ARTICLE 69

TEXT OF ARTICLE 69

The Economic and Social Council shall invite any Member of the United Nations to participate, without vote, in its deliberations on any matter of particular concern to that Member.
INTRODUCTORY NOTE

1. The cases of the application of Article 69 during the period under review reveal no significant changes in the practice of the Economic and Social Council (The Council) as described in the previous studies of this Article in the Repertory and its Supplements Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. The headings established in the earlier studies are accordingly maintained.

2. The account in the General Survey is limited to the general conditions governing the application of Article 69 that are relevant to the specific cases which occurred during the period under review.

3. In the past supplements, the Council’s sessional committees were referred to by the session numbers. However, pursuant to the 1978 modifications to the symbol series for documents, this supplement will refer to the sessional committees by calendar year.¹

I. GENERAL SURVEY

4. During the period under review, one hundred and twenty two States Members of the United Nations, which were not members of the Economic and Social Council, were invited to participate, without vote, in the plenary sessions of the Council.

5. The practice of the past regarding the mention of observers in the summary records of the Council² and the issuance of invitations to observers³ was maintained. States which were not Members of the United Nations continued to send observers to attend sessions of the Council.

¹ Explanatory note ST/LIB/SER.B/E.55, para.4 (a).


6. The following table shows, by session, the number of States that were not Members of the Council, which were invited to participate in the deliberations of the Council or its Committees of the Whole. It covers the period from 1 January 1985 to 31 December 1988.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Invitation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>Eighty two invitations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>Thirteen invitations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>Fourteen invitations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Thirteen invitations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

II. ANALYTICAL SUMMARY OF PRACTICE

**A. The competence of the Council to decide whether a matter is of “particular concern” to a Member of the United Nations**

**B. The meaning of the phrase “matter of particular concern” to a Member of the United Nations**

**C. The scope of the invitations by the Council**

**D. The scope of the participation of non-members in the deliberations of the Council**

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2 See Repertory, Supplement No. 1, Vol. II, under Article 69, para. 6 and 8; and Supplement No. 2, Vol. III, under Article 69, para.4. The inclusion of the list of participants (Council members and non-members) in individual summary records was resumed with the forty-ninth session.

3 Ibid, paras. 7, 9 and 10; ibid. 4, respectively.
E. The extension of the provision of Article 69 to the subsidiary organs of the Council

1. REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS

7. On 26 July 1985, by its resolution 1985/60, the Council adopted an amendment to the terms of reference of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific\(^4\) and noted, “that Brunei Darussalam and Tuvalu had become members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.”

8. On 26 July 1985, by its resolution 1985/69, the Economic and Social Council adopted an amendment to the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Western Asia\(^5\) and decided to change its name to “Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.”

9. On 22 July 1986, by its resolution 1986/57, the Council adopted an amendment to the terms of reference of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific\(^6\).

10. On 22 July 1986, by its decision 1986/175, the Economic and Social Council decided to amend the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.\(^7\) (c) the first sentence of paragraph 3 (a) shall be amended to read: “Membership in the Commission shall be open to the Members of the United Nations in North, Central and South America and in the Caribbean area, and to France, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom.”; (d) paragraph 4 shall be amended to read: “The geographical scope of the Commission’s work comprises the Latin American and Caribbean

\(^4\) ESC resolution 1985/60.
\(^5\) ESC resolution 1985/69.
\(^6\) ESC resolution 1986/57.
\(^7\) ESC resolution 1986/175.
States Members of the United Nations and participating territories in Central America and the Caribbean.”

11. As in the past, a considerable number of states, not members of the regional economic commissions, participated in a consultative capacity in those bodies in accordance with their respective rules of procedure:

Economic Commission for Europe

Fortieth Session: Representatives of the Holy See and Liechtenstein participated under article 8 of the Commission’s terms of reference.

Representatives of Australia, India and Israel were also represented under article 11 of the Commission’s terms of reference.

Forty-First Session: Representatives of the Holy See and Liechtenstein participated under article 8 of the Commission’s terms of reference.

Israel was represented under article 11 of the Commission’s terms of reference.

Forty-Second Session: Representatives of the Holy See and Liechtenstein participated under article 8 of the Commission’s terms of reference.

Representatives of Australia and Israel were also represented under article 11 of the Commission’s terms of reference.

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8 E/1985/34.
Forty-Third Session: 11 Representatives of the Holy See participated under article 8 of the Commission’s terms of reference.

Israel was represented under article 11 of the Commission’s terms of reference.

Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Forty-First Session: 12 Austria, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, Germany (Federal Republic of), Hungary, Israel, Italy, Norway, Poland, Sweden and Yugoslavia.

Observers for the Switzerland and the Holy See, States not Members of the United Nations were also present.

Forty-Second Session: 13 Belgium, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, Germany (Federal Republic of), Hungary, Israel, Norway, Poland, Romania and Yugoslavia.

Observers for Switzerland and the Holy See, States not Members of the United Nations were also present.

Forth-Third Session: 14 Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, German Democratic Republic, Germany (Federal Republic of), Hungary, Israel, Italy, Poland, Romania, Sweden and Yugoslavia.

10 E/1987/33.
12 E/1985/33.
13 E/1986/32.
Observers for the Switzerland and the Holy See, states not members of the United Nations were also present.

*Forty-Forth Session*:\textsuperscript{15} Czechoslovakia, Finland, Federal Republic of Germany, Israel, Nigeria and Saudi Arabia.

Observer for the Holy See, a non-member of the United Nations was also present.

*Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean*

*Twenty-First Session*:\textsuperscript{16} Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, New Zealand, Norway, People’s Republic of China, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Yugoslavia.

