CORE). Also, by E S C decision 256 (LXIII), the Council, on the recommendation of the Policy and Programme Coordination Committee, took note of the analytical summaries of the reports of the specialized agencies and IAEA.

⁸E S C resolutions 1642 (LI), 1728 (LIII) and 1888 (LVII).

⁹E S C resolution 1642 (LI), para. 1.

¹⁰E S C resolution 1548 (XLIX), as recommended by the Coordination Committee in E/4921. See also this *Supplement*, under Article 64, para. 22.

¹¹E S C resolution 1642 (LI), third preambular paragraph.

¹²*Ibid.*, para. 3.

¹³E S C resolution 1728 A (LIII), para. 5(a). See this *Supplement*, under Article 64, paras. 30-31.

¹⁴E S C resolution 1472 (XLVIII), annex, para. 29-34.

¹⁵*Ibid.*, Annex, para. 29. According to the Council's 1966 resolution 2188 (XXI), the CPC had continuing authority from the Council to review programmes and procedures in particular sectors on a system-wide basis.

¹⁶See GA (32), Suppl. No. 38, A/32/38, paras. 244-245.

¹⁷*Ibid.* See E/6009 and Corr.1.

¹⁸GA (32), Suppl. No. 38, paras. 244-245.

¹⁹E S C decision 256 (LXIII), first para. and para. (a).

²⁰E S C resolution 2008 (LX), annex, A(3)(a).

²¹GA (32), Suppl. No. 38, para. 244; See E S C resolution 2008(LX), annex, sect. A, para. 3 (a).

²²GA (32), Suppl. No. 38, A/32/38, para. 244.

²³For example, in accordance with resolution 1728 (LIII), the Council, by E S C resolution 1768 (LIV), examined in depth the reports of ILO, UNESCO and IMCO. By E S C resolution 1888 (LVII), para. 1, and as recommended by the Policy and Programme Coordination Committee in E/5562/Add.1, the Council completed in-depth reviews of the activities of FAO and ITU. In 1975, the Council gave in-depth consideration to the reports of IAEA, ICAO and UPU. See E/5733, para. 3. The reports submitted by WHO, WMO and IMCO were considered in depth by the Committee on 29 July 1976 (E/5878); see draft decision II. On the Committee's recommendation, the Council, on 5 August 1976, adopted decision 176 (LXI) by which "it took note with satisfaction of those reports." Pursuant to a 1975 recommendation by ACC (E/5675, parts I and II), the Council reviewed in depth the reports of ILO and UNESCO at its mid-1977 session. See E S C decision 120 (LIX).

²⁴See E S C resolution 1728 B (LIII). Having undertaken its first two in-depth reviews of the reports of WHO and WMO at its fifty-third session, the Council expressed its appreciation for the participation of the executive heads of those organizations, took note with appreciation of the results of the discussions and requested the organizations to take into account the comments made during the discussions. See also E/AC.24/SR.436-437, pp. 42-47, and E/AC.24/SR.438-439; see also E S C resolution 1888 (LVII), para. 1.

²⁵E S C resolution 2098 (LXIII), sect. II, para. 1.

²⁶*Ibid.*, sect. II, para. 4.

to continue to pursue reviews, in any manner which they consider best adapted to their methods of work, of programmes and projects under their regular programmes, in particular those that were initiated more than 10 years [before] and to include, as appropriate, in the analytical summary of their annual reports to the Council the results of those reviews".²⁷

12. During the 479th meeting of the Working Group on Rationalization, on 16 May 1973, one delegation proposed that the reports of the agencies should contain a separate chapter on the implementation of the goals and objectives of the International Development Strategy."²⁸ The delegation reasoned that the Strategy was of common interest to all Member States, particularly the developing countries, and that a separate chapter of that kind would help to determine the extent of the progress made.²⁹

13. The delegation was happy to note that some agencies were incorporating a separate chapter on administrative and budgetary matters in their reports.³⁰ The delegation reasoned that if all specialized agencies followed this practice, it would be easier for the ACC to separate programme matters from administrative and budgetary matters when programme budgeting came into force.³¹ The delegation also stated that although agencies had given information in their reports about appropriation levels for fiscal years, it would be a good practice if they also indicated their budget figures for the preceding two years, so that Member States might determine the rate of growth of administrative and support services.³² The delegation agreed with CPC's recommendation that the agencies' reports should give a forecast of their activities and plans of action.³³

