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NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT ON RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (FORTY-SEVENTH, FORTY-EIGHTH AND FORTY-NINTH
SESSIONS) AND BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (TWENTY-FOURTH AND TWENTY-
FIFTH SESSIONS) WHICH ARE OF CONCERN TO THE COMMISSION

70-11-031

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AT ITS FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION	2
RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AT ITS FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION	11
RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AT ITS FORTY-NINTH SESSION	16
RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION	26

The secretariat wishes to draw the attention of the Economic Commission for Latin America to certain resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its forty-seventh, forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions and by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth sessions which are of concern to the Commission and may need action by it.

At the time of issuing this document, the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly is still meeting. Resolutions adopted at this session will therefore be dealt with in an addendum to it.

This document and the addendum do not contain more than summaries of the resolutions, but the complete texts are available for consultation in the Office of the Secretary of the Commission.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
AT ITS FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION
(14 July - 8 August 1969)

Annual Reports

As in previous years, members of the Council greatly appreciated the introductory statements made by the Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions and the Director of UNESOB. They commented, with great interest, on the annual reports of the commissions and UNESOB.

It was stressed that the regional commissions were important to the activities of the United Nations system as they reflected the characteristics of the regions they served, had close contact with national economies and institutions, and represented a regional synthesis of the world-wide activities of United Nations global bodies. It was also pointed out that the regional commissions were making a definite contribution to economic and social progress throughout the world by helping to expand co-operation among States within their respective regions. They helped to identify pressing needs of their member countries and carried out important projects of common interest. The regional commissions had also an important role to play in the various stages of preparation, implementation and evaluation of the Second United Nations Development Decade.

With regard to ECLA, it was observed that this Commission had been Latin America's school of economics, and had developed extremely close co-operation in economic theory and planning.

In view of the increase in operational activities of the commissions, it was pointed out that the problem of co-ordinating and integrating their activities with those of the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies became more important. The regular meetings of the Executive Secretaries were considered more significant in this context, and the relevant information contained in the report on the last two meetings (E/4709) was considered encouraging. A specific proposal was made to discuss at the next meeting of Executive Secretaries a suggestion to establish, perhaps in the regional commissions, a system of procedures for the mutual review of policies by member States.

/The Council

The Council took note of the annual reports of ECLA and of the other regional commissions and of the resolutions and recommendations contained in the reports.

The Council, in its report to the General Assembly, also decided to amend the terms of reference of ECLA by adding the following text to the end of paragraph 12 of those terms of reference:

"For those years in which the Commission does not hold a session, the Executive Secretary shall submit to the Economic and Social Council a full report of its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies, after approval by the Chairman of the Commission and circulation to Governments of member States for their comments and any necessary modifications."

Resolution 1442 (XLVII). The Role of the Regional Economic Commissions and the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut in the Second United Nations Development Decade.

In the resolution as adopted, which is of direct concern and of great interest to the regional economic commissions and UNESOB, the Council, inter alia, noted with satisfaction the growing effectiveness of the commissions and UNESOB in initiating and implementing an increasing number of projects at various levels of direct and practical importance to the developing countries, as well as the increasing spirit of self-reliance and the desire for economic co-operation in the developing world. The Council also emphasized the importance of consultations within the system of United Nations organizations and specialized agencies and with the UNDP. It considered that the regional economic commissions have a crucial and vital role to play in helping Governments to implement the global strategy in the Second United Nations Development Decade. The Council appreciated that steps were being taken to promote specific measures to ensure the effective co-operation of the United Nations system of specialized agencies in the implementation of the work programmes approved by the regional economic commissions and UNESOB, and towards this end to achieve, as far as possible, the establishment of joint work programmes with the individual agencies in their respective fields of competence.

