### 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. During the period under review, questions relating to the authority of the Economic and Social Council to request and obtain reports were raised and considered on numerous occasions. As in the past, the present study divides its discussion into separate sections focusing on the specialized agencies and the Member States, respectively. The structure of the study is similar to that of the study of Article 64 in the Repertory. The general survey provides an overall view of the trends and features of practice of the Council and subsidiary bodies during the period under review. The analytical summary of practice provides a more detailed examination of specific questions bearing directly on the application of Article 64. Sections relating to analytical summaries of agency reports have been deleted as these types of reviews were phased out during the previous period under review.1

2. As in the past, the study dealing with Article 64 makes no more than a brief mention of reports on matters in the field of human rights. These matters are dealt with more extensively under Article 62(2). Special reports and reports requested of the Secretary-General in cooperation with the specialized agencies continue to be dealt with primarily under Article 13(1)(b) and (2) and under Article 62(1).

1See Supplement No. 5, under Article 64, para. 3.

I. GENERAL SURVEY

A. Reports from the specialized agencies

3. The adoption of General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977, relating to the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, signalled a shifting of the Organization’s attention towards sectoral and system-wide issues, rather than examining individual topics in isolation.2 The Assembly saw the need for addressing problems in a comprehensive manner, and called for “overall coordination within the system in order to ensure a multidisciplinary approach ... on a system-wide basis.”3 This trend has been reflected in the reporting requirements of the specialized agencies under Article 64.4

During the period under review, the Council continued to move away from its former practice of accepting regular reports from individual agencies, and instead sought a more consolidated approach.

4. The specialized agencies continued the practice, established in 1977, of submitting reports through the Administrative Committee on Coordination on different programme sectors.5 Throughout the period, this was done primarily through the submission of cross-organizational programme analyses.6 Cross-organizational programme

that it is imperative that they emphasize problems which face the United Nations system as a whole”. See also E/1985/57, sect. IV, para. 31, stating that, “[w]ithin the structures derived from General Assembly resolution 32/197 ..., inter-agency coordination through joint or mutually complementary programme activities has evolved in a pragmatic manner.”

5See Supplement No. 5, under Article 64, para. 10.

6See sect. II.A.1(a) below. See also E/1980/34, sect. II, para. 1, in which ACC noted that the General Assembly in its resolution 32/197 had endorsed the idea of using cross-organizational
analyses became increasingly common and useful, not just to the Council, but also to the agencies themselves. As ACC reported in 1982,

"while these analyses have, in the past, been prepared primarily to assist the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) and the Economic and Social Council in fulfilling their mandates, they are also expected increasingly to assist the secretariats of the participating organizations in both their internal programming and in joint planning".\(^7\)

5. In addition to cross-organizational programme analyses, the Organization also sought to gain a sectoral view of agency activities through inter-agency task forces, overviews of the objectives of the agencies, and evaluations.\(^8\) Furthermore, through the establishment of the triennial comprehensive policy review series, the Council and the Assembly aimed to obtain information on operational activities in the area of development on a periodic basis.\(^9\) The policy reviews, in conjunction with the Common Register of Development Activities,\(^10\) illuminated the possibilities for exhaustive reporting on agency activities in specific programme areas.

6. While the development of sectoral reviews is the most marked trend relating to reporting requirements during the period, the Organization did continue, on occasion, to request reports on particular subjects.\(^11\) In at least one instance, furthermore, an individual agency itself volunteered to submit follow-up reports to the Council on results achieved in compliance with past decisions in a particular field. In the area of land reform, FAO decided to submit once every four years a report to its own governing bodies on the follow-up work to the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development.\(^12\) FAO also offered to make the report available to the Council, and in its decision 1981/106, the Council approved that suggestion.\(^13\)

7. Related to the pattern of developments in reporting during the period under review, it should be noted that the need for greater control and limitation of documentation was addressed numerous times. A note by the Secretariat in 1979 illuminated the burden placed on that body in having to supply documents, and makes recommendations to the Council to keep its requests for documents to a minimal amount.\(^14\) The Council decided to review, at its annual organizational session, all documentation requested "under an existing legislative authority" to determine if it could be reduced.\(^15\)