14. At its fifty-seventh session, by its resolution 1889 (LVII) of 31 July 1974, the Economic and Social Council welcome "the establishment of the Common Register of Development Activities (CORE) as a first and important step towards the provision of information support for system-wide planning and programming."³⁴ It requested the Secretary-General and invited the executive heads of the specialized agencies and IAEA "to include in their next budget submissions and in their medium-term plans detailed project proposals for their organizations' participation in, respectively, the development and implementation phases of the Common Register".³⁵ The Council requested the organizations of the United Nations system to report at its fifty-ninth session, through ACC, on the progress achieved in implementing the resolution.³⁶

3. ADDITIONAL REPORTS ON PARTICULAR SUBJECTS

15. The Economic and Social Council also continued its practice of requesting additional reports on particular subjects. For example, by its resolution 2059 (LXII) of 12 May 1977, it invited all international agencies concerned to prepare reports with the following information:

"the frequency of management and training courses, their content and where and by whom they were organized; the extent to which women are integrated in such courses; how much stress the international agency places on the inclusion of women in the preparation of project proposals in its work with national Governments; how much effort has been devoted to the dissemination of information, for example to individual women leaders and women's organizations, about these courses, as well as other kinds of training and education on formal and informal bases; whether participation increases in accordance with the efforts made to encourage women to take advantage of these courses".³⁷

16. At its fifty-third session, the Economic and Social Council decided that a report of the FAO/WHO/UNICEF Protein Advisory Group on the world protein situation should be made available to the Council triennially or at greater intervals if that appeared more appropriate in the light of the rate of change in the global problem of protein.³⁸ However, at its 1876th meeting, on 7 August 1973, the Council decided to recommend to the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session that it should no longer require the submission to it of a separate report on protein, as requested in Assembly resolution 2416 (XXIII) of 17 December 1968, entitled "Increase in the production and use of edible protein", in view of the request in paragraph 2 of Council resolution 1728 A (LIII) of 28 July 1972 for triennial reports from the Protein Advisory Group.³⁹

4. ARRANGEMENTS MADE TO OBTAIN REPORTS FROM NEW SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

17. During the period under review, the World Intellectual Property Organization and the International Fund for Agricultural Development were brought into relationship with the United Nations as specialized agencies under Articles 57 and 63 of the Charter of the United Nations:⁴⁰ WIPO on 17 December 1974⁴¹ and IFAD on 15 December 1977.⁴² A specific provision for obtaining regular, or annual, reports, as well as a provision concerning reports for implementing recommendations of the Council and the General Assembly were included in the Relationship Agreements with WIPO⁴³ and

²⁷E S C resolution 2059 (LXII), para. 5.

²⁸E S C resolution 1728 (LIII), part A, para. 2.

²⁹E S C decision (LV), agenda item 17(b), p. 32. In the decision "the Council also indicated that the adoption of its recommendation would not preclude the Secretary-General from issuing a covering note to those reports incorporating a statement on the protein problem, so as to permit him to highlight his particular concerns in a distinctive manner."

⁴⁰For information regarding reports and documents received pursuant to arrangements made with other intergovernmental organizations, including INTERPOL, see this *Supplement* under Article 57.

⁴¹G A resolution 3346 (XXIX), E S C resolution 1890 (LVII).

⁴²G A resolution 32/107; E S C resolution 2104 (LXIII).

⁴³See G A resolution 3346 (XXIX), annex. In keeping with the practice of other relationship agreements between the United Nations and the specialized agencies, article 6 (a) specifies that "subject to such arrangements as may be necessary for the safeguarding of confidential material, full and prompt exchange of appropriate information and documents shall be made between the United Nations and the Organization." Article 6 (b) states that WIPO "shall submit to the United Nations an annual report on its activities." Article 8 states, "The Organization shall, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the basic instrument of the Organization, treaties and agreements administered by the Organization, cooperate with the United Nations by furnishing to it such information, special reports and studies, and by rendering such assistance to it, as the United Nations may request." See also art. 5.

²⁷E S C resolution 1729 (LIII), para. 1.

²⁸E/AC.24/SR.479, p. 157.

²⁹Ibid.

³⁰Ibid.

³¹Ibid.

³²Ibid.

³³Ibid.

³⁴E S C resolution 1889 (LVII), sect. I, para. 2; see E/5562/Add.2.

³⁵E S C resolution 1889 (LVII), sect. I, para. 3; see E/5562/Add.2.

