ARTICLE 69

CONTENTS

Text of Article 69

Introductory note ........................................................................................................................................... 1-3
I. General survey ........................................................................................................................................... 4-5

II. Analytical summary of practice ............................................................................................................. 6-12

**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 issued by the Council

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

E. The extension of the provision of Article 69 to the subsidiary organs of the Council .................... 6-8
   1. Regional commissions ........................................................................................................................... 6-7
   2. Functional commissions ......................................................................................................................... 8

F. The participation of States not Members of the United Nations and other entities in the deliberations of the Council and its subsidiary organs ............................................................... 9-12

   **1. The Council and its committees .........................................................................................................

   2. Regional commissions .......................................................................................................................... 9-11

   3. Functional commissions ......................................................................................................................... 12

**G.  The question of the interpretation of Article 69 in connection with the admission to membership in regional commissions of States not Members of the United Nations
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, 7 and 8. 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 past supplements, the Council’s sessional committees were referred to by the session numbers. However, pursuant to 1978 modifications to the symbol series for documents,¹ this Supplement refers to the sessional committees by calendar year through the 1993 substantive session of the Council. Starting from the 1994 substantive session, the work of the sessional committees was subsumed into the plenary of the Council in pursuance of a directive in paragraph 17 of annex I to General Assembly resolution 48/162 of 20 December 1993.

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

4. During the period under review, the practice was continued of inviting all States Members of the United Nations that are not members of the Economic and Social Council to participate, without a 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 Council and the issuance of invitations to observers was maintained. States that are not Members of the United Nations continued to send observers to attend sessions of the Council.

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**

E. The extension of the provision of Article 69 to the subsidiary organs of the Council

---

2 See Repertory, Supplement No. 1, vol. II, under Article 69, paras. 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., para. 4, respectively.
1. REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS

6. At its substantive session of 1995, the Economic and Social Council, having noted that the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific had recommended the inclusion of the Russian Federation within the geographical scope of the Commission, decided\(^4\) to amend paragraph 2 of the terms of reference of the Commission accordingly.

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

**Economic Commission for Europe**

*Fiftieth session:*\(^5\) A representative of Morocco participated under article 11 of the terms of reference of the Commission.

*Fifty-first session:*\(^6\) A representative of Argentina participated under article 11 of the terms of reference of the Commission.

**Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**

*Fifty-first session:*\(^7\) Austria, Chile, Colombia, Germany, Israel, Italy, Romania, South Africa, Sweden and Turkey.

---

\(^5\) E/1995/36.
\(^6\) E/1996/34.
\(^7\) E/1995/37.
Fifty-second session: Austria, Chile, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Morocco, Peru, Romania, South Africa and Turkey.

Fifty-third session: Austria, Chile, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Morocco, Peru, Romania and South Africa.

Fifty-fourth session: Austria, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Morocco, Peru, Romania, South Africa and Sweden.

Fifty-fifth session: Austria, Canada, Czech Republic, Chile, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Morocco, Peru, Romania and South Africa.

Economic Commission for Africa

Thirtieth session: Austria, Belgium, China, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Norway, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Spain and Turkey.

Thirty-first session: Austria, Belgium, China, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

---

8 E/1996/36.
9 E/1997/38.
13 E/1996/35.
Thirty-second session:¹⁴ Belgium, China, France, Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Norway, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Spain, Turkey and United States of America.

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Twenty-sixth session:¹⁵ Australia, Belgium, China, Czech Republic, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Malta, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, South Africa and Sweden.

Twenty-seventh session:¹⁶ China, Croatia, Germany, India, Japan and Romania.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Eighteenth session:¹⁷ Russian Federation.

2. FUNCTIONAL COMMISSIONS

8. During the period under review, the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council continued their practice of extending invitations to all States Members of the United Nations that were not members of the respective commission to participate in the work of the commission without a vote.

¹⁷ E/1995/84.
F. Participation of States not Members of the United Nations and other entities in the deliberations of the Council and its subsidiary organs

**1. THE COUNCIL AND ITS COMMITTEES

2. REGIONAL COMMISSIONS

9. At its substantive session of 1996, the Economic and Social Council, having noted that the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific had recommended that the name “Hong Kong” in paragraphs 2 and 4 of the terms of reference of the Commission be changed to “Hong Kong, China”, effective as from 1 July 1997, with the objective of enabling Hong Kong to continue thereafter as an associate member of the Commission, decided\(^\text{18}\) to amend paragraphs 2 and 4 of the terms of reference of the Commission accordingly.