/In operative

In operative paragraph I, the Council urged that a more effective and substantial decentralization of operational activities be carried out in accordance with the resolutions of the Council and of the General Assembly, and invited the regional commissions to bear this requirement in mind in drawing up their work programmes. The Council then recommended that the regional economic commissions and the UNESOB play a more active role in the implementation of operational programmes for economic and social action in the priority areas indicated by the commissions, the Office in Beirut, the Council and the General Assembly. The Council further recommended that the regional commissions and UNESOB participate effectively in the operation of any arrangement that might be established for the formulation of policies and the preparation and evaluation of development plans under the Second United Nations Development Decade and for this purpose assist in setting the standards and criteria that are appropriate for a meaningful assessment of economic and social progress in the different regions. The Council also urged the appropriate agencies to give favourable consideration to such requests as may be made by member States of the regional economic commissions, individually or collectively, for the placing at their disposal of the services of experts and such other services essential for the development of the regions.

Resolution 1432 (XLVII). Procedures for implementation of new arrangements for regional and interregional projects under the Technical Assistance component of the United Nations Development Programme

By this resolution, the Council established new procedures relating to regional and interregional projects under the Technical Assistance component of the UNDP for the planning, approval and implementation of the programme beginning with the year 1971. Sub-paragraphs 1c) and d) might be of particular interest to the regional economic commissions:

"1c) The Governing Council shall review and approve regional and interregional projects or the extension of such projects recommended by the Administrator after consultation with the Inter-Agency Consultative Board, if the anticipated cumulative cost of the project including its eventual extension is over the limit fixed by the Governing Council;

/1d) Savings

ld) Savings accruing on regional and interregional projects during the course of the operational year and any balance of the amount earmarked by the Council remaining unprogrammed at the end of the programme year should be surrendered to the central Technical Assistance account and added to the general resources available for the Technical Assistance programme for the ensuing year."

Resolution 1434 (XLVII). Programming and budgetary procedures for the United Nations regular programme of technical co-operation

By this resolution, the Council recommended to the General Assembly that it adopt programming and budgetary procedures for Part V (Technical programmes) of the United Nations budget by which, inter-alia:

The current system of separate section appropriations requested under Part V would be replaced by chapters reflecting targets to be applied to the major fields of activity: economic development, industrial development, social development, public administration, human rights advisory services and narcotic drugs control.

Moreover, the Secretary-General would approve individual projects based on government requests to be financed under the regular programme. Resolution 1447 (XLVII). Second United Nations Development Decade

During the discussion of this item the Council was informed by the Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs that the Preparatory Committee proposed a figure of about 6 per cent as a working hypothesis for the average annual rate of growth of the real gross product during the Decade. In this connexion the Committee for Development Planning (CDP) had expressed the view that the developing countries as a whole could achieve an annual average rate of expansion of 6 to 7 per cent of their total gross product during the Decade if appropriate national and international policies were followed. Thus if the normal rate of population increase could be prevented from exceeding the present level of 2.5 per cent, an annual growth of 3.5 to 4.5 per cent in the per capita gross product could be achieved.

The Director of the Social Development Division identified four general principles relating to the goals and policies of the Decade. Firstly, social goals designed to accelerate the rate of economic growth

/should be

should be formulated. Secondly, social phenomena accompanying economic development, industrialization and urbanization. Thirdly, social goals should be established for achieving a realistic level of adequacy for population groups not adequately benefiting from economic progress. Fourthly, goals should also be established related to social obstacles to development, in the sense of relationships between individuals rather than their well-being.

It was noted, inter-alia, that documents before the Council contained repeated references to the need for social, institutional and structural reforms in the developing countries. The interdependence between measures adopted at the internal and international level was also pointed out. The greater a country's development effort the more dependent it was on international assistance. Therefore, although the task of development was primarily one for the developing countries themselves, it was essential that the industrialized countries should face up to their responsibilities regarding the transfer of technology and resources and the removal of obstacles facing the developing countries. Efforts to mobilize public opinion in all countries in support of the Decade were also considered most important. It was also noted that the regional economic commissions had an important role to play in establishing regional projections based on the projections of the different countries concerned.

The resolution, inter-alia, agreed that the international development strategy for the 1970s should consist, in principle, of the following: A preambular declaration; the specification of objectives; policy measures designed to fulfil those objectives; a review and appraisal of both the objectives and policies and the mobilization of public opinion. It also agreed that the main objective during the Decade should be to promote sustained growth, especially in developing countries. The Council also recognized the need for establishing a target for the over-all growth rate for gross product in real terms of the developing countries during the Second Decade. It recognized the importance of reaching agreement on quantitative targets for a few major variables, consistent with the over-all target. In operative paragraph 9, which seems of particular
/interest to

interest to the regional commissions and UNESOB, the Council drew the attention of the organizations of the United Nations system to the recommendations made by the Committee for Development Planning in its report on its fourth and fifth sessions.