³⁶E S C resolution 1889 (LVII), sect. IV, para. 11; see E/5562/Add.2.

with IFAD,⁴⁴ as had been done with other specialized agencies except for the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

18. In 1977, the General Assembly approved the Agreement on Cooperation and Relationships between the United Nations and the World Tourism Organization,⁴⁵ which brought WTO into relationship with the United Nations, not as a specialized agency under Article 63 of the Charter of the United Nations, but pursuant to the Council's efforts to establish a cooperative relationship with that intergovernmental organization.⁴⁶ Similar to the relationship agreements between the United Nations and the specialized agencies, the Agreement with WTO specified that it would "transmit to the Economic and Social Council reports on its activities and programmes".⁴⁷ The Agreement also included a provision stating that WTO would report to the United Nations on the steps taken to give effect to recommendations of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.⁴⁸

19. In 1978, the Secretary-General transmitted by note⁴⁹ to the Economic and Social Council an interim report on the promotion of tourism, prepared by WTO in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/157 of 19 December 1977.⁵⁰ By its resolution 33/122, the General Assembly noted with satisfaction the interim report of WTO.⁵¹ It also noted the work WTO had accomplished since its establishment and the steps it proposed to take,⁵² and requested the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Secretary-General of WTO, to submit a final report to the Assembly at its thirty-fourth session, through the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1979.⁵³

B. Reports from Members of the United Nations on steps taken to give effect to recommendations of the Economic and Social Council and of the General Assembly on economic and social matters

20. During the reporting period, no agreements were concluded between the Economic and Social Council and Member States regarding Member States' activities to implement resolutions of the General Assembly and the Eco-

nomical and Social Council.⁵⁴ However, various reporting systems were designed and put into practice as attempts were made to introduce a generalized procedure in accordance with Council resolution 1458 (XLVII) of 8 August 1969, in which it called upon the Commission on Human Rights to review and consolidate the types of information being sought from Governments in the field of human rights.⁵⁵ Also, by its decision 228 (LXII), of 13 May 1977, the Economic and Social Council endorsed the recommendation made by the Commission on Human Rights in paragraph (b) of its resolution 3 (XXXIII) and consequently decided to request UNESCO to lay before its member States appropriate proposals for the implementation of the resolution and to submit to the Commission for study, at its thirty-fourth session, a report on the situation with regard to the teaching of human rights throughout the world, accompanied by detailed recommendations.⁵⁶

21. During the period under review, the Economic and Social Council recognized that few Member States had submitted reports on steps taken to implement recommendations of the Council and the General Assembly. For example, by its resolution 2060 (LXII) of 12 May 1977, the Council stated that, within the time limit given, few Governments had been able to report on measures taken at the national level specifically to implement the World Plan of Action and that it was therefore difficult at the current stage to adopt findings and conclusions on major global trends and policies with regard to the status of women.⁵⁷ The Council also noted that the Commission on the Status of Women had considered the report of the Secretary-General prepared on the basis of information furnished by the few Governments in response to Assembly resolutions 3490 (XXX) and 3520 (XXX) and Council resolution 1855 (LVI).⁵⁸ In its resolution 1989 (LX) of 11 May 1976, the Council recommended that the General Assembly appeal to Member States that had not yet done so to forward the reports called for under paragraph 18 (e) of the annex to its resolution 3057 (XXVIII), containing the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.⁵⁹

22. By its resolution 1929 (LVIII), of 6 May 1975, the Economic and Social Council recommended that the Governments of Member States should encourage the study, documentation and dissemination, for the information and benefit of other Member States, of innovative measures adopted by them for promoting popular participation in development and for monitoring and assessing their effectiveness.⁶⁰

⁴⁴See G A resolution 32/107, Annex, Art. VI. The relationship agreement between the United Nations and IFAD specifies in Article VI(1) that "subject to such arrangements as may be necessary...for the safeguarding of confidential material furnished to them by their members or other sources, full and prompt exchange of information and documents shall be made between the United Nations and the Fund." Article VI(2)(a) specifies that "the Fund agrees to transmit to the United Nations regular reports on the activities of the Fund. . . ." See also art. V.

⁴⁵G A resolution 32/156, para. 2.

⁴⁶G A resolution 32/156; see E S C decision 254 (LXIII).

⁴⁷E S C decision (LXIII), article VII. By article VII of that agreement, contained in the annex to G A resolution 32/156, "subject to such arrangements as may be necessary for the safeguarding of confidential material, a full and prompt exchange of information and documents on matters concerning tourism shall be made between the United Nations and the World Tourism Organization. The World Tourism Organization agrees to transmit to the Economic and Social Council reports on its activities and programmes."

⁴⁸Under G A resolution 32/156, annex, article II.