Within that context, at least one specialized agency raised concerns of the burden placed on those bodies under existing requirements. The Director-General of UNESCO drew attention to the "tendency on the part of the General Assembly of the United Nations and the Economic and Social Council to step up to an exaggerated degree their requests for all kinds of contributions and reports, when these, in some instances, are concerned with problems of secondary importance or with matters that have already been abundantly discussed."\(^16\)

The Director-General also added that the need for such documents and their usefulness were "not always obvious".\(^17\) The Secretary-General, taking note of those remarks, commented that they illustrated jurisdictional concerns resulting from the coordination of activities of the United Nations and the agencies.\(^18\)

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

8. During the period under review, new developments arose in the type of arrangements concluded between the Council and the Member States regarding Member States' activities to implement General Assembly or Council resolutions. As was the case in the previous period, new reporting systems were designed to facilitate this purpose.\(^19\) In some instances, the Assembly or the Council adopted individual resolutions calling upon Member States to implement recommendations on economic and social matters.

9. In two instances, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council sought to create a more formal structure for obtaining reports from Member States on the implementation of two important initiatives. In the case of the integrated reporting system on the status of women, the Assembly called upon States to submit, through the Council, reports on their efforts to ensure the implementation of the World Plan of Action adopted by the World Conference of the International Women's Year and of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women.\(^20\) Similarly, the Assembly called upon States to report on the implementation of the International Development Strategy of the Third United Nations Development Decade.\(^21\) The text of the Strategy itself requests Governments to "pledge themselves, individually and collectively, to fulfil their commitment to establish a new international economic order based on justice and equity. They subscribe to the goals and objectives of the Strategy and

\(^7\)See E/1982/4, sect. II.E, para. 34.
\(^8\)See sect. II.A.1(c), (d) and (e) below.
\(^9\)See sect. II.A.1(b) below.
\(^10\)See sect. II.A.1(f) below.
\(^12\)See E/1981/38; see also E/1981/SR.4.
\(^13\)E S C decision 1981/106; see E/1981/73.
\(^14\)E/1979/21; see E S C resolution 1979/1, in which the Council decides to keep its requests for documents to the minimum compatible with its efficient conduct.
\(^15\)E S C resolution 1982/50, para. 1(i).
\(^16\)A/35/481, para. 53.
\(^17\)Ibid.
\(^18\)A/35/527, sect. II.B, para. 32.
\(^19\)See Supplement No. 5, under Article 64, para. 20.
\(^20\)See sect. II.A.2(a) below.
\(^21\)See sect. II.A.2(b) below.
firmly resolve to translate them into reality by adopting a coherent set of interrelated, concrete and effective policy measures in all sectors of development.\(^{22}\)

10. In spite of the specific language of that paragraph, however, the States were not asked to report periodically to the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the Strategy.\(^{23}\) As is evident when comparing the agencies' responsibilities under the Strategy to those of the States, the States were encouraged to implement, wherever possible, but were not required to do so. That reflected the reality that, while Article 64 does allow the Council to obtain reports from States on steps taken, it in no way creates a legal obligation for States to do so.\(^{24}\)

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\(^{22}\)See G A resolution 35/56, annex, sect. I, para. 16.

\(^{23}\)See sect. II.A.2(b) below, discussing the responsibility of agencies to report to the Committee. See also G A resolution 37/202, limiting its request of reporting to the "organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system".