Resolutions 1448 (XLVII). Problems of the human environment

The debate on the question of human environment had shown an exceptional degree of coincidence of views as to the urgency of the problems involved and, therefore, the importance of the forthcoming Conference in 1972, as decided by the General Assembly.

Further, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to consult with Governments of States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies and the IAEA and the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development, to take account of the results of other international conferences and to draw on contributions from appropriate intergovernmental organizations.

The General Assembly would also invite States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies and the IAEA to participate in the preparations for the Conference and in the Conference itself; take note of the outlines of the range of the possible financial implications for the United Nations of the holding of the Conference presented in the Secretary-General's report and request the Secretary-General to make all efforts to reduce the costs of the Conference. Finally, the General Assembly would decide that the Conference should be of approximately two weeks' duration; accept with appreciation the invitation of the Government of Sweden to hold the Conference in Sweden in June 1972, and request the Secretary-General to submit a brief progress report to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session, through the Economic and Social Council, at its forty-ninth session.

Resolution 1451 (XLVII). Promoting of private foreign investment in developing countries

During the debate on this subject several points and recommendations contained in the reports of the Panel on Foreign Investment in Developing Countries and of the Round Table on Export Credit were discussed. Support was expressed for the idea of investment centres at the regional and other levels, and some delegations felt that they should be established in consultation with the regional economic commissions and regional development banks.

In the preambular part of the resolution, the Council, after noting with satisfaction that the Secretary-General had organized a Panel on Foreign Investment in Developing Countries which, with the generous assistance of the Government of the Netherlands, met at Amsterdam in February 1969; recognizing that private foreign investment is a complement to and not a substitute for official and technical assistance; considering the recommendations of the Panel concerning research and training in the developing countries to facilitate the assimilation of the production and management techniques associated with the entry of foreign capital took note with interest of the recommendations made by the Panel of Foreign Investment in Developing Countries.

In its operative part, the Council requested the Secretary-General to undertake the studies suggested by the Panel, as well as a study on the effects of agreements between parent companies and their subsidiaries concerning production and trade; invited the Secretary-General to organize other panels, at the regional and global levels, for the purpose of considering specific measures to increase the flow of foreign investment to developing countries; and, finally, requested the Secretary-General to report to the Council at its forty-ninth session on the progress made in this matter.

Resolution 1452 (XLVII). Export Credits and export promotion in developing countries

This resolution seems of particular interest to the regional economic commissions and UNESOB in view of the provisions contained in the following operative paragraphs:

/Paragraph 2

Paragraph 2 requested the Secretary-General to study, in close co-operation with IMF, ways and means of enabling developing countries to ease the balance-of-payments strains arising from the short-term financing of export credits granted by their exporters. In paragraph 3 the Secretary-General was further requested to prepare, in consultation with the IBRD and the regional development banks, a study on the possibility of financing or refinancing medium-term and long-term export credits granted by the developing countries as well as of guaranteeing such credits for the purpose of facilitating their financing or refinancing on the international capital market. The Council further requested the Secretary-General to give careful consideration to the other aspects of the work programme contained in his report on the conclusion of the Round Table on Export Credit as a Means of Promoting Exports from Developing Countries, in the light of views expressed on the subject at the forty-seventh session of the Council.

Resolution 1453 (XLVII). Co-ordination at the country level: the role of the Resident Representatives of the United Nations Development Programme

Since the relationship between the regional commissions and UNESOB on the one hand, and the UNDP Resident Representatives, on the other, are most important for an efficient operation of the programmes of the United Nations system of organizations as a whole, the provisions of this resolution should be of great interest to the regional economic commissions and UNESOB.

Of particular significance seems operative paragraph 6, in which the Council invited the organizations of the United Nations system to ensure that Resident Representatives are consulted on the planning and formulation of development projects for which these organizations are responsible, and that they are supplied with reports on the execution of those projects. The Council further requested the organizations concerned to take the necessary measures to ensure that this resolution is brought to the attention of all concerned within their organizations including their field representative.

