General Conference

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

Item 22 of the provisional agenda
(GC(II)/35)

ARRANGEMENTS FOR A POSSIBLE REPORT TO THE ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS BEFORE
THE THIRD REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

Note by the Director General

1. The Economic and Social Council of the United Nations on 31 July 1950
adopted resolution 694(XXVI) which, inter alia expressed the hope that the
Agency would find it appropriate to submit annual reports to the Council.

2. During its discussion of this resolution on 17 September 1958 the Board of
Governors decided, in view of the fact that it had proposed the inclusion of
an item in the provisional agenda of the General Conference on the subject of
a possible report by the Agency to the Council, the text of this resolution
should be communicated to the General Conference for its information.

3. The resolution is accordingly reproduced in the appendix to this document,
preceded by an explanatory note by the Director General the substance of which
was presented to the Board.
Explanatory note on the question of an annual report to the Economic and Social Council

1. The following communication, dated 20 August 1958, has been received by the Director General from the United Nations:

"I am directed by the Secretary-General to transmit to you, enclosed herewith, a copy of the text of Economic and Social Council resolution 694 (XXVI), which was adopted by the Council at its 1044th plenary meeting held on 31 July 1958.

Your attention is drawn in particular to Council resolution 694 E (XXVI), on co-ordination of activities in the field of atomic energy".

2. With regard to this resolution, it will be recalled that under Article V of the Relationship Agreement with the United Nations, the Agency is required to consider any resolution relating to it which is adopted by the General Assembly or by a Council of the United Nations, and to report on any action taken thereon.

3. While the resolution as a whole is of interest to the Agency, the present paper confines itself to resolution 694 E (XXVI) which, inter alia:

"Expresses the hope that, in order to assist the Council in the discharge of its functions in the field of co-ordination, the International Atomic Energy Agency, in accordance with paragraph 1(c) of article III of the Agreement governing the relationship between the United Nations and the Agency(1) will find it appropriate to submit annually for the use of the Council, at its second session each year, a report on matters within the competence of the Council;"

4. In considering the manner in which the Agency should respond to this request, it may be recalled that the Agency is bound to report annually to the General Assembly of the United Nations (Articles III B 4 of the Statute and III 1(a) of the Relationship Agreement). As far as the Economic and Social Council is concerned, the Agency is required to submit reports on matters within the Council's competence (Articles III B 5 of the Statute and III 1(c) of the Relationship Agreement) but there is no requirement that such reports be submitted periodically.

(1) Under paragraph 1(c) of Article III of the Relationship Agreement the Agency is required to "submit reports to the Economic and Social Council and to other organs of the United Nations on matters within their respective competence".
5. While therefore it would be within the powers of the General Conference to authorize the submission of such annual reports, the adoption of this resolution by the Council does not in itself place a legal obligation on the Agency to report annually.

6. The Board has already considered the possibility that the Agency might make its first report to the Council under Articles III B 5 of the Statute and III 1(c) of the Relationship Agreement before the third regular session of the General Conference, and has accordingly proposed the inclusion in the provisional agenda \(^2\) for the second regular session of the General Conference of an item on "Arrangements for a possible report to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations before the third regular session of the General Conference". (Item 22).

7. Aside from the legal aspects of the matter, there are a number of practical considerations which should be borne in mind. If, as the Board has recommended to the General Conference, the Agency becomes a participating organization in the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, the Agency's ties with the Economic and Social Council will be considerably strengthened and there are likely to be sufficient developments of common interest each year to justify an annual report. The same will apply to projects which the Agency may carry out with the assistance of the Special Fund. The Agency is also indirectly linked to the Council through the Director General's participation in the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) which reports to it regularly and to which the Council frequently addresses recommendations. Finally the Council has responsibilities under Article 63.2 of the United Nations Charter for co-ordinating the activities of the specialized agencies through consultation with and recommendations to those agencies and through recommendations to the General Assembly and to the Members of the United Nations. While the Agency is not a specialized agency, this function of the Council is likely to be of value to it in promoting the co-ordination of the programmes of other members of the United Nations family with those of the Agency.