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II. ANALYTICAL SUMMARY OF PRACTICE

A. Reports from specialized agencies

1. REPORTS ON THE REGULAR ACTIVITY OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

(a) Cross-organizational programme analyses

11. During the period under review, the Council continued its practice of requesting cross-organizational reports that focused on specific issues common to the specialized agencies and IAEA. ACC in its 1979-1980 annual overview report, stated that

"The concept of cross-organizational programme analyses is intended to facilitate the coordination functions of intergovernmental organs by focusing on programme areas where several organizations of the system are active, and dispensing with reviews of individual agencies' programmes.\(^{25}\)

12. While the Organization appeared to rely increasingly on this type of reporting to obtain information on the activities of the agencies, problems persisted relating to the effectiveness and usefulness of cross-organizational reviews. One common criticism was the lack of a clear definition in the scope of subjects considered.\(^{26}\) The Committee on Programme and Coordination reported during its nineteenth session that, while clear definitions were desirable, some delegations cautioned that too narrow a scope could prove overly restrictive.\(^{27}\) At the same time, ACC recalled that many of the areas being considered were inherently multidisciplinary and thus posed problems of manageability and unwieldy scope.\(^{28}\) Another issue that arose was the difficulty of providing a broad analysis of problems in fields of particular complexity. One example of such a field was marine affairs. CPC noted that the analysis on marine affairs\(^{29}\) failed to achieve such an overview, and suggested that ACC review the work of the system in that field on a periodic basis.\(^{30}\) CPC also recommended that future cross-organizational programme analyses should include "an analysis of the broad problems towards which the activities of the system are directed and against which the pattern of activities should be compared".\(^{31}\)

13. Questions also continued to arise regarding the underlying purpose of cross-organizational analyses. A representative of the Secretary-General reminded CPC at its twenty-second session that those analyses were a tool for coordination, not evaluation.\(^{32}\) On the other hand, CPC recognized a thin line between evaluation and cross-organizational analysis, and saw a need for a closer relationship between the analyses and programme planning, monitoring, and evaluation.\(^{33}\) Furthermore, CPC repeatedly stressed the need for more critical analysis, rather than a merely descriptive and quantitative approach.\(^{34}\)

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\(^{25}\)E/1980/34, sect. II, p. 5. "The choice of a narrow area for review and analysis might produce limited conclusions, so the definition and scope of the field of activities must be balanced against the capacity for managing the programme analysis." For an example of an area where the lack of a clear definition created a problem in the preparation of an analysis, see report of the Secretary-General on the cross-organizational programme analysis of public administration and finance activities of the United Nations system, E/AC.51/1982/4.

\(^{26}\)E/1980/34, sect. II, p. 5. The report also outlined the two broad types of analysis that had emerged by this time: (a) overview of a field of activity, and (b) follow-up action or an update of an analysis.

\(^{27}\)G A (34), Suppl. No. 38, chap. V, part B, para. 169. CPC also raised the concern that lack of such [clear] definitions should not prevent cross-organizational programme analyses from being undertaken in areas where there was interfacing of activities and therefore benefit to be gained from such analyses.


\(^{29}\)G A (38), Suppl. No. 38, chap. II, part C, para. 19(a).

\(^{30}\)Ibid., para. 19(e).

\(^{31}\)G A (37), Suppl. No. 38, chap. III, sect. 2, para. 240.

\(^{22}\)See G A (38), Suppl. No. 38, chap. II, part C, para. 19(f). At its twenty-fourth session, CPC recommended that future analyses and evaluations on the same subject should be linked by scheduling them closely together and should be mutually supporting. G A (39), Suppl. No. 38, chap. X, part E, sect. 3, para. 376. See note 46 below.

attempted to resolve such questions relating to the scope and purpose of the analyses by adopting recommendations and criteria on various occasions to provide guidelines for future reviews. The recommendations consistently called for a clear legislative mandate to set out the main problem to be examined in each analysis.  

14. Despite the continuing problems involved in conducting cross-organizational analyses, the period as a whole saw a general improvement in the methodology of the reviews and satisfaction with their contribution to the overall understanding of the system.  

On the advice of ACC, it was recommended that the reviews should take place over a two-year period to allow for sufficient lead time. ACC also recommended the use of future analyses as “vehicles for future joint action,” and throughout the period, attention was paid to the possibility of joint planning in the preparation of the analyses.