/Resolution 1454

Resolution 1454 (XLVII). Future institutional arrangements for science and technology

Operative paragraph 2 of this resolution seems of particular interest to the regional commissions and UNESOB. In this paragraph the Council decided to consider, after ascertaining the views of the Governments of Member States and those of the organizations concerned within the United Nations system and of other intergovernmental organizations concerned, how best to meet the needs for reinforcement and co-ordination and the place and role of any intergovernmental machinery that may be established.

Resolution 1455 (XLVII). Computers

A number of operative paragraphs of this resolution seem of relevance to the regional economic commissions and UNESOB. In operative paragraph 1 the Council reaffirmed in particular that member organizations' plans for computer facilities should be fully discussed in the Computer Users' Committee in the light of possible alternatives before being submitted to the governing bodies concerned. In operative paragraph 2 the Council considered that, pending eventual decisions on the advantages or otherwise of establishing common computer facilities, individual member organizations should refrain from committing themselves to establishing or extending their own computer facilities, except in applications where this can be justified in the short term as a measure of economy or to meet urgent programme needs and that the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions should be given the opportunity to comment on such plans at the appropriate stage. Then in paragraph 3, the Council endorsed the suggestion of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination that, before any new studies are undertaken in the computer field by United Nations bodies, the Computer Users' Committee should be informed of their purpose and scope and should have the opportunity to comment on them. Finally, in paragraph 7 the Council expressed the hope that the United Nations member organizations will be able to find within existing resources the means to finance whatever technical expertise may be required by the Computer Users' Committee.

/RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
AT ITS FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION

(11 to 28 May 1970)

Resolution 1489 (XLVIII). Work programme of the United Nations in the
Economic, Social and Human Rights Fields

During the discussion on the problem of establishing priorities, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs suggested that it would be better if subsidiary organs of the various legislative bodies were to confine themselves to defining aims and to leave to the Secretary-General to define the means.

Regarding the interdisciplinary development advisory teams, most of the representatives participating in the discussion expressed support for the teams. Some representatives expressed certain misgivings regarding the teams, especially since there would be three systems of local assistance, that of IBRD and its affiliates, that of UNDP and that of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs explained in this connexion that the UNDP missions were involved in a relatively small sector of the economic and social activities in each country, while the IBRD teams were for the purpose of appraising the country's suitability for IBRD investment. Even if conflicts should arise between the functions of the various missions, this would not automatically mean that it was the interdisciplinary teams which were superfluous. A number of representatives also stressed the importance of further decentralization to the regional economic commissions and the teams would make it possible to strengthen and streamline the commissions.

A number of decisions contained in this resolution seem to be of relevance to the regional economic commissions. The Council approved the Secretary-General's work programme for 1971, having considered it in the light of its budgetary implications, as contained in his report (E/4793 and Corr. 1-4). It also requested the Secretary-General to review his programme projections for 1972 bearing in mind the goals, objectives and policy measures to be set for the Second United Nations Development Decade and the increased role the United Nations system is likely to play in attaining them.

/Regarding the

Regarding the interdisciplinary planning advisory teams the Council took note of the comments and observations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination regarding these proposed teams and endorsed the recommendations of the Committee in this regard as contained in paragraph 88 of its report (E/4846/Add.11).

The regional economic commissions should also note in particular the Council's recommendation that subsidiary organs and programme managers, when drawing up their work programmes, should state the main objectives to be realized from such programmes as well as the relationship between individual projects and these objectives. The Council also expressed its satisfaction on the fact that some progress had been made regarding the formulation of long-term plans, and also over the improvement in the documentary presentation of the work programme. However, the Council also called upon all concerned to implement fully relevant recommendations and to strive for greater improvements. The Council requested the Secretary-General to take into account the Committee's comments and observations with respect to the work programme as well as the comments of members in the Council.

The regional economic commissions should also take special note of the final paragraph of the resolution on which the Council decided to transmit the relevant sections of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (E/4846/Add.11) to the subsidiary organs and bodies concerned for action as appropriate.