\(^2\) GC (II)/35.
8. The date of the future regular sessions of the General Conference which will also be considered at the second regular session (Item 26 of the provisional agenda) will have some bearing on the question of possible annual reporting by the Agency to the Economic and Social Council and on the form of such reports. In this connexion it will be noted that the Council's second session each year is convened in the first ten days of July and lasts for approximately five weeks. 3/

3/ The Rules of Procedure of the Council provide that the date of the second regular session of the year shall be fixed as late as administratively practicable before the opening of the regular session of the General Assembly and shall be adjourned at least six weeks before it. The General Assembly begins its regular session every year on the third Tuesday in September.

8. As, unlike the specialized agencies, the Agency's annual report to the United Nations is made to the General Assembly, any reports which it is decided that the Agency will make to the Economic and Social Council should be complementary to the annual report and not a duplication of it. Such reports would, under Article VI J of the Statute be prepared by the Board for submission to the General Conference for its approval under Article V E 6.
APPENDIX

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL


A

ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND
REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON CO-ORDINATION

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the twenty-second report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to the Economic and Social Council1/ and the annual reports of the specialized agencies,2/

1/ E/3103 and Add.1.

1. Notes these reports with appreciation;

2. Commends the Secretary-General and the executive heads of the specialized agencies for their efforts to achieve practical co-operation at all levels;

3. Recognizes the important role of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination in fostering the extension of this co-operation as an essential feature of good co-ordination;

4. Believes nevertheless, that further improvements in this regard are possible and desirable;

5. Notes with satisfaction therefore, that the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination has decided to review its machinery and procedures, in order to increase in every way possible the effectiveness of the contribution it can make to the work of the Council and the governing organs of the specialized agencies;3/

6. Expresses the hope that a progress report on the results of this review will be made available to the Council at its twenty-eighth session.

1044th plenary meeting,
31 July 1958.

B

CO-ORDINATION ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL

The Economic and Social Council,

I

Recalling the concern expressed by the General Assembly in resolution 125 (II) of 20 November 1947 and by the Council in resolutions 590 A II (XX) of 5 August 1955 and in its resolution 630 A II (XXII) of 9 August 1956, and being aware of the continuing need for co-ordination on the national level and the increasing importance, for Member Governments to take measures to ensure it,

1. Draws the attention of Member Governments to the report of the Secretary-General, entitled "Co-ordination on the National Level", in the hope that it may assist them in the development of co-ordination on the national level with respect to various activities of the United Nations, its subsidiary bodies and the specialized agencies;

2. Further calls the attention of Member Governments to the possibilities afforded them under the programmes of the United Nations and certain specialized agencies, such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, of employing various measures (expert services, fellowships, training courses, seminars and so forth) designed to improve national services concerned with the international organizations.

II

Noting that the report of the Secretary-General draws special attention to the difficulties met by governments by the frequently late distribution of the documents of the various organizations, thus making it difficult not only to prepare for the various inter-governmental meetings in a co-ordinated manner, but also to achieve a co-ordinated policy during the meetings themselves,

1. Emphasizes the need for early distribution to Member Governments of adequate documentation, particularly documents which bear upon proposed work programmes and projects;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to make available, in accordance with existing rules of procedure (rule 14, paragraph 4, of the rules of procedure of the Council and rule 5 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions) all such documentation not later than six weeks prior to any session of the Council or any of its subsidiary bodies;

3. Requests the regional economic commissions, as necessary, to amend their rules of procedure to apply the same time limit to the distribution of their documents;

4/ E/3107

4. Requests the Secretary-General to explore the reasons for the frequent late distribution of documents and to submit to the General Assembly at its thirteenth session, any proposals required to implement the rules of procedure referred to above;

5. Recommends to the General Assembly in its review of the problem of documentation, at its thirteenth session, to take the necessary remedial actions.

1044th plenary meeting,
31 July 1958.

C

PLANS OF CONCERTED ACTION

The Economic and Social Council,

I

Recalling its resolution 665 A (XXIV) of 1 August 1957, which underlined the importance of developing and executing programmes calling for the participation of several organizations within the framework of plans of concerted action,

Having considered the twenty-second report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to the Economic and Social Council— and in particular its annex I, concerning possibilities of such action,

Noting that up to the present it has been feasible to inaugurate a plan of concerted action only in the field of community development,

Having in mind that the objectives of a long-term programme of community development, as set forth in the Secretary-General's report on the subject—a/, have received general approval and should be complemented by an evaluation of the different activities envisaged,

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the first results which have begun to appear in this field of concerted action;