⁴⁹E/1978/98.

⁵⁰G A resolution 32/157.

⁵¹G A resolution 33/122, para. 2.

⁵²Ibid., para. 3.

⁵³Ibid., para. 4.

⁵⁴According to the *Repertory*, vol. III, under Article 64, para. 31, the Council had made two procedural arrangements to obtain reports from Members on steps taken to give effect to recommendations on economic and social matters: (a) Governments were requested to supply reports with respect to individual resolutions as required; and; (b) Governments were requested to supply reports with respect to lists of recommendations. In accordance with practice, resolutions which included specific requests for reports usually specified that the report should be sent to the Secretary-General. As in the past, in some cases, the request for reports was not made directly to Member States, but to the Secretary-General, who was asked to request the reports from Governments.

⁵⁵See *Repertory, Supplement No. 4*, vol. III, under Article 64, sect. I, para. 7.

⁵⁶E S C decision 228 (LXII).

⁵⁷E S C resolution 2060 (LXII), para. 4.

⁵⁸Ibid., paras. 1 and 3.

⁵⁹E S C resolution 1989 (LX), para. 7.

⁶⁰E S C resolution 1929 (LVIII), paras. 4 and 4 (e).

II. ANALYTICAL SUMMARY OF PRACTICE

A. Reports from the specialized agencies

1. REGULAR REPORTS FROM THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

a. *Form and content of regular/annual reports*

23. In 1970, at the forty-ninth session of the Economic and Social Council, members of the Council decided that the practice of presenting the summaries, instead of the full reports, of the specialized agencies and IAEA was satisfactory.⁶¹ On 27 July 1970, the Council took note with appreciation of the analytical summaries provided by the specialized agencies and IAEA and requested the organizations concerned to continue to submit them.⁶² In order to improve the content and format of reports submitted, the Council adopted resolution 1548 (XLIX), of 30 July 1970,⁶³ and on the recommendation of CPC, by which it invited the specialized agencies and IAEA to include in their future analytical summaries specific additional information, including:

(a) An organizational chart at the beginning of each summary, together with an indication of the changes that had been made during the course of the year;

(b) In the chapter entitled "Coordination with other organizations of the United Nations system", one section which would be concerned with achievements and a second section which would contain a description of any outstanding coordination problems and the difficulties encountered in solving them;

(c) Information in tabular form on expenditure on major programmes for previous and current years;

(d) Fuller information on the concrete steps taken by the organizations to carry out the recommendations made in the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit on the question of duplication or lack of co-ordination;

(e) Recommendations for specific action by the Council.⁶⁴

24. At its fifty-first session, in two separate resolutions, the Economic and Social Council requested⁶⁵ and invited⁶⁶ respectively the specialized agencies and IAEA to continue to provide analytical reports, bearing in mind the guidelines laid down for the purpose, in particular in its resolution 1548 (XLIX) of 30 July 1970.

25. By its resolution 1624 (LI) of 30 July 1971, the Council expressed concern with the circulation of Council documentation in sufficient time and simultaneously in the working languages of the Organization.⁶⁷

26. By its resolution 1623 (LI) of 30 July 1971, the Economic and Social Council set out certain guidelines relat-

ing to the form, content and submission of reports.⁶⁸ It requested the Secretary-General

"to take urgent steps to reform the nature, scope and form of documentation submitted to the Council to ensure that Governments can review reports adequately and also that the Council is able to concentrate on issues requiring intergovernmental consideration, that reports submitted to the Council are action-oriented and concise (normally not more than 32 pages), and present clear and precise recommendations drawing attention to issues that should be taken into account by the Council and possible alternative courses of action proposed for the Council and their implications".⁶⁹

It further requested that the Secretary-General ensure that the guidelines were observed in reports submitted to the Council and its functional commissions and subsidiary bodies, beginning in 1972.⁷⁰ In 1973, the Council requested the Secretary-General to take steps to ensure that documents submitted to the Council, its subsidiary bodies and functional commissions conformed strictly to the provisions of paragraph 8 of Council resolution 1623 (LI) of 30 July 1971.⁷¹

27. On 5 July 1971, at the fifty-first session of the Economic and Social Council, the President of the Council stated that it had also been proposed that the reports of the specialized agencies and of the regional economic commissions should be submitted to the Economic Committee and to the Coordination Committee, which would examine their content and make appropriate recommendations.⁷² In the President's opinion,⁷³