Resolution 1491 (XLVIII). The role of the co-operative movement in economic and social development

This resolution contains a number of decisions which seem of importance to the regional economic commissions. The Council affirmed that the promotion of the co-operative movement should be an important element of the strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, as a means of broadening the basis for popular participation in the development effort and for the equitable sharing in the benefits of development. It requested the Secretary-General to collaborate closely with organizations in the United Nations system as well as with the International Co-operative Alliance and other appropriate non-governmental
/organizations in

organizations in their efforts in preparing and implementing a programme of concerted practical action in the field of co-operative development that would be of significant assistance to developing countries during the Second United Nations Development Decade in utilizing the full potentialities of the co-operative movement in economic and social development. The Council also recommended that the United Nations system should give special attention to requests from developing countries for assistance to develop co-operatives.

Resolution 1492 (XLVIII). The social factors in improving nutrition

Of interest to the regional economic commissions seems the recommendation that Governments participating in regional bodies or associations, within or outside the United Nations, should give due importance to co-operation for the attainment of adequate nutrition for their peoples. The Council also requested that the Director-General of FAO, in co-operation with the United Nations, the UNICEF and United Nations agencies concerned, strengthen further United Nations assistance to Governments in the formulation and implementation of sound food and nutrition policies. Such assistance should, above all, be action-oriented. The Council requested the Director-General of FAO and the Administrator of the UNDP to strengthen programmes aimed at augmenting the development of national food resources and improving the quality and distribution of food in the developing countries. The Council finally recommended that the present resolution be brought to the attention of all United Nations bodies concerned with plans and programmes for the Second United Nations Development Decade.

Resolution 1493 (XLVIII). Trends in the social situation of children

In this resolution the Council invited the Secretary-General and the competent organizations in the United Nations system to increase their efforts to learn more about the needs of children and youth and to assist Governments in carrying out co-ordinated and intersectoral measures designed to satisfy these needs. The Council further invited the Secretary-General and the competent organizations in the United Nations system to intensify their assistance to Governments during the Second United Nations Development Decade with a view to enabling them to meet such needs particularly in the fields of health, nutrition, education

/and social

and social welfare, without losing sight of the training of personnel. It also drew the attention of Member States and organizations in the United Nations system to the need to increase their efforts to prevent and eliminate suffering among children.

Resolution 1494 (XLVIII). Social policy and planning in national development

Since balanced over-all development planning is among the important problems which the regional economic commissions have to deal with, this resolution should be of interest to them.

The Council, in this resolution, endorsed the views of the Group of Experts on Social Policy and Planning in National Development, regarding a number of necessary measures, as elaborated in the Group's report (E/CN.5/445). It also endorsed the principle of unified approach envisaged by the draft strategy of the Second United Nations Development Decade and requested those United Nations bodies to be charged with the implementation of the strategy to give serious consideration to the role of the Commission for Social Development in the continuing appraisal of the progress of this implementation. It also requested the Secretary-General to undertake further work on this unified approach in order to submit a draft framework on this subject to the Commission for Social Development at its twenty-second session and to submit a report on the unified approach at the earliest possible date. It also requested the Secretary-General to ensure effective co-ordination of the work undertaken on social indicators of development, and to give Governments every assistance in order to enable them to develop such indicators at the national or regional levels.

Resolution 1495 (XLVIII). Land reform

In this resolution the Council urged the Secretary-General, in the preparation for the Second United Nations Development Decade, bearing in mind the objectives of the FAO Indicative World Plan for Agricultural Development and the ILO World Employment Programme, to take fully into account the role of comprehensive agrarian reform, essential not only for rural development, but also for balanced development as a whole. The Council also recommended that the Secretary-General and the heads of the

/interested agencies

interested agencies of the United Nations system give higher priority than heretofore to financial and technical assistance to member countries in undertaking projects for land reform, rural institutional development, including co-operatives, and integrated land-use planning. The Council further recommended that the Secretary-General submit to the Council recommendations for policies and action programmes for the Second United Nations Development Decade. The Council further recommended that the Secretary-General report to the Council on progress made in the studies into the implications of the "green revolution", proposed by the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, and as part of the concerted programme of the United Nations system for comprehensive agrarian reform, on the implementation of any recommendation arising from them. Resolution 1507 (XLVIII). Housing, building and planning