Observer for Switzerland, a non-Member of the United Nations was also present.

*Twenty-Second Session*:\textsuperscript{17} Australia, Austria, Belgium, China, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, German Democratic Republic, Greece, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Norway, the Philippines, Romania, Sweden, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Observers for the Holy See and Switzerland, States not Members of the United Nations were also present.

*Economic Commission for Africa*

\textsuperscript{14} E/ESCAP/590.
\textsuperscript{15} E/1988/35.
\textsuperscript{16} E/1986/34.
\textsuperscript{17} E/1988/38.
Twentieth Session.18 Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Finland, France, the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, India, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Romania, Spain, Sweden, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Venezuela and Yugoslavia.

Observers for the Holy See and the Republic of Korea, States not Members of the United Nations, were also present.

Twenty-First Session:19 China, Czechoslovakia, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany (Federal Republic of), Greece, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United States of America and Venezuela.

Observers for the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, the Holy See and Switzerland, States not Members of the United Nations were also present.

Twenty-Second Session:20 Argentina, Austria, Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Finland, France, the German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Spain, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United States of America, Venezuela and Yugoslavia.

Observers for the Holy See, the Republic of Korea and Switzerland, States not Members of the United Nations were also present.

18 E/1985/36.
19 E/1986/33.
20 E/1987/36.
Twenty-Third Session: China, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany (Federal Republic of), India, the Netherlands, Norway and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Economic Commission for Western Asia

Twelfth Session: Algeria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Central African Republic, Czechoslovakia, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany (Federal Republic of), Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom, United States of America and Yugoslavia.

The Republic of Korea and Switzerland, states not members of the United Nations, participated in the work of the twelfth session.

Thirteenth Session: France, German Democratic Republic, Germany (Federal Republic of), Hungary, India, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Spain, Sudan, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America, and Yugoslavia.

Switzerland, non-member state, participated in the work of the thirteenth session.

Fourteenth Session: China, Czechoslovakia, Djibouti, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany (Federal Republic of), Hungary, India, Indonesia, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Sudan, Switzerland, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America and Yugoslavia.

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22 E/1985/35.
23 E/1986/35.
24 E/1987/35.
2. COMMITTEES AND FUNCTIONAL COMMISSIONS

12. On 26 May 1988, by its decision 1988/149, the Economic and Social Council endorsed the decision of the Secretary-General to appoint an expert designated by China as a full member of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods.25

13. During the period under review, the following functional commissions extended an invitation, in accordance with their past practice, to States not Members of the body in question, to participate in its deliberations: the Commission on Human Rights;26 the Population Commission;27 the Commission on the Status of Women,28 the Commission for Social Development29, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs,30 and, the Statistical Commission.31

F. Participation of States not Members of the United Nations in the deliberations of the Council and its subsidiary organs

**1. THE COUNCIL AND ITS COMMITTEES

2. REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS

25 E S C decision 1988/149.
26 Sixty-five such States sent observers to take part in the proceedings of the Commission’s forty-first session; Sixty-five in the forty-second session; seventy-three in the forty-third session; seventy-three in the forty-fourth session.
27 Twelfth such States sent observers to take part in the proceedings of the Commission’s twenty-third session; fourteen in the twenty-fourth session.
28 Twenty-eight such States sent observers to take part in the proceedings of the Commission’s thirty-first session; fifty-four in the 1987 session; forty-one in the thirty-second session.
29 Observers for the Holy See, Switzerland attended the Commission’s twenty-ninth session and the thirty sessions.
30 Thirty-three such States sent observers to take part in the proceedings of the Commission’s thirty-first session; thirty-three in the Commission’s ninth special session in 1986; thirty-eight in the thirty-second session; thirty-nine in the Commission’s tenth special session in 1988.
31 Five such States sent observers to take part in the proceedings of the Commission’s twenty-third session; four in the twenty-fourth session.
14. On 22 July 1986, by resolution 1986/57, the Economic and Social Council noted that the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau have become associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in accordance with paragraph 5 of the terms of reference of the Commission, 32 in place of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and decided to amend paragraph 4 of the terms of reference of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific accordingly.

15. By decision 1988/172, the Economic and Social Council decided to defer consideration of the draft decision on membership of Israel in the Economic Commission for Europe, contained in document E/1987/L.32. 33

3. FUNCTIONAL COMMISSIONS

16. During the period under review, the following functional commissions invited States that were not Members of the United Nations to participate in their respective sessions: The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, 34 the Population Commission, 35 the Commission for Social Development, 36 the Commission the Status of Women, 37 and, the Commission on Human Rights. 38

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33 For the text, see Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, and Supplement No. 3 (A/41/3), chap. IV, para.49.)
34 Observers for the Holy See; Switzerland attended the Commission’s thirty-first session; the ninth special session; observers for the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea; Holy See; Republic of Korea; Switzerland attended the thirty-second session; the Holy See; Republic of Korea attended the tenth special session in 1988.
35 Observers for the Holy See, Republic of Korea attended the Commission’s twenty-third session; the Holy See attended the twenty-fourth session.
36 Observers for the Holy See, Switzerland attended the Commission’s twenty-ninth session and the thirty sessions.
37 Observers for the Holy See, Republic of Korea, Switzerland attended the Commission’s thirty-first session; thirty-second session; the Holy See attended the Commission’s 1987 session.
38 Observers for the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Holy See, Republic of Korea, and Switzerland attended the Commission’s forty-first; forty-second; forty-third and forty-fourth session.
**G. The question of the interpretation of Article 69 in connection with the admission to membership in regional economic commissions of States not Members of the United Nations**