"those reports should in future be submitted in an abridged form, and spaced out in time, so that at any one session the Council would have to consider only a small number of such reports, in addition to urgent communications calling for a decision on its part. The steps which the Council was authorized to take under Article 64 of the Charter in connection with the reports of the specialized agencies had become in practice a kind of duty, and the Council had fallen into a routine. It was precisely now, when there was so much talk of rationalizing activities, and when ways and means of improving the Council's working methods were being studied, that action should be taken, although there could of course be no question of excluding the representatives of the specialized agencies from participation in the Council's work. It was in that spirit that he had taken the initiative of asking the executive heads of the specialized agencies to participate in the general discussion, not to submit reports of their organizations' activities, but to give the Council the benefit of their knowledge and experience and to express their views on the development of economic and social policy in the world at large, on the implementation of the International Development Strategy and the role which each agency was called upon to play in that context, and perhaps also on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council."

⁶¹See E/4877, chap. VI. In accordance with its resolution 1459 (XLVII) of 8 August 1969, the Council had discontinued circulating the full annual reports of the specialized agencies.

⁶²E S C decision (XLIX), pp. 21-22; See also E/AC.24/SR.390, p. 49, for the Coordinating Committee's complete discussion.

⁶³See E/4877.

⁶⁴E S C resolution 1548 (XLIX); See also E/AC.24/L.383.

⁶⁵E S C resolution 1623 (LI), para. 13.

⁶⁶E S C resolution 1642 (LI), para. 2.

⁶⁷E S C resolution 1624 (LI), para. 1.

⁶⁸E S C resolution 1623 (LI).

⁶⁹Ibid., para. 8.

⁷⁰Ibid., para. 9.

⁷¹E S C resolution 1770 (LIV), para. 4.

⁷²ESC (51), plen., 1773rd mtg., para. 5.

⁷³Ibid.

28. The President also stated at the opening of the fifty-first session that the Council's function was to receive and analyse, to orient and coordinate, not to act as a governing body to which each agency felt obliged to render a detailed account.⁷⁴

29. At its fifty-third session, the Council invited ACC to consider, in the light of the discussion at the session of the Council,⁷⁵ the type and content of future reports which would best facilitate the Council's work in its in-depth reviews, stressing the coordination aspect.⁷⁶

30. Noting with concern the large volume of documentation submitted for its fifty-seventh session and for recent sessions of its functional commissions and subsidiary bodies,⁷⁷ the Economic and Social Council referred to its resolution 1623 (LI) of 30 July 1971, entitled "Organization of the work of the Council", and reiterated its request that the Secretary-General should ensure that the guidelines set out in paragraph 8 of its resolution 1623 (LI) were observed in reports submitted to the Council and its functional commissions and subsidiary bodies, and particularly that reports were action-oriented and concise.⁷⁸ Accordingly, the Council decided to consider no report exceeding 32 pages.⁷⁹

b. *Frequency of in-depth reports and date of their submission*

31. At its fifty-third session, by its resolution 1728 (LIII), the Economic and Social Council recalled⁸⁰ its resolutions 1642 (LI) of 30 July 1971 and 1643 (LI), and invited ACC to submit and recommend for the Council's consideration a schedule for future in-depth reviews of reports of specialized agencies, ensuring that all agencies should receive detailed consideration by 1975.⁸¹ During the Coordination Committee meeting of 7 July 1972, the Council had been urged by one delegation in particular to establish such a schedule for in-depth reviews in order to enable Member States and the agencies to know which reports would be discussed and when.⁸² In its resolution 1642 (LI) the Council specified that, after the in-depth discussion of the reports selected, sufficient time should be allowed for the discussion of any of the other reports.⁸³

32. During the period under review, by a decision taken at its 1876th meeting, on 7 August 1973, the Economic and Social Council approved ACC's schedule⁸⁴ by which the Council would consider in depth the reports of all of the

specialized agencies and IAEA within a five-year period.⁸⁵ The Council also decided to continue the in-depth reviews until the completion of the first cycle of reviews in 1975.⁸⁶ It requested ACC to submit suggestions to the Council at its fifty-ninth session for the second round of in-depth reviews of reports of agencies scheduled to begin in 1976.⁸⁷ It also requested that in future sessions the annual report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination should be introduced to the Council before those of the agencies selected for in-depth review.⁸⁸

c. *Cross-organizational programme analyses (COPA)*

33. During the period under review, the Economic and Social Council attempted various methods to review reports of the individual specialized agencies and IAEA, but by the end of the period, decided to request cross-organizational reports that focused on issues common to the specialized agencies and IAEA.