The Council, in this resolution, recognized the urgent need on a continuing basis, within the framework of the Second Development Decade to (a) accord higher priority to housing, building and planning programmes at the national as well as international level, (b) allocate increased financial resources to these programmes, (c) promote the role of this sector in economic and social development. The Council requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the specialized agencies concerned, to submit to the Council reformulated proposals for the campaign to focus world-wide attention on and mobilize public and government support for housing, building and planning. It further requested the Secretary-General to include in his report to be submitted to the Council his comments on the proposed new international institution discussed in document E/C.5/98, to support domestic savings and credit facilities in housing and urban development.

/RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
AT ITS FORTY-NINTH SESSION

(6-31 July 1970)

Annual Reports

Statements made by the Executive Secretaries of the regional economic commissions and the Director of UNESOB, reporting on the economic conditions of their respective regions and the activities of their commissions and office, were well received by the members of the Council.

Members of the Council expressed appreciation for the impressive progress made by the regional economic commissions during the past year and their increasing role in the implementation of United Nations economic and social programmes. Several members underscored the need for strengthening the regional commissions by further decentralization of United Nations activities, and by allowing the commissions to act as the regional arms of organizations functioning at the global level. The commission's experience and knowledge should be more fully utilized in the future and they should be allowed to play an important role in the various phases of the Second Development Decade. They should, in particular, assume appropriated responsibility for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the international development strategy at the regional level.

It was appreciated that ECLA had continued to be the main body for identifying economic and social problems of the Latin American region and to deal with the problems by establishing objectives and priorities, and by the training of the required personnel.

The Council took note of the annual reports of ECE, ECAFE, ECLA, ECA and UNESOB respectively, and of the resolutions, recommendations and decisions contained in the reports of the four regional commissions and endorsed their work programmes. In resolution 1531 (XLIX), the Council also took note of the report of the sixth extraordinary session of the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America, which met to discuss the earthquake disaster in Peru.

/Resolution 1518

Resolution 1518 (XLIX). Measures to be taken following the earthquake in Peru

On 22 June 1970, the Committee of the Whole of ECLA met in New York to discuss international co-operation in connexion with the disaster which occurred in Peru on 31 May 1970. At the end of the two-day extraordinary session, the Committee adopted two resolutions on the subject which were submitted to the summer session of ECOSOC. The Council adopted resolution 1518 (XLIX) on 10 July 1970, the first of its resolutions for the forty-ninth session.

In this resolution the Council, after expressing to the people and Government of Peru its deep sympathy for their loss, urged the United Nations' States Members and members of the specialized agencies and the IAEA to continue their co-operation for the purpose of relief, reconstruction and economic rehabilitation in the stricken region; thanked the Secretary-General for the rapid action he had taken in this emergency, and requested him to promote concerted international action to mobilize the necessary technical and financial resources to carry out reconstruction plans; invited the international credit institutions to give urgent and sympathetic consideration to emergency measures in connexion with the loans and credits requested by Peru and to accelerate the granting of such loans and credits requested by Peru prior to the natural disaster as are still under consideration.

It further requested the Secretary-General to ask the Governing Council of the UNDP, the specialized agencies and more specially the IBRD and the IMF, UNESCO, IAEA, UNICEF, UNITAR, WFP, UNCTAD and UNIDO to devote the largest possible volume of resources to meeting assistance requests from the Government of Peru. In operative paragraph 10, it recommended to Governments participating in the UNDP that they should make additional contributions insofar as existing resources are not sufficient to meet the special needs of Peru. In operative paragraphs 11 and 12, it requested the Governments of States Members of the IBRD and IDA to ask their directors in the Bank and the Association to give particular attention to Peru's needs for funds; and invited the IBRD to

/give special

give special attention to the serious situation in Peru and its needs for resources, bearing in mind that the problems of reconstruction are inseparable from problems of economic development.

Resolution 1533 (XLIX). Proposal for establishment of an emergency fund for disasters.