7/ E/CN.5/325.
2. **Invites** the Secretary-General, in consultation with the specialized agencies concerned, to submit to the Social Commission, for consideration at its twelfth session, a report on the progress and prospects of the plan of concerted action in the field of community development referred to above, in accordance with paragraph 5 of Council resolution 663 D (XXIV) of 31 July 1957;

3. **Requests** the Social Commission to transmit to the Council at its twenty-eighth session the above-mentioned report together with any comments or recommendations it may have;

**II**

Noting that annex I to the twenty-second report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to the Economic and Social Council 8/ indicates possibilities for concerted action in a number of other fields, including, in particular, industrialization and productivity, urbanization, water control and utilization, the Mediterranean Development Project, housing, building and planning, and living and working conditions of indigenous peoples,

Recognizing that no uniform method for the initiation of plans of concerted action would be realistic,

1. **Endorses** that report in so far as it contemplates action in certain of those fields;

2. **Requests** the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to report to the Council at its twenty-eighth session on such of the above-mentioned fields as it believes ready for further steps towards concerted action; each report to include so far as practicable, factual background information on the subject, together with recommendations as to the practical methods of initiating concerted action in the field of activity concerned;

3. **Decides** to study those reports with a view to selecting one or more fields of activity which would be recommended to the organizations concerned for concerted action;

**III**

Further **requests** the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to give consideration to, and report to the Council, preferably at its twenty-eighth session, on other fields of activity which might be suitable for similar

8/ E/3108 and Add.1.
treatment, including those which it has not so far judged to be ripe for concerted action, and on new subjects, in particular, the effects of radiation resulting from the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

1044th plenary meeting,
31 July 1958.

D

PROGRAMME APPRAISALS FOR THE PERIOD 1959 TO 1964

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering the growth in scope and in depth of the work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies in the economic, social, human rights and related fields,

Believing that the effectiveness of this work, in promoting higher levels of living and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, can be further increased by a careful survey of the economic, social, human rights and related programmes of the United Nations, the International Labour Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization, and World Meteorological Organization, by an estimate of their likely development over the next five years in response to known and developing needs of the States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies, and by a review of the inter-relationships of these programmes,

1. Recalls its resolution 665 C (XXIV) of 1 August 1957;

2. Notes the twenty-second report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to the Economic and Social Council and in particular its annex II concerning programme appraisals for the period 1959 to 1964;

3. Notes further the various comments submitted by the specialized agencies on the subject.

9/ E/3108 and Add.1.

4. Recognizes that the programmes and budgets of the specialized agencies will continue to be determined in accordance with the respective constitutional provisions of those agencies, which retain full flexibility in determining their programmes;

5. Desires to clarify and amplify its resolution 665 C (XXIV) in the light of the comments made;

6. Affirms that the appraisals to be prepared of the scope, trend and cost of the programmes of the United Nations and the above-mentioned specialized agencies for the period 1959 to 1964 should:
   (a) Emphasize the overall development, general direction and trend of the programme, rather than attempt to define individual programmes and projects;
   (b) Include, as far as they can be predicted, in addition to the regular programmes, programmes undertaken by the various organizations concerned within the framework of the Expanded Technical Assistance Programme and the new Special Fund;
   (c) Estimate the magnitude of likely changes in the budgetary requirements by applying the cost factors known from experience to new and developing parts of the programmes;

7. Recalls the request made by the Council, at its twenty-fourth session, that the Secretary-General make an appraisal of the scope, trend and cost of United Nations programmes for the period 1959 to 1964 for submission to the Council at its twenty-eighth session;

8. Invites the specialized agencies concerned to prepare by 1 December 1959, along the lines indicated above and in the light of the principles set forth in the annex to Council resolution 664 (XXIV) of 1 August 1957, appraisals of the scope, trend and cost of their programmes for the same period;

9. Decides to establish a Committee composed of five individuals, fully conversant with the programmes and activities of the United Nations in the economic, social, human rights and related fields and of the specialized agencies concerned, as well as the process of co-ordination developed among those organizations;

11/ Council resolution 665 C (XXIV), paragraph 3.
10. Decides further that the above-mentioned Committee shall have the following functions:

(a) To collate the separate appraisals and on the basis of these appraisals to prepare a consolidated report showing the extent to which the programmes covered are responsive to basic needs, and also the interrelatedness of the activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies designed to meet these needs;

(b) To transmit this report, together with the separate appraisals, through the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination for any comments it may have, to the Council for consideration at its thirtieth session;

11. Invites the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to lend its full co-operation to the above-mentioned Committee;

12. Requests the Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to make, in consultation with the above-mentioned Committee, appropriate arrangements for servicing that Committee and for assisting the participating organizations to ensure the largest measure of comparability in their appraisals.