10. At its substantive session of 1999, the Economic and Social Council, having noted that the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific had recommended that the name “Macau” in paragraphs 2 and 4 of the terms of reference of the Commission be changed to “Macau, China”, effective as from 20 December 1999, with the objective of enabling Macau to continue thereafter as an associate member of the Commission, decided\(^\text{19}\) to amend paragraphs 2 and 4 of the terms of reference of the Commission accordingly.

11. As in the past, a number of States that are not members of the United Nations participated in a consultative capacity in the work of the regional commissions in accordance with their respective rules of procedure:


\(^{19}\) E S C resolution 1999/38 of 28 July 1999; E/1999/SR.44.
Economic Commission for Europe

Fiftieth session:20 Representatives of the Holy See participated under article 8 of the terms of reference of the Commission.

Fifty-first session:21 Representatives of the Holy See participated under article 8 of the terms of reference of the Commission.

Fifty-second session:22 Representatives of the Holy See participated under article 8 of the terms of reference of the Commission.

Fifty-third session:23 A representative of the Holy See participated under article 8 of the terms of reference of the Commission.

Fifty-fourth session:24 Representatives of the Holy See participated under article 8 of the terms of reference of the Commission.

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Fifty-first session:25 Holy See and Switzerland.

21 E/1996/34.
22 E/1997/36.
24 E/1999/37.
Fifty-second session: Holy See and Switzerland.

Fifty-third session: Holy See and Switzerland.

Fifty-fourth session: Holy See and Switzerland.

Fifty-fifth session: Holy See and Switzerland.

Economic Commission for Africa

Thirtieth session: Holy See.

Thirty-first session: Holy See.

Thirty-second session: Holy See and Switzerland.

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Twenty-sixth session: Holy See and Switzerland.

Twenty-seventh session: Holy See.

26 E/1996/36.
27 E/1997/38.
29 E/1999/39.
31 E/1996/35.
33 E/1996/37.
3. FUNCTIONAL COMMISSIONS

12. During the period under review, the following functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council extended an invitation, in accordance with their past practice, to States not Members of the United Nations to participate in its deliberations: Commission on Human Rights,\(^{35}\) Commission on the Status of Women,\(^{36}\) Commission for Social Development,\(^ {37}\) Commission on Population and Development,\(^{38}\) Statistical Commission,\(^ {39}\) Commission on Narcotic Drugs,\(^{40}\) Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,\(^ {41}\) Commission on Sustainable Development\(^ {42}\) and Commission on Science and Technology for Development.\(^ {43}\)

**G. The question of the interpretation of Article 69 in connection with the admission to membership in regional commissions of States not Members of the United Nations**

\(^{35}\) Observers for the Holy See and Switzerland attended the fifty-first, fifty-second, fifty-third, fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth sessions of the Commission and its fourth special session held in 1999.

\(^{36}\) Observers for the Cook Islands, the Holy See, Switzerland, Tonga and Tuvalu attended the thirty-ninth session; observers for the Holy See and Switzerland also attended the fortieth, forty-first, forty-second and forty-third sessions.

\(^{37}\) Observers for the Holy See and Switzerland attended the thirty-fourth, thirty-fifth, thirty-sixth and thirty-seventh sessions; an observer for Switzerland also attended the special session held in 1996.

\(^{38}\) Observers for the Holy See and Switzerland attended the twenty-eighth, twenty-ninth, thirtieth, thirty-first and thirty-second sessions of the Commission.

\(^{39}\) An observer for Switzerland attended the thirtieth session of the Commission.

\(^{40}\) An observer for the Holy See attended the thirty-eighth, thirty-ninth, fortieth, forty-first and forty-second sessions of the Commission; an observer for Switzerland attended the thirty-ninth and fortieth sessions.

\(^{41}\) Observers for the Holy See and Switzerland attended the fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth sessions of the Commission.

\(^{42}\) Observers for the Holy See and Switzerland attended the third session of the Commission; an observer for the Holy See also attended the sixth and seventh sessions.

\(^{43}\) An observer for Switzerland attended the second session of the Commission.