(i) Cross-organizational review of selected major issues in proposed medium-term plans of the organizations of the United Nations system

15. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1982/50, established a system of cross-sectoral review of selected major issues in the proposed medium-term plans of the organizations of the United Nations system, to be conducted every six years. The first cross-sectoral reviews were carried out in 1983, in the fields of population and of food and agriculture; reviews were also undertaken in the fields of marine affairs, the role of women in development, and economic and technical cooperation among developing countries. Following the adoption of the reviews, one delegate stated that they had proved comprehensive and useful and constituted an effort by a large number of delegations.

16. In its resolution 1983/78, the Council clarified the nature of the reviews by renaming them “cross-sectoral review[s] of selected major issues in the medium-term plans”. Under the resolution, the Council decided to conduct the reviews, starting in 1985, on a biennial basis.

17. During the debate surrounding the adoption of Council resolution 1983/78, a representative of UNESCO raised concerns about the authority to conduct cross-sectoral reviews and stated that the resolution raised “fundamental legal difficulties” concerning the relationship between the United Nations and UNESCO. Specifically, the representative reacted against the wording of paragraph 3, which requested the Secretary-General to include in future reports specific conclusions and recommendations, based on an analytical assessment of the activities and programmes of the United Nations system in the selected sectors, in order to enable the Council to enhance its role in coordinating the activities and programmes of the system in the economic and social sectors. The representative of UNESCO feared that the paragraph gave rise to problems of substance with regard to the method, scope and aims of the cross-sectoral review, since in UNESCO, review activities were the sole responsibility of the member States, acting through the UNESCO Executive Board and the General Conference, and also of the Economic and Social Council and CPC. The representative expressed the view that cross-sectoral reviews could serve a useful purpose as a means of coordination, but must first be based on an “unambiguous legal foundation.”

18. The apparent overlap between cross-organizational programme analyses and cross-organizational reviews of medium-term plans became evident on at least one occasion during the period under review. The Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Programme Matters) (CCSQ (PROG)) of ACC, at its second regular session of 1984, recommended that the cross-organizational programme analysis on economic and technical cooperation among developing countries should subsume the cross-organizational review of medium-term plans on the same topic. The General Assembly subsequently also recommended that the two reports should be combined. The combined report by the Secretary-General was to be
presented to the Council at its second regular session of 1985.47

(ii) Cross-sectional programme analyses

19. During the period under review, a distinction was also drawn between cross-organizational programme analyses and cross-sectional programme analyses.48 The Secretary-General presented a report on the cross-sectional programme analysis of the programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 to CPC at its twenty-fourth session.49 Discussion followed concerning the need for future cross-sectional analyses, with some delegations favouring regular cross-sectional analyses done at the Secretariat level but only presented periodically to CPC. Other delegations expressed the view that such analyses were not needed on a regular basis, or at most perhaps on a selective basis.50 The representative of the Secretary-General opined that this type of analysis was necessary for programme planning, and that, while cross-organizational programme analyses covered the activities of the system as a whole, the cross-sectional programme analyses were more useful in drawing conclusions on problems of coordination in the United Nations system itself. Both kinds of analyses complemented and supported each other.51 CPC agreed with this conclusion, but suggested that some aspects of the methodology of cross-sectional analyses required clarification. CPC also recommended that the Secretary-General submit to it analyses for certain programmes that could benefit from such a review.52

(b) Triennial comprehensive policy review

20. The General Assembly invoked the role of the Economic and Social Council under Article 64 in its decision to commission a comprehensive policy review of operational activities in the area of development. In its resolution 33/201 of 29 January 1979, the Assembly acknowledged that it was

"Conscious of its own responsibilities, including those under Article 17, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, and the role of the Economic and Social Council, especially under Article 63, paragraph 2, and Article 64 of the Charter," 53

General Assembly resolution 33/201 follows up on the comprehensive policy review called for in Council resolution 1768 (LIV) of 18 May 1973 and in Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977.54 In the later resolution, the Assembly invited the Secretary-General to

"entrust to the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation ... a report on policy issues pertaining to operational activities for development of the United Nations system for consideration by the Economic and Social Council, and subsequently by the General Assembly".55