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At its 1044th plenary meeting 31 July 1958, the Economic and Social Council decided that the Committee established under the above resolution would consist of the following representatives: Mr. George P. Davidson (Canada), Mr. Daniel Cosio Víllegas (Mexico), Mr. Mir Khan (Pakistan), Mr. Walter Kotschnig (United States of America) and Mr. Sergije Makiedo (Yugoslavia).

1044th plenary meeting, 31 July 1958.

E

CO-ORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF ATOMIC ENERGY

The Economic and Social Council,

I

Having noted section IV of the twenty-second report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to the Economic and Social Council, 12/ entitled

12/ E/3108 and Add.1.
"Co-ordination of activities in the field of atomic energy", 

Noting with satisfaction that the International Atomic Energy Agency has come into existence and, under article XI of the Agreement governing the relationship between the United Nations and the Agency, has recognized the desirability of achieving effective co-ordination of the activities of the Agency with those of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, and of avoiding the overlapping and duplication of activities,

Noting further that the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency, under their relationship agreements with the United Nations, have agreed to co-operate in measures recommended by the United Nations for achieving effective co-ordination,

Welcoming the fact that the International Atomic Energy Agency is now a full participant in the work of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination,

1. Recalls that, under Articles 58, 60 and 63 of the United Nations Charter, the Council has responsibilities for the co-ordination of activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies in the economic and social fields;

2. Expresses the hope that, in order to assist the Council in the discharge of its functions in the field of co-ordination, the International Atomic Energy Agency, in accordance with paragraph 1 (c) of article III of the Agreement governing the relationship between the United Nations and the Agency will find it appropriate to submit annually for the use of the Council, at its second session each year, a report on matters within the competence of the Council;

3. Invites the International Atomic Energy Agency to consider and to recommend to the Council projects which might usefully be undertaken by the Council, its regional economic commissions, or other subsidiary bodies of the Council, in order to assist the Agency in carrying out its programmes in various regions of the world taking into account the differing degrees of development and the varying requirements of the regions concerned;

13/ General Assembly resolution 1145 (XII), annex.
II

Noting with satisfaction that, under Article XV of the Agreement governing the relationship between the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Agency has recognized the desirability of co-operation concerning the provision of technical assistance in the field of atomic energy and has agreed to take such action as may be necessary to achieve effective co-ordination of technical assistance activities within the framework of existing co-ordination machinery in the field of technical assistance,

Expresses the hope, therefore, that the second General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency will approve the recommendation by the Agency's Board of Governors that the Agency participate in the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance;

III

Noting that negotiations are taking place between the International Atomic Energy Agency and several of the specialized agencies with a view to the conclusion of relationship agreements,

1. Invites the specialized agencies concerned to bear in mind that the International Atomic Energy Agency, which is established for the specific purpose of dealing with the peaceful uses of atomic energy, has the leading position in this field;

2. Invites the International Atomic Energy Agency to bear in mind that the specialized agencies concerned have certain responsibilities in relation to the peaceful uses of atomic energy in their respective fields of competence;

3. Expresses the hope that these agreements will be concluded in the near future;

4. Calls the attention, however, of the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency to the fact that effective co-ordination requires, in addition to formal bilateral arrangements under these relationship agreements, the development of effective day-to-day working relationships within the framework of general multilateral arrangements for co-ordination in this field;
IV

Recalling the concern expressed by the General Assembly and by the Council regarding the continuing need for co-ordination on the national level and the increasing importance for Member Governments to take measures to ensure it,

Urges all Member Governments concerned to make special efforts, in view of the complexity of this new enterprise, to ensure national co-ordination of policies with regard to the international promotion of the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

1044th plenary meeting,
31 July 1958.

CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AND THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of the communication addressed to it by the Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation, 14/

1. Notes that the Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation would welcome an opportunity of direct contact between representatives of the Council and representatives of the Governing Body, and has appointed a delegation with a view to achieving full and common understanding on questions raised in Council resolutions affecting the relations between the Council and the International Labour Organisation and in the above-mentioned statement of the Governing Body;

2. Decides to appoint a committee of the Council, composed of the President of the Council and representatives of France, Mexico, Netherlands, Sudan, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Yugoslavia, to meet with the above-mentioned delegation of the International Labour Organisation;

3. Suggests that the joint meeting be held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York during the month of October 1958;

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14/ E/3089, see also E/3104, Appendix.
4. **Invites** the Secretary-General of the United Nations in consultation with the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Director-General of the International Labour Organisation in consultation with the Chairman of the Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation to make definitive arrangements and to inform the participating members.

1044th plenary meeting,
31 July 1958.
"9. In connexion with its consideration of the twenty-second report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to the Economic and Social Council\textsuperscript{16} and the annual reports of the specialized agencies, the Committee expressed satisfaction at the growing degree of inter-agency co-operation at all levels. Interest was also evinced in the review which the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination would be making of its machinery and procedures, in order to increase in every way possible the effectiveness of the contribution it could make to the work of the Council and the governing organs of the specialized agencies.

"10. The Committee shared the hope expressed by several representatives that the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination would consider the suggestion made by the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization\textsuperscript{17} in plenary meeting of the Council, regarding a "free-the-world-from-hunger year".

"11. Special mention was also made of the weaknesses in the so-called "common system" of salaries, allowances and other benefits of service among the United Nations, the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Health Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization and the World Meteorological Organization, resulting in part from a lack of suitable co-ordinated arrangements for implementing that system. It was noted with concern that in the implementation of the recommendations as to the common base date for cost of living calculations, differences had arisen in practice. The Committee noted that the International Labour Organisation and the World Health Organization intended to raise this question in the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination. It recalled the assurances given last year that the related question of the need for a sound

\textsuperscript{15} E/3170.
\textsuperscript{16} E/3102 and Add.1.
\textsuperscript{17} Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, twenty-sixth session, 1030th meeting.
system for duty-station adjustments was to be discussed further in the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and noted that arrangements have been made by that Committee for the appointment of outside experts to make recommendations on the administration of such a system.

"12. Another matter of particular interest to the Committee in the context of the review of procedures and machinery of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination was that of public information. The importance of improving publicity for international economic and social work and of co-ordinating more closely the activities of the various public information services was stressed. It was hoped that the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination would consider this subject, taking account of the report of the expert committee on the public information activities of the United Nations to be presented to the General Assembly at its thirteenth session.18/"

"13. In connexion with possibilities of concerted action, the Committee expressed the view that the Social Commission should consider, at its forthcoming twelfth session, preliminary steps which might be taken for the eventual establishment of programmes of concerted action in the fields of urbanization, and housing, building and planning.

"14. In connexion with programme appraisals for the period 1959 to 1964, the Committee wished to make the following observations:

(a) The appraisals are regarded as a step in the dynamic process of developing progressively the effectiveness of the United Nations and the specialized agencies as instruments for assisting the countries of the world to develop economically and socially at a greatly accelerated rate.

(b) The appraisals are a further step in the development of co-ordination through which the respective programmes of the United Nations organizations have gained, over the years, in purpose, depth and strength. Such co-ordination has been achieved not by way of centralization, not by directives or orders, but by consultation and persuasion and by free co-operation in the efforts designed to improve the lot of man.

18/ See General Assembly resolution 1177 (XII).
(2) The appraisals are not to be understood as implying that the programmes and budgets of the United Nations or the specialized agencies should, or could, be determined outside the constitutional framework of each organization. They imply no attempt to interfere with the autonomy of the organizations within the United Nations family.

(a) The appraisals do not require firm policy formulation looking ahead for the five-year period, or any rigid commitment in regard to specific programmes. The appraisals should in no way interfere with the flexibility which the organizations must have in determining their programmes from year to year.

(c) It is recognized that the cost of programmes for the coming five years cannot be precisely determined. What is desired is rough estimates, reached by applying the cost factors known from experience to the new and continuing parts of the programmes. Such estimates cannot, of course, cover programmes which cannot reasonably be foreseen at the time the appraisal is made.

(f) It is hoped that the consolidated report, drawn up on the basis of the individual appraisals undertaken by the United Nations and the specialized agencies concerned, will, for the first time, give the governments and the peoples of the world a clear idea of what is being achieved and attempted through international action. It should bring into focus the inter-relationship between the work of the different organizations and thereby facilitate ever closer co-operation and, wherever feasible, concerted action."