34. By its resolution 1643 (LI) of 30 July 1971, the Council called upon the Coordination Committee to present annually to the Council a list of possible topics for in-depth consideration, with a system-wide coverage.⁸⁹ Upon the Council's approval of the list, the Coordination Committee was to present to the Council and, as appropriate, to the competent legislative bodies of the specialized agencies and IAEA, separate reports on each topic "containing a concise and factual picture of the way in which the system as a whole operates, pointing out in particular any shortfalls or duplication and also the practical difficulties arising from the implementation of policies and programmes of work related to the topic in question."⁹⁰ By its resolution 1645 (LI) of 30 July 1971, the Council endorsed ACC's first study of a key issue—related to the green revolution—thereby providing an opportunity for concerted interagency action in economic and social development.⁹¹

35. In its annual report for 1971-1972, ACC stated that: "[t]he United Nations system of organizations has been built up essentially on a sectoral pattern. Through ACC it has machinery and arrangements for inter-secretariat coordination and cooperation, developed and tempered over the past quarter-century. ACC not only provides facilities for coordination of sectoral activities, but provides an intersecretariat framework for an integrated and coherent approach to large general problems."⁹²

⁷⁴Ibid., para. 6.

⁷⁵See E/AC.24/SR.437-439, E/AC.24/SR.451.

⁷⁶E S C resolution 1728 (LIII), part A, para. 5(b).

⁷⁷E S C resolution 1894 (LVII), para. 1.

⁷⁸Ibid.

⁷⁹Ibid., para. 4. The explicit exceptions to the 32-page limit included the *World Economic Survey*, the *Report on the World Social Situation* and any other authorized waiver by the Council.

⁸⁰E S C resolution 1728 (LIII), sect. A, para. 1.

⁸¹Ibid., sect. A, para. 5(a).

⁸²E/AC.24/SR.437, pp. 57-58.

⁸³E S C resolution 1642 (LI), para. 4. See also E/AC.24/SR.437, pp. 57-58.

⁸⁴The first schedule was set forth in ACC's 1972/73 annual report (E/5289, part I, para. 46). The second round of in-depth reviews was suggested by ACC in its 1974/75 annual report contained (E/5675, Part I, para. 51).

⁸⁵For example, on 2 June 1972, the Council took note of CPC's report (E S C (52), Suppl. No. 8, sect. IV, paras. 34-36) and decided that the reports of WHO and WMO should be chosen for in-depth examination at the Council's fifty-third session. See also E S C decision (LIII) agenda item 13, p. 25. Based on ACC's recommendation (E/5133 and Corr. 2), the Council decided in its resolution 1728 (LIII), part A, para. 4, to review in depth in 1973 the reports of ILO, UNESCO and IMCO. The Council thereby decided to accept the suggestion by ACC (E/5289 (part I), para. 46, that in-depth reports should be submitted by FAO and ITU in 1974, and by ICAO, IAEA and UPU in 1975. By E S C decision 120 (LIX) of 30 July 1975, the Council took note of ACC's 1974/75 annual report suggesting that the second round of in-depth reviews should be scheduled as follows: WHO, IMCO and WMO, 1976; UNESCO and ILO, 1977; FAO and ITU, 1978; ICAO and UPU, 1979; and IAEA and WIPO, 1980; See also E/5675, part I, para. 51.

⁸⁶E S C decision (LV), agenda item 17(a), p. 31.

⁸⁷E S C resolution 1888 (LVII), para. 4. See E/5562/Add.1, p. 3.

⁸⁸E S C resolution 1888 (LVII), para. 3.

⁸⁹E S C resolution 1643 (LI), para. 4.

⁹⁰Ibid. See also E/5133, sect. I, A, para. 17.

⁹¹E S C resolution 1645 (LI).

⁹²E/5133, sect. II, B, para. 58 (e).

ACC informed the Economic and Social Council of the shift in emphasis in ACC's work from the mere avoidance of duplication to the identification of areas in which joint or concerted action could appropriately be undertaken.⁹³ By its resolution 1889 (LVII) of 31 July 1974, the Council recalled its continuing role as described in its resolution 1768 (LIV) of examining and coordinating "on a sector-by-sector basis, the activities and programmes of the agencies of the United Nations system in order to effectively perform its functions as co-ordinator of the system and to enable it to ensure that the work programmes of the United Nations and its agencies are compatible and mutually complementary".⁹⁴