21. In its resolution 35/81, the General Assembly decided to establish a triennial system for the policy review, beginning in 1983.56 The Economic and Social Council also decided to undertake such a triennial review beginning in 1983, and to submit its recommendations to the Assembly.57 At its second regular session of 1983, the Council took note of the note by the Secretary-General containing the report of the Director-General on the comprehensive policy review, and decided to transmit it directly to the Assembly.58

(c) Reports on inter-agency task forces

22. During the period under review, the Economic and Social Council reviewed reports on the work of inter-agency task forces in specific programme areas and transmitted the reports to the General Assembly. The task forces, composed of all United Nations organizations concerned with a particular subject area, constituted an inter-agency effort to take joint action at the country level, to monitor and evaluate activities and to coordinate programme goals.59 In the area of rural development, ACC presented a report on the work of its task force to the Council at its second regular session of 1979, and continued to report on the task force throughout the period.60 Prior to the submission of the report on the task force, ACC had reported on inter-agency work on rural development in its annual reports to the Council. The task force reports provided a separate and more extensive

48In its resolution 39/216, the Assembly commented on the potential for overlap between cross-organizational programme analyses and cross-organizational programme reviews. In paragraph 4 of the resolution, the Assembly recommended that the two reports on economic cooperation among developing countries be combined into one report "so as to ensure an integrated approach to this area". As evidenced by the resolution, the distinction between these different types of sectoral reviews and analyses was not always clear.
51Ibid.
53G A resolution 33/201, second preambular para.
54E S C resolution 1768 (LIV), sect. 1, para. 7; G A resolution 32/197, annex, sect. II, para. 5(d).
55G A resolution 33/201, para. 1. The resolution states that the report should take into account the views of the organizations of the United Nations.
56G A resolution 35/81, para. 13, in which the Assembly decided to conduct the triennial reviews "on the basis of a coherent, integrated and systematic approach".
57E S C resolution 1982/50, para. 1(g).
58See G A (38), Suppl. No. 3, chap. III, part G. See also ibid., annex V, statement by the Group of 77 on operational activities for development. The Group welcomed the report as useful, and made suggestions for future reviews.
59See E/1979/44, para. 10. As stated in E S C resolution 1979/27, seventh preambular para., the Council recognized the need for better coordination in both dealing with problems and examining agency responses to them.
60E/1979/44. See also E/1980/46 and E/1984/50. The Task Force on Rural Development was an ad hoc subsidiary body of ACC, originally established in 1976 as a "major experimental exercise involving joint planning in both operational and programme activities". G A (39), Suppl. No. 38, chap. VII, part B, sect. 1, para. 288. In paragraph 290 of the same report, CPC expressed its satisfaction with the 1984 ACC report on the task force and commended it on its quality and usefulness, noting that it provided a "critical appraisal" of the work of the task force and "gave an objective picture of the situation".
Role of the Secretary-General

23. In some cases, inter-agency task forces reflected the continuing role of the Secretary-General in reporting on agency activities. In its resolution 1979/27, for example, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session, through the Council, on the work of the inter-agency task force on youth policies and programmes.

24. The legal basis for the Secretary-General's involvement in reporting on agencies is originally found in Economic and Social Council resolution 128(VI). In that resolution, the Council invited the Secretary-General, "in transmitting to the Council reports from the ... specialized agencies, ... to bring to the notice of the Council any matters ... in relation to its responsibilities under Article 63 and 64 of the Charter".62 During the period, the Secretary-General continued his practice of reporting on agency activities to the Council and the General Assembly. In addition to the above-mentioned inter-agency task forces, the Secretary-General convened a three-day inter-agency working group in the field of public administration and finance to review the work of the agencies concerned.63 Furthermore, the Council and the Assembly, in applying Article 64, continued the practice of relying on the Secretary-General, through individual resolutions, to obtain reports on particular subjects. In its resolution 39/216, for example, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the agencies, to conduct periodic reviews of activities of the United Nations system in the area of economic cooperation among developing countries.64 And in its resolution 1983/27, the Council requested the Secretary-General to cooperate with the specialized agencies in compiling a report on the status of women.65 In the reports submitted, the Secretary-General included sections discussing projects and activities of individual specialized agencies, as well as views, observations and suggestions of the agencies concerned.66