During the discussion of this resolution, the Council took into consideration the interim report of the Secretary-General on "Assistance in Cases of Natural Disasters" (E/4833 and Corr.1), resolution 298 (AC.63) adopted by the Committee of the Whole of ECLA at its sixth special session and the resolution approved by the Governing Council of UNDP at its tenth session. It also considered its own resolution 1518 (XLIX) on measures to be taken following the earthquake in Peru.

In the operative paragraphs of this resolution, the Council recommended the establishment of an emergency fund for disasters, to be made up of voluntary contributions by all States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies. The first task of the fund would be to provide Peru, up to the limit of what is available with resources of all kinds - including technical assistance - which are needed for the reconstruction of the devastated area. The fund, which will be made available to Peru on a non-reimbursable basis, would consist of contributions both in freely convertible currency and in local currency. It would also include payment by the contributing countries of the cost of sending the necessary experts for the above-mentioned technical assistance. Contributions may also include other types of assistance, such as supplies, equipment and technical personnel for emergency situations. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to undertake to promote this fund among States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies.

Resolution 1552 (XLIX). Development planning advisory services

The Council, while considering the provision of technical assistance in the form of advisory services through sub-regional interdisciplinary teams at the request of the Governments concerned, as a particularly useful way of assisting some developing countries, emphasized at the same time the need for careful preparation of this form of technical assistance,

/and for

and for the closest consultation with the regional economic commissions and other appropriate organizations within the United Nations system, in order to avoid duplication with advisory services provided from other sources.

The resolution took note of the experimental nature of this scheme and of the two teams to be established as set out in paragraph 16 of the report of the meetings of the Executive Secretaries of the regional economic commissions held in 1970. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to report on the activities of the two teams mentioned above and "on the extent to which maximum use has been or would be made of the staff and services of the regional economic commissions, in particular the United Nations regional advisers, as well as those of the specialized agencies concerned".

The Secretary-General was requested to examine different ways of financing further projects of this nature.

Resolution 1553 (XLIX). Preparatory study on regional structures

This resolution is of direct concern and importance to the regional economic commissions and UNESOB. In it the Council, emphasizing the necessity of taking into full consideration the views of states of the respective regions within the framework of their regional economic commissions, requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations to prepare a questionnaire on the various aspects of regional structures. This questionnaire is to be forwarded to the Governments of Member States with the request that they send their answer to the respective regional economic commissions.

The Council further requested the Executive Secretaries of the regional economic commissions to prepare reports on the basis of the answers to the questionnaire and to submit them to the regional economic commissions at their next sessions in order to elicit comments from Governments. The Executive Secretaries were requested to submit their report together with the comments of Governments to the Secretary-General.

/The Council

The Council also requested the Secretary-General to report to ECOSOC as early as possible and not later than at its fifty-second session the results of the preliminary enquiry and to recommend concrete lines of action on this question.

Resolution 1556 (XLIX). Second United Nations Development Decade

A number of delegations pointed out the worsening financial conditions of aid and an unmistakable trend away from trade liberalization and toward protectionism. They were of the opinion that if those trends would continue, the Second Development Decade was likely to start in uncertainty and doubt. The developing countries considered it essential to set concrete target dates for the implementation of policy measures by the developed countries.

Some representatives stressed that the technical assistance was an important element in global strategy, and that the Council should try to correct some shortcomings in that respect which became evident during the first decade.

Delegates of some developed countries emphasized the importance of education, population activities and the future of the environment, whereas delegates of developing nations were of the opinion that the development strategy for the coming decade should take account of the importance of industrialization and lowering barriers hindering the exports of agricultural products from the developing countries.

The Council in part A of its resolution, which was adopted without a vote, expressed, inter-alia, its deep appreciation for the contribution made by the bodies and organizations of the United Nations system in the preparation of a draft of an international development strategy and expressed its concern that it had not so far been possible to reach agreement on a number of substantive issues, particularly in relation to certain important policy measures in the field of international trade and aid.

The Council considered also that the strategy for the Decade should not only provide for dealing with existing problems of development, but also with problems which might arise during the course of the implementation of policy measures.

/In part

In part B, the Council expressed its readiness to assume responsibility for assisting the General Assembly in the task of the over-all review and appraisal of progress in the implementation of the international development strategy on the basis of reviews and appraisals at national, regional, and sectorial levels; of the comments and recommendations made within the framework of a specific mandate by the Committee for Development Planning, and of appropriate documentation and reports prepared by the Secretary-General.

