

## ARTICLE 66 (1)

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## TEXT OF ARTICLE 66 (1)

The Economic and Social Council shall perform such functions as fall within its competence in connection with the carrying out of the recommendations of the General Assembly.

## NOTE

1. Article 66 (1), which appears not to have been referred to in practice, is closely related to Article 60, both Articles being concerned with the relation of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. The treatment of Article 60 in this Repertory, however, has focused chiefly on the relative responsibilities of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in the economic and social fields. The present Note on Article 66 (1) deals principally with the action taken by the Council in relation to General Assembly decisions not specifically addressed to it or covering a wider field of responsibility than its own.

2. The Note offers a few examples of the way in which the Council has dealt with recommendations of the General Assembly not specifically addressed to the Council and/or extending beyond the economic and social fields. It also touches upon the question of the scope of the functions of the Council in connexion with such recommendations.

## A. General

3. Most decisions of the General Assembly on economic and social questions or on the economic and social aspects of other questions, on which the Council has found it necessary to act in the performance of its functions, have contained requests addressed directly to the Council 1/, or to its subsidiary organs 2/, or to "appropriate bodies or

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1/ See in this Repertory under Article 60.

2/ By resolution 545 (VI), entitled "Inclusion in the International Covenant or Covenants on Human Rights of an article relating to the right of peoples to self-determination", the General Assembly requested the Commission on Human Rights to prepare and submit to it recommendations concerning international respect for the self-determination of peoples. The Council, by resolution 415 (S-1), transmitted this resolution to the Commission for appropriate action and, by resolution 440 B (XIV), transmitted to the General Assembly, without comment, two resolutions on this subject adopted by the Commission on Human Rights.

By resolution 738 (VIII), entitled "The right of peoples and nations to self-determination", the General Assembly requested the Commission on Human Rights to give due priority to preparing recommendations on the right of self-determination. The Council, by resolution 510 (XVI), took note of the resolution of the General Assembly and transmitted it to the Commission for appropriate action.

organs of the United Nations" <sup>3/</sup>. The Council has also acted in pursuance of requests to receive, to consider or to make recommendations upon reports from Member Governments, specialized agencies, the Secretary-General, et cetera. <sup>4/</sup>

#### B. Decisions of the Council relating to recommendations of the General Assembly not addressed to the Council

4. The Council has also taken action on recommendations of the General Assembly couched in general language and on recommendations addressed to bodies other than the Council, such as other organs of the United Nations <sup>5/</sup>, the Secretary-General <sup>6/</sup>, international agencies concerned <sup>7/</sup> and Governments. <sup>8/</sup> Some of these recommendations of the General Assembly have related to social and economic matters; others, broader in scope, have been acted upon by the Council because of their economic and social implications.

<sup>3/</sup> The decision of the Council in connexion with the implementation of these recommendations are dealt with in this Repertory under Article 60.

By resolution 317 (IV), entitled "Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others", the General Assembly proposed that each Member of the United Nations and each non-member State which "the appropriate organ of the United Nations" may invite to do so, become a party to the Convention. The Council, as the "appropriate organ", invited non-member States by resolution 392 (XIII) to accede to the Convention.

General Assembly resolution 494 (V), entitled "Development of a 20-Year Programme for achieving peace through the United Nations" was addressed to "appropriate organs of the United Nations". The Council took action by resolution 358 (XII).

<sup>4/</sup> For example, by resolution 129 (II), entitled "Transfer to the World Health Organization of certain assets of the United Nations", the Secretary-General was directed by the General Assembly "To consider the different aspects of the problem of the transfer of the medical and health material of the League of Nations Library and to submit to the Economic and Social Council a draft plan within the framework of a general policy relating to the use of the Central Library by the United Nations and by the specialized agencies." The Council took action by resolution 172 (VII).

By resolution 137 (II), entitled "Teaching of the purposes and principles, the structure and activities of the United Nations in the schools of Member States", the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to the Council. The Council took action by resolutions 170 (VII), 203 (VIII), 314 (XI) and 446 (XIV).

By resolution 246 (III), "International facilities for the promotion of training in public administration", the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report arrangements for the establishment of an international centre for training in public administration to the Council. The Council took action by resolution 253 (IX).

<sup>5/</sup> For example, the Trusteeship Council, see G A resolution 323 (IV), entitled "Social advancement in Trust Territories".

<sup>6/</sup> For example, G A resolution 593 (VI), entitled "Control and limitation of documentation".

<sup>7/</sup> For example, G A resolution 27 (I), entitled "World Shortage of Cereals".

<sup>8/</sup> For example, G A resolutions 593 (VI), entitled "Control and limitation of documentation," addressed to Governments of Member States; 56 (I), entitled "Political Rights of Women", addressed to certain Member States; 27 (I), entitled "World Shortage of Cereals", addressed to all Governments; and 45 (I), entitled "World Shortage of Cereals and other Foodstuffs", paragraphs 1 and 2, addressed to certain Governments.

5. The Council has been seized of such recommendations in various ways, for example, by a proposal of a member of the Council or of a specialized agency to include the item in the agenda.