(d) Overview of plans and objectives of organizations

25. In 1978, the General Assembly, in its resolution 33/118, approved the recommendations of CPC requesting that ACC submit detailed proposals for securing an overview of the objectives and plans of the organizations of the United Nations system.67 The Council, in 1981, endorsed the ACC proposal for securing an overview and requested that the overview be submitted at the second regular session of the Council of 1983, through CPC.68 In its annual report for 1982-1983, however, ACC stated that it would not be possible to complete the overview in time and that, furthermore, its submission of the overview was not in line with the Council's instructions regarding the volume of documentation.69 CPC therefore recommended that the overview be issued by the United Nations Secretariat in commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of the Organization.70

(e) Triennial evaluation reviews and in-depth evaluation studies

26. During the period under review, CPC continued its practice of reviewing in-depth evaluation studies on specific programme areas. In one instance, for example, CPC considered the report of the evaluation of technical cooperation activities of UNIDO in the field of manufactures.71 In its discussion, CPC examined the issue of

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61The Council, in its resolution 2078 (LXII), had requested the Secretary-General to establish the inter-agency task force on youth policies and programmes, to be drawn from the Secretariat and the specialized agencies directly concerned with those issues. See E S C resolution 1979/27, eighth preambular para.
62E S C resolution 128 (VI), sect. B, para. C(2). See Repertory, under Article 98, para. 48. In addition to the Secretary-General's responsibilities in submitting reports, he also has "frequently been entrusted with coordinating responsibilities in connection with specific projects or activities of common interest to ... the specialized agencies." Ibid., para. 52. The Secretary-General has at times also been envisioned as the spokesperson for the agencies, particularly in the light of his role as Chairman of ACC, and the "channel of communication" between the United Nations and the agencies. See Supplement No. 1, under Article 98, paras. 19-21. See also Repertory, under Article 64, para. 10, for a discussion of E S C resolution 128 (VI), sects. A and C.
63See E/1980/20/Add.1. The working group was composed of representatives from three regional commissions and of representatives from ILO, IMF, UNIDO, UNESCO, FAO and WHO.
64G A resolution 39/216, para. 3. See also the present Supplement, under Article 98, para. 42.
65E S C resolution 1983/27, paras. 2 and 3.
66See, e.g., report of the Secretary-General on coordination and information in the field of youth, E/1982/36. The report, submitted pursuant to E S C resolution 1981/25, contained a section on approaches and views of the specialized agencies. Ibid., part II, sect. C. See also note by Secretary-General on marine affairs (E/1983/97), containing the description of a joint project between UNESCO and the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat; and report on programme evaluation for the period 1976-1979: manufactures, including an analysis of the technical cooperation activities of UNIDO (E/AC.51/1980/2).
67G A resolution 33/118, para. 10. See also E/1981/37, annex III, providing a brief history of the overview. The Council first made a request, under E S C resolution 1908 (LXIII) of 3 August 1977, for a compendium of introductions to the organizations' most recent programme budgets. The resolution stated that one purpose of the compendium was to provide a "concise and informative survey of programmes and policy objectives pursued by the United Nations system". When the compendium was presented to CPC, however, the Committee did not feel that it served the purpose envisioned. For that reason, ACC proposed a more general overview of the objectives and plans of the organizations, "with a view to apprising the Council ... of the combined programme intentions of the organizations of the system". E/1978/43/Add.2, para. 39.
68E S C decision 1981/181.
70G A (39), Suppl. No. 38, chap. X, part G, sect. 1, para. 383. CPC also recommended that work on an abstract of the overview, as had been suggested by ACC in its 1982-1983 annual report, not be pursued. See E/1984/87.
71See G A (39), Suppl. No. 38, chap. IV, part A, sect. 1, para. 164.
increased linkages between evaluation studies and cross-organizational programme analyses. CPC felt that the relationship between the two types of review should be complementary and suggested that "previous relevant findings from one exercise should be used in the preparation of the other". 72