36. In 1976, at its sixtieth session, the Council approved the consolidated terms of reference for CPC, which specified that in discharging its responsibilities, it shall "study the reports of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, appropriate reports of United Nations organs, the annual reports of the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency and other relevant documents."⁹⁵ These terms of reference also specified that CPC would consider "on a sector-by-sector basis the activities and programmes of the agencies of the United Nations system in order to enable the Council effectively to perform its functions as coordinator of the system and ensure that the work programmes of the United Nations and its agencies shall be compatible and mutually complementary."⁹⁶

37. At the joint meetings of CPC and ACC, held from 5 to 7 July 1977, the two Committees discussed the ways and means of strengthening the contributions of organizations to the work of CPC and the Economic and Social Council.⁹⁷ With regard to the methodology to be adopted for the study of the activities of the specialized agencies, the two Committees recommended that the sector-by-sector approach to coordination problems should be adopted, rather than an organization-by-organization approach.⁹⁸ This would eliminate the need for agencies' analytical summaries; their annual reports would be sufficient.⁹⁹

38. On 3 August 1977, the Economic and Social Council endorsed the recommendations of the joint meetings of CPC and ACC concerning in-depth studies on the basis of

the programme-sector-by-programme-sector approach to co-ordination¹⁰⁰ and decided to discontinue the submission of analytical summaries of the reports of the specialized agencies requested in its resolution 1458 (XLVII) of 8 August 1969 and related resolutions.¹⁰¹

39. At its sixty-third session, the Council invited ACC to submit annually to CPC the relevant elements and selected information for the selection of programme sectors to be reviewed in depth on a United Nations system-wide basis.¹⁰² The specialized agencies were invited to cooperate actively, through ACC, "in the preparation and timely submission of reports on United Nations system-wide programme sectors for consideration by the Committee for Programme and Coordination."¹⁰³

40. In response to section II of Economic and Social Council resolution 2098 (LXIII) of 3 August 1977, ACC prepared three separate reports describing on a system-wide basis activities in specific programme sectors, namely economic cooperation among developing countries, information systems and the activities of organizations concerned with the application of science and technology to development.¹⁰⁴ These reports together constituted an initial attempt by ACC to support CPC's efforts to deal more effectively with the interrelationships of activities than had been possible in the past on the basis of reports submitted by individual organizations.¹⁰⁵ In its annual report, submitted on 26 April 1978, ACC stated that "[t]he activities of the new work programme have begun the process of improving communications and increased the involvement of individual organizations in cross-organizational and interdisciplinary information system activities to support the policy-making activities of governing bodies and the development strategies of recipient countries."¹⁰⁶

d. Frequency of sector-by-sector reports

41. In its resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977, the General Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Restructuring of the economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System, which specified that:

"[t]he Economic and Social Council should organize its work on a biennial basis and provide for shorter but more frequent subject-oriented sessions spread throughout the year, except when the General Assembly is in session. Such sessions . . . should be scheduled for the purpose . . . of considering action by the United Nations system in particular sectors, reviewing the results of technical work undertaken in specialized bodies and establishing guidelines for such work, reviewing programme budgets and medium-term plans within the United Nations system, and recommending policy guidelines for operational activities. The Council . . . should identify subject areas on which such sessions should be held".¹⁰⁷

⁹³E/5133 and Corr. 2, sect. I, A.

⁹⁴E S C resolution 1889 (LVII), para. 2, citing E S C resolution 1768 (LIV), para. 9 (b).

⁹⁵E S C resolution 2008 (LX), annex, sect. A, para. 3 (d). The Council, in reviewing the terms of reference of CPC, recalled Council resolutions 920 (XXXIV) of 3 August 1962, 1171 (XLI) of 5 August 1966, 1472 (XLVIII) of 13 January 1970, 1768 (LIV) of 18 May 1973, and GA resolution 3392 (XXX) of 20 November 1975, as well as Council decision 139 (ORG-76) of 15 January 1976.

⁹⁶*Ibid.*, annex, sect. A, para. 3 (a); see GA (32), Suppl. No. 38.

⁹⁷E/6009 and Corr.1. With respect to this agenda item, the two Committees recognized that a large number of measures adopted over the past few years had corresponded to that objective—in particular, a change in the presentation of the CPC report, communication to CPC of summaries of the work of the ACC Preparatory Committee and of the results of preliminary consultations among specialized agencies, and special analyses conducted by ACC on the sectors chosen by CPC for detailed study.

⁹⁸*Ibid.*, para. 27. CPC also decided that it should identify the coordination problems which arose in sectors of activity falling within the competence of several agencies.