*1. Recommendations relating to social and economic matters*

6. Certain resolutions on social and economic matters adopted at the first session of the General Assembly and not addressed to the Council, were nevertheless acted upon by the latter. An example of such action is resolution 2/13 of the Council, adopted in connexion with General Assembly resolutions 27 (I), entitled "World Shortage of Cereals", and 45 (I), entitled "World Shortage of Cereals and other Foodstuffs". By that resolution, the Council took note of the report of a special meeting which the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) had convened to assist Governments and international organizations to implement General Assembly resolution 27 (I), and, "being concerned with urgent economic and social problems and with the task of co-ordinating the activities of specialized agencies", requested the Secretary-General to assist FAO in formulating proposals for longer-term international machinery to cope with food problems and to report to the Council. 9/

7. At its sixth session the Council adopted resolution 103 (VI), entitled "Co-ordinated action to meet the continuing world food crisis". That decision was taken with reference to General Assembly resolution 45 (I). By resolution 202 (III), the General Assembly approved the action taken by the Council and called upon it to continue to give consideration to the problem. 10/

8. Similarly, in connexion with the question of the political rights of women, the Council, by a number of resolutions 11/ took action in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 56 (I) which was addressed to Member States and by which the Secretary-General was invited to communicate the recommendations contained in the resolutions to Member Governments. The resolutions of the Council were adopted following the receipt of recommendations from its subsidiary organ, the Commission on the Status of Women.

9. In certain fields of the activities of the Council, such as co-ordination of specialized agencies, and matters pertaining to refugees and freedom of information, the decisions of the Council relating to the implementation of recommendations not specifically addressed to it are closely connected with decisions implementing General Assembly recommendations addressed to the Council. 12/

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9/ In response to this recommendation, the Council took a series of actions incorporated in resolutions 183 (VIII), 223 B (IX) and 405 (XIII). Subsequently, the General Assembly, by resolution 525 (VI), addressed further requests to the Council, which the latter implemented by resolution 425 (XIV). Under resolution 626 (VII), the General Assembly requested the Council to give further consideration to this problem and to report to the Council.

10/ By resolution 6 (III), the Council, acting upon the invitation of the Conference of FAO at its second session, appointed representatives to participate in the Preparatory Commission appointed to study the proposal for a World Food Board and requested the Secretary-General to report on these discussions to the Council. It further requested the Economic and Employment Commission to advise the Council as to further measures that might be required.

11/ E S C resolutions 48 (IV), 154 A (VII) and 385 B (XIII).

12/ See, for example, G A resolutions 81 (I), 165 (II), 672 (VII), 673 (VII), 768 (VIII), 769 (VIII), 779 (VIII), on budgetary co-ordination of specialized agencies, which are not addressed to the Council, and G A resolutions 125 (II), 210 (III), 311 (IV), 411 (V) and 553 (VI), which are addressed to the Council.

*2. Recommendations relating to matters other than social and economic*

10. The Council has also taken action in connexion with recommendations of the General Assembly concerned primarily with political, trusteeship, administrative and other matters. The action of the Council was based on the fact that those decisions of the General Assembly contained implications related to the areas of responsibility of the Council, such as the promotion of respect for human rights, the co-ordination of the policies or activities of specialized agencies, and the furnishing of reports on the implementation of recommendations.

## a. REPATRIATION OF GREEK CHILDREN

11. By resolution 193 C (III), entitled "Threats to the political independence and territorial integrity of Greece", the General Assembly recommended "the return to Greece of children at present away from their homes", and invited "all the Members of the United Nations and other States on whose territory these children are to be found to take the necessary measures for implementation of the present recommendation". The General Assembly reiterated this recommendation under resolution 288 B (IV).

12. The Council, by resolution 304 H (XI), decided to transmit to the General Assembly the resolution on this subject adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women. Under that resolution 13/ it was stated that the Commission, having heard the statement presented by the representative of Greece concerning the plight of Greek mothers, and considering that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights specifically referred to the family as "the natural and fundamental group unit of society ... entitled to protection by society and the state", took note of General Assembly resolutions 193 C (III) and 288 B (IV). It further expressed "the hope that the result of the continuing activities of the Secretary-General on this matter ... will be the prompt repatriation of the children" and "its confidence that the Secretary-General will submit to the General Assembly the urgent necessity of finding new ways for the solution of this very important question". Subsequently, the General Assembly, by resolution 382 C (V), established a standing committee to act in consultation with the Secretary-General and to consult with the representatives of the States concerned, with a view to the early repatriation of the children.

## b. ABOLITION OF DISCRIMINATORY MEASURES

13. The General Assembly, by resolution 323 (IV), entitled "Social advancement in Trust Territories", recommended (a) the abolition of discriminatory laws and practices in all Trust Territories in which such laws and practices existed and (b) the examination by the Trusteeship Council of all laws, statutes and ordinances in the Trust Territories and the making of recommendations by it to the Administering Authorities concerned with a view to the abolition of discriminatory provisions or practices. 14/ By resolution 644 (VII), entitled "Racial discrimination in Non-Self-Governing Territories", the General Assembly made similar recommendations concerning Non-Self-Governing Territories, and called the attention of the Commission on Human Rights to them.