27. To reinforce the findings of the in-depth evaluation studies, CPC decided to establish triennial reviews of the implementation of decisions taken by CPC on the basis of the evaluations. 73 The first review, to be presented to CPC in 1985, was to examine the in-depth evaluations relating to the programmes on transnational corporations, manufactures and mineral resources. In its report on the work of its twenty-third session, CPC set out a timetable for the intergovernmental review of in-depth and triennial evaluation studies for 1984 and 1985. 74 At its twenty-fourth session, CPC also reviewed a tentative timetable for evaluation studies scheduled from 1986 to 1992. 75

(f) Common Register of Development Activities

28. In its report of 5 July 1982, ACC described the Common Register of Development Activities (CORE) as arising from a perceived need for a consolidated presentation of information on the development activities of the Organization. 76 In spite of that need, problems were encountered early in the period regarding the continuing implementation of CORE/1 and the delays in implementing CORE/2. 77 CORE/1 was successfully implemented by 1980, 78 however, and ACC subsequently reported a "steady

72Ibid., chap. IV, part D, sect. 2, para. 211. Paragraph 239 of the same report states that,

"with regard to linking cross-organizational programme analyses and evaluations, the representative of the Secretariat stated that the two exercises involved constitutionally different functions of the Committee. In this respect, however, several delegations agreed that, as a minimum, cross-organizational programme analyses and evaluations on the same subject should be scheduled closely enough together that they would reinforce each other."


74Ibid., para. 195.

75See G A (38), Suppl. No. 38, chap. IV, part D, sect. 1, para. 205. See also G A (38), Suppl. No. 38, chap. V, part E, para. 196.

76E/1982/85, sect. V, para. 33. The report describes the history of CORE as having first been proposed and endorsed in 1974, and later split into two components in 1977. CORE/1 focused financial analyses of annual expenditures, while CORE/2 sought to provide qualitative information on activities. See E/1980/76, sect. I, parts A and B, and specifically paras. 11 and 17, stating that,

"In simple terms, ... CORE/1 ... answer[s] such questions as 'How are the contributions of Governments being spent? In what countries? In what economic sectors ...' [whereas] CORE/2 would answer such questions as 'What activities are being undertaken in given countries, sectors, programmes? Where are there similar activities? Where is there similar experience?'"

77See G A (34), Suppl. No. 38, chap. IV, part B, sect. 8.

78See G A (35), Suppl. No. 38, chap. VII, part C, sect. 2, para. 218. This implementation was in accordance with the agreement reached at the 1979 joint meeting of ACC and CPC. See E/1979/86, para. 67.

improvement in [its] coverage and provision of data". 79 Furthermore, while work on CORE/2 was suspended for the time being, 80 there was some discussion on possibly broadening the scope of CORE/1 in the future. 81

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

29. As reflected in the discussion above, the Council had many methods to obtain information from the specialized agencies on steps taken to give effect to its recommendations as well as those of the General Assembly. One primary purpose of evaluations, programme reviews and task forces was for the Council to gain a sense of the agencies' responsiveness to its requests. In addition, the Council from time to time made specific requests in individual resolutions for information on steps taken. In its resolution 1979/74, for example, the Council requested all organizations of the United Nations system to report to the Secretary-General on actions taken in implementation of his report on consumer protection. 82 In some cases, specific programme areas required a more formalized approach to reporting on steps taken. 83

(a) Integrated reporting system on the status of women

30. Many of the policies and programmes of the United Nations system in the area of the status of women are based on two important initiatives: the World Plan of Action adopted by the World Conference of the International Women's Year, and the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. 84 Since the passage of both the World Plan of Action and the Declaration, the Organization had adopted numerous resolutions aimed at ensuring the full and speedy implementation of their goals and objectives. In its resolution 3490 (XXX), for instance, the General Assembly called upon the specialized agencies to conduct annual reviews of efforts made to implement the World Plan of Action, and to report on those efforts to the Council. 85 Similarly, the Council, in its resolution 1677 (LII), requested the agencies to report every two years on


81See E/1983/48, para. 6, suggesting that a register of technical cooperation projects be added to CORE/1.