⁹⁹In 1969, by its resolution 1458 (XLVII), the Council decided to discontinue the circulation to its members of the full annual reports of the specialized agencies and IAEA on the understanding that copies would be available for reference purposes during the Council's sessions.

¹⁰⁰E S C resolution 2098 (LXIII), sect. II, para. 2.

¹⁰¹*Ibid.*, para. 1.

¹⁰²*Ibid.*, para. 3.

¹⁰³*Ibid.*, para. 4.

¹⁰⁴E/1978/43, para. 6.

¹⁰⁵*Ibid.*

¹⁰⁶*Ibid.*, para. 68.

¹⁰⁷G A resolution 32/197, annex, sect. II, para. 7.

2. REPORTS BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES ON STEPS TAKEN TO GIVE EFFECT TO RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AND OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

42. One way that the Economic and Social Council coordinates the work of the United Nations system has included making arrangements with the specialized agencies to obtain reports on the steps taken to give effect to its own recommendations and to recommendations on matters falling within its competence that may be formulated by the General Assembly.¹⁰⁸ The *Ad Hoc* Committee concluded that:

“[i]n exercising its functions and powers under the Charter and in fulfilling its role as set out in the relevant General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions, the Council, under the authority of the Assembly or in the performance of such functions as may be assigned to it by the Assembly, should concentrate on its responsibilities:

“ . . .

“(c) To ensure the overall coordination of the activities of the organizations of the United Nations system in the economic, social and related fields and, to that end, the implementation of the priorities established by the General Assembly for the system as a whole.”¹⁰⁹

43. By its resolution 2098 (LXIII) of 3 August 1977, the Economic and Social Council decided to discontinue the submission of analytical summaries of the reports of the specialized agencies requested in its resolution 1458 (XLVII) of 8 August 1969 and related resolutions¹¹⁰ and endorsed the recommendations of the joint meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination concerning in-depth studies on the basis of the programme-sector-by-programme-sector approach to coordination.¹¹¹

3. OBSERVATIONS OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL UNDER ARTICLE 64, PARAGRAPH 2¹¹²

44. During the period under review, the Economic and Social Council continued to include its observations on reports received from specialized agencies and IAEA in its annual reports to the General Assembly. However, the Council's practice of commenting on reports received from individual agencies by adopting separate resolutions decreased.¹¹³ For example, regarding the subject of in-depth reviews, “the Council decided that, when a sub-

siary body of the Council believes that it has completed all appropriate action pursuant to an in-depth review requested by the Council, that subsidiary body should make a short recommendation to the Council to the effect that no further action by the Council is necessary.”¹¹⁴ In its resolution 32/197,¹¹⁵ the Assembly recommended that, “[i]n formulating its programme, the Council should take into account the possibility of transmitting certain of the reports submitted through it to the General Assembly without debate”.¹¹⁶

45. Beginning in 1978 at its organizational session, the Economic and Social Council began to communicate to the General Assembly its observations regarding the cross-organizational programme analyses.¹¹⁷

****B. Reports from Members of the United Nations on steps taken to give effect to recommendations of the Economic and Social Council and of the General Assembly on economic and social matters**

¹⁰⁸The Secretary-General, citing comments contained in the Joint Inspection Unit report on reporting to the Economic and Social Council (A/40/284-E/1987/71).

¹⁰⁹G A resolution 32/197, annex, sect. II, para. 5(c).

¹¹⁰E S C resolution 2098 (LXIII), sect. II, para. 1.

¹¹¹*Ibid.*, para. 2.

¹¹²In keeping with past practice, the Council usually includes its observations on reports received from specialized agencies under Article 64 (1) in its annual reports to the General Assembly either (a) in a separate chapter or (b) in the context of reports on particular subjects. In general, the Council has expressed its approval, presented the essence of the discussions in the framework of the Council which have been triggered by the reports received, merely taken note of them or requested the transmission of further information.

¹¹³The Council had previously commented on these reports by expressing its approval, presenting the essence of its discussions, taking note of the report of the individual agency or by referring to all of the reports, or requesting the transmission of further information. See *Reportory, Supplements Nos. 1 and 2*, vol. III, under Article 64, sect. II, A(3), paras. 6-8.

¹¹⁴E S C decision (LV), agenda item 17(b), p. 32.

¹¹⁵G A resolution 32/197, para. 3.

¹¹⁶*Ibid.*, annex, sect. II, para. 8.

¹¹⁷See, e.g., E S C resolution 2073 (LXII), para. 4; see also E/CN.5/537.