ARTICLE 66 (1)

CONTENTS

Text of Article 66, paragraph 1

Note ...................................................... 1

A. General ............................................... 2-12

**B. Decisions of the Economic and Social Council relating to recommendations of the General Assembly not addressed to the Council
ARTICLE 66 (1)

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. During the period under review, there was no specific reference to Article 66, paragraph 1. Further developments relating to the review and appraisal of the functions of the Economic and Social Council mentioned in the Repertory and Supplement No. 3 are dealt with in section A below in order to bring the information up to date. The headings found in Supplements Nos. 3 and 4 are maintained here.

2. During the period under review, the Economic and Social Council adopted a number of important decisions directed towards enabling it to carry out its functions more fully in the fields of economic, social and human rights.

3. At its fifty-first session, citing the need to enhance its ability to discharge the functions conferred upon it by the Charter, and considering that the participation of a larger number of Member States would strengthen the representative character, authority, and dynamism, the Economic and Social Council recommended that the General Assembly take "all necessary steps" to amend the Charter to ensure an early enlargement of the Council to 54 members. The Council also decided to enlarge, in the interim period, the membership of its sessional committees and the Committee on Natural Resources to 54 members with effect from 1 January 1972. It requested the Assembly to elect, in addition to the 9 new members of the Council, 27 Member States to serve on its sessional committees.

4. The Economic and Social Council continued to take a number of decisions regarding the organization and rationalization of the work of the Council throughout the period under review. By its resolution 1623 (LI) of 30 July 1971, the Council arranged its schedule to provide for: an organizational session in January; a session in the second quarter of the year devoted mainly to consideration of social questions and of the reports of subsidiary bodies; a session in the third quarter devoted to economic questions and, in alternate years, to a debate on the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade; and a brief resumed session during the regular session of the General Assembly to deal with other items not addressed during the regular Council sessions. It furthermore requested that the Secretary-General, in consultation with Council members, develop "a more rational agenda designed to avoid duplication of discussion and to enable the Council to concentrate on policy issues."

5. By the same resolution, the Economic and Social Council invited the Secretary-General, in consultation with delegations, to circulate a more detailed schedule of work for each session and to ensure that the annotated provisional agenda for each session was more informative. It also requested that the Secretary-General take urgent steps to reform the nature, scope and form of documentation submitted to the Council in order to allow governments adequate time to review reports and enable the Council to...
concentrate on issues requiring intergovernmental consideration. According to the Council’s guidelines, reports were to be action-oriented and no longer than 32 pages in length, should present clear and precise recommendations identifying issues to be taken into account and were to propose alternative courses of action and their implications. The Council requested the Secretary-General to submit to it only short and concise reports of meetings of experts convened by the Secretary-General. Reports of the functional commissions and subsidiary bodies of the Council were to contain, in addition to a report on the salient points of discussion, a concise summary of recommendations and a statement of issues requiring action by the Council. Subsidiary bodies were to submit any adopted resolutions in draft form for the Council’s approval. The Council requested the Secretary-General to submit to it only short and concise reports of meetings of experts convened by the Secretary-General. Reports of the functional commissions and subsidiary bodies of the Council were to contain, in addition to a report on the salient points of discussion, a concise summary of recommendations and a statement of issues requiring action by the Council. Subsidiary bodies were to submit any adopted resolutions in draft form for the Council’s approval.

6. On 31 January 1970, the Economic and Social Council, recalling General Assembly resolution 2579 (XXIV) of 15 December 1969, adopted recommendations for the establishment of a reconstituted Committee for Programme and Coordination. The CPC, enlarged from 16 to 21 members, would, inter alia, advise and assist the Council in discharging its coordination functions under Articles 58, 63, and 64, and receive continuing authority from the Council to review programmes and procedures for particular sectors on a system-wide basis. Pursuant to its resolution 2008 (LX) of 14 May 1976, the Council consolidated the terms of reference for CPC. The Committee was to function as the main subsidiary organ of the Council and the General Assembly for planning, programming and coordination and was to discharge, inter alia, the following functions: review the United Nations programmes as defined in the medium-term plan; recommend priority guidelines for implementing United Nations programmes; assist the Council in executing its coordination functions; review and appraise, where so recommended by the Council or by the General Assembly, the implementation of important legislative decisions; and study the reports of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, appropriate reports of United Nations organs, annual reports of the specialized agencies and other relevant documents.

7. By its resolution 1643 (LI) of 30 July 1971, the Economic and Social Council invited ACC to maintain under constant review measures recommended for ensuring the effective implementation of agreements entered into between the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency. The Council also requested that ACC give priority to the study of uniform and coordinated measures to promote productivity and efficiency in the United Nations system, and that ACC present annual reports to the Council addressing systems operations.

8. During its fifty-third session, the Economic and Social Council established a working group to review the terms of reference of all of its committees, commissions and other subsidiary bodies and to consider whether their functions could be consolidated so as to reduce their numbers. After having considered the report of the working group, the Council, convinced of the need to streamline its work programme to achieve better consideration of substantive issues, decided to concentrate its attention on a limited number of major policy issues and initiatives. It requested its subsidiary bodies to highlight only those specific questions on which action at the Council level was required, thus enabling it to take expedient, appropriate and necessary action. The Council requested the Secretary-General, in preparing its work programme, to arrange the Council’s agenda items in an integrated manner so that similar issues could be addressed in one debate. The Council concentrated its attention in alternate years on: (a) the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy; and (b) the other areas requiring policy guidance. It also proposed further reviews of the terms of reference of its subsidiary bodies, the restructuring of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the existing agreements between the United Nations, the specialized agencies and IAEA.
functional commissions should be redefined and, where necessary, that their functional responsibilities should be regrouped. The Committee discouraged the creation of new subsidiary bodies and encouraged the participation to the extent possible of all States Members of the United Nations in the work of the Council. It recommended that the Secretary-General and the executive heads of the specialized agencies participate more actively in the work of the Council.

12. The Economic and Social Council took steps to implement General Assembly resolution 32/197 at the end of the period under review.\textsuperscript{21}

**B. Decisions of the Economic and Social Council relating to recommendations of the General Assembly not addressed to the Council