82E S C resolution 1979/74, para. 2. See also report of the Secretary-General entitled "Consumer protection: a survey of institutional arrangements and legal measures" (E/1978/81).

83In addition to the status of women and the International Development Strategy, one delegate suggested a more formal approach to reporting in the area of agrarian reform and rural development. The delegate suggested that FAO prepare periodic reports concerning its implementation of the decisions of the World Conference on the topic. See E/1981/5R.4, para. 18.

84G A resolution 2263 (XXII); Report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.1), chap. II, sect. A.

85G A resolution 3490 (XXX), para. 1.
actions taken in compliance with the provisions of the Declaration.\(^{86}\)

31. In the light of the parallel aims of the World Plan of Action and the Declaration, and also recognizing the burden of two reporting requirements, the General Assembly decided, during the period under review, to rationalize the two above-mentioned reporting systems into one integrated approach. In its resolution 33/186, the Assembly established the integrated reporting system on the status of women and requested the Secretary-General to review the new biennial system in the light of further developments. In its resolution 1980/38, the Economic and Social Council decided to continue the system for the period from 1980 to 1985.\(^{88}\)

(b) Implementation of the International Development Strategy

32. The General Assembly, in its resolution 35/56, adopted the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade.\(^{89}\) The preamble to the Strategy states that it is "an integral part of the continuing efforts of the international community to accelerate the development of developing countries and to establish a new international economic order".\(^{90}\) In furtherance of this overall objective, the Strategy sets out a number of specific goals and policy measures to be adopted and implemented by Member States and by all organs and organizations of the United Nations system.\(^{91}\) The Strategy also calls for a thorough review and appraisal of the implementation of those goals:

"The process will consist of systematic scrutiny, within the context of an overall review of the international economic situation, of the progress made towards achieving the goals and objectives of the Strategy and the identification and appraisal of the factors which account for shortfalls that may be encountered."\(^{92}\)

33. Section IV of the Strategy, entitled "Review and appraisal of the implementation of the New International Development Strategy", requires that the first such review be carried out by the General Assembly in 1984.\(^{93}\) Pursuant to that deadline, the Assembly, in its resolution 37/202, decided

\[^{94}\text{G A resolution 37/202, para. 5.}\]
\[^{95}\text{Ibid., para. 6. See also E S C resolution 1981/64, para. 2.}\]
\[^{96}\text{G A (38), Suppl. No. 38, chap. XII, part A, para. 169(b).}\]
\[^{97}\text{Ibid., sect. II.}\]
\[^{98}\text{Ibid., sect. IV, para. 170.}\]
\[^{99}\text{Ibid., para. 180.}\]
\[^{100}\text{Ibid., annex, sect. I, para. 6.}\]
\[^{101}\text{See ibid., sect. II.}\]
\[^{102}\text{See E S C resolution 1677 (LII), para. 2. See also E S C resolution 1325 (XLIV).}\]
\[^{103}\text{Although both E S C resolution 1978/28, sixth preambular para., and G A resolution 33/186, seventh preambular para., acknowledge the burden on Governments, neither resolution mentions the burden on the specialized agencies.}\]
\[^{104}\text{E S C resolution 1980/38, para. 1.}\]
\[^{105}\text{G A resolution 35/56, para. 2. The text of the Strategy is attached to the resolution as an annex. The Third United Nations Development Decade began on 1 January 1981.}\]
\[^{106}\text{Ibid., sect. I, para. 6.}\]
\[^{107}\text{Ibid., sect. II.}\]
\[^{108}\text{Ibid., sect. IV, para. 170.}\]
\[^{109}\text{Ibid., para. 180.}\]
\[^{110}\text{Ibid., sect. I.B.}\]