14. The Economic and Social Council, by resolution 502 B, I (XVI), noted the above-mentioned resolutions of the General Assembly and, considering that the prevention of discrimination in independent States was as important as the prevention of discrimination in Trust and other Non-Self-Governing Territories, recommended to all

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13/ E S C XI, Suppl. No. 6 (E/1712), p. 9.

14/ See also in this Repertory under Article 76 c.

States that they make every possible effort to abolish any legal provisions and administrative or private practices which discriminated against certain sections of the population.

c. UNITING FOR PEACE

15. The General Assembly, by resolution 377 (V), entitled "Uniting for peace", provided that the General Assembly might make recommendations to Members for collective measures for the maintenance of peace and security if the Security Council fails to act. The Economic and Social Council, reaffirming its "responsibility for the promotion of conditions of stability and well-being which are necessary for peaceful and friendly relations among nations", and its desire "to facilitate co-ordinated action in the economic, social and related fields which may be requested by the Security Council or recommended by the General Assembly in implementation of General Assembly resolution 377 (V)", adopted resolution 363 (XII), entitled "Emergency action of the Economic and Social Council and specialized agencies to assist in the maintenance of international peace and security". By that resolution it recognized that, in the light of the Assembly resolution, it might be "desirable for specialized agencies to make suitable arrangements", and requested the Secretary-General "to consult with the specialized agencies as to the specific arrangements they might most appropriately make in order to provide for the furnishing by them of such information and for the rendering of such assistance in the maintenance or restoration of international peace and security as may be requested by the Security Council or the General Assembly". By resolution 402 A (XIII), the Council sought to co-ordinate the action of the specialized agencies 15/ with that of the United Nations with respect to the maintenance of international peace and security in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 377 (V).

16. In connexion with the discussion on the subject-matter of resolution 363 (XII) at the twelfth session of the Council, a draft resolution 16/ was submitted in the course of the consideration of the matter in the Committee on Negotiations with Specialized Agencies. Under its provisions, the undertakings assumed by the specialized agencies, in their relationship agreements with the United Nations, to co-operate with the Security Council should be broadened so as to enable the General Assembly to receive, on the same footing as the Council, information and assistance from specialized agencies when called upon to intervene for the preservation of international peace and security.

17. A number of representatives opposed this draft resolution. 17/ One representative pointed out that the General Assembly resolution entitled "Uniting for peace" did not request the Council to deal with the question and that in these circumstances, the Council would be going beyond its terms of reference if it acted in that field. On the

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15/ By this resolution, the Council recognized that no action was required by the International Telecommunication Union, the Universal Postal Union and the World Meteorological Organization; it further noted that action would be taken by FAO, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Monetary Fund in the autumn of 1951. It also noted with approval that the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization had declared themselves willing to co-operate with the General Assembly, acting in accordance with Assembly resolution 377 (V); and requested the Secretary-General to communicate to the General Assembly the resolutions adopted or other action taken by the specialized agencies. Subsequent decisions of the General Assembly in this matter are contained in resolution 503 (VI).

16/ E S C (XII), Annexes, a.i. 27, E/1897 and E/C.1/L.3 and Corr.1.

17/ See also in this Repertory under Article 65.

other hand, it was pointed out that, once a resolution had been adopted by the General Assembly, it was the duty of the Council to implement it. The draft resolution as amended was adopted 13/ by 6 votes to 3, with 2 abstentions. With an additional amendment the draft resolution, as recommended by the Committee, was adopted 19/ by the Council and became resolution 363 (XII).

d. CONTROL AND LIMITATION OF DOCUMENTATION

18. .By resolution 593 (VI), entitled "Control and limitation of documentation", the General Assembly invited the Governments of Member States to assist in reducing the number and individual bulk of documents and the number of copies of documents, and requested the Secretary-General to adopt measures with a view to limiting documentation costs. In this connexion the Council, desiring to avoid, in keeping with resolution 593 (VI) of the General Assembly, duplication of effort and documentation, adopted resolution 450 (XIV), entitled "Implementation of recommendations on economic and social matters". By this resolution it noted that the General Assembly and the Council had shown a tendency to adopt resolutions which required specific reports within a specified time limit and that the record of replies to such resolutions was satisfactory. The Council further modified the procedure under which it reported on the implementation of recommendations on economic and social matters. The new procedure no longer required the preparation of separate reports on the implementation of recommendations but provided that the Council would include in its annual report to the General Assembly information regarding replies received from Governments on these matters.

19. The Council took further action to reduce the costs of documentation by adopting resolutions 497 D (XVI) entitled "Co-ordination of the work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies" and 528 (XVII), entitled "Form of reports of specialized agencies".

20. Subsequently, the General Assembly, by resolution 789 (VIII), entitled "Control and limitation of documentation", invited the Council to intensify its efforts to reduce further the documentation requested by it. The Council took action under resolution 557 (XVIII).

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18/ E/C.1/SR.67. See also E S C (XII), Annexes, a.i. 27, E/1897 and E/1941.  
19/ E S C (XII), 468th mtg., p. 258.