Resolution 1530 (XLIX). The capacity study of the United Nations Development System

In this resolution the Council endorsed the provisions drawn up by the UNDP Governing Council concerning the programme and contained in the annex to the resolution and recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of a resolution by which the Assembly would approve the provisions in the annex concerning the United Nations Development Programme and declare that such provisions should apply to activities of the programme commencing from 1 January 1971. The General Assembly should also request the Governing Council to prepare for its consideration a draft statute for the programme, incorporating the provisions annexed to the ECOSOC resolution and appropriate provisions from past resolutions relating to UNDP.

In the annex to the resolution which is entitled "Consensus approved by the Governing Council" there are some provisions which may be of interest to the regional economic commissions and UNESOB.

Thus, it states that there will be the United Nations Development Co-operation cycle and its first phase will comprise the formulation of the United Nations Development Programme country programme, which means the programming of programme assistance at the country level.

Country programming will be based on individual national development plans, or, where these do not exist, on national development priorities or objectives.

In formulating their plans, individual developing countries should have, at their request, assistance from the United Nations, including the regional economic commissions and UNESOB, in the general field of planning and from the specialized agencies in sectorial planning.

/In the

In the process of country planning, efforts should be made at all levels to co-ordinate all sources of assistance in the United Nations system, with a view to achieving integration of the assistance at the country level.

There will also be inter-country programming which is the programming of assistance for groups of countries or a sub-regional, regional or interregional and global projects at the request of at least two Governments, taking into account the equitable distribution of resources among regions. The total resources available for programming will be divided between country programming on the one hand, and, on the other, inter-country programming, consisting of sub-regional, regional, interregional and global projects.

In part VII of the Consensus dealing with the organizational matters it is specified that within the programme it will be necessary to bring about greater decentralization of responsibility for programming and implementation from the Headquarters to the country level. It further provides that at the headquarters level, regional bureaux should be established to provide a direct link between the Administrator and the UNDP Resident Representative in all matters concerning field activities. Resolution 1535 (XLIX). Development of natural resources

This resolution decided to dissolve the Ad Hoc Committee on the Survey Programme for the Development of Natural Resources, and to establish a standing committee on natural resources. Of particular interest to the regional economic commissions should be the provision in the terms of reference of the Committee on Natural Resources according to which it should be responsible for assisting the Council and the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination to maintain the necessary liaison between the activities in the field of natural resources of the regional commissions and other bodies doing relevant work, with a view to ensuring the utmost efficiency and co-operation. It should also be of interest to the regional economic commissions and UNESOB, that the Council requested the Secretary-General to make arrangements, including the preparation of adequate documentation with reviews and proposals, for convening the Committee on Natural Resources.

/Resolution 1536

Resolution 1536 (XLIX). United Nations Conference on the Human Environment

Operative paragraph 17 of this resolution seems of particular interest for the regional economic commissions, since in it the Council "requests the regional economic commissions to report at their earliest convenience within the framework of the preparation for the Conference on their current and planned activities in the environmental field, and to co-operate closely in these preparations".

The Council also recommended to the Secretary-General to investigate immediately the possibility of providing assistance to developing countries for the preparation of national reports and case studies in the field of environment.

Resolution 1537 (XLIX). Marine co-operation

In this resolution concerning international co-operation in the field of exploration and exploitation of the resources of the sea the Council requested that the Secretary-General prepare a general but concise review on trends in the various traditional uses of the seas; the foreseeable new uses; the likely effect of these uses as well as of other technological advances on the marine environment; and the conflicts of technical use that may be foreseen. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to submit a brief report to the Council on the manner in which international co-operation relating to the seas might be strengthened in areas where this would appear to be required.

Resolution 1538 (XLIX). Application of computer technology for development

In this resolution, the Council decided to discuss the question of the use of computer techniques for development at its fiftieth session, and recommended that the regional economic commissions, among other bodies, continue to assist the Secretary-General in the study of the question, and particularly in the formulation of any suggestions he might wish to make when his report is discussed, with a view to ensuring wide co-operation in this field.

Resolution 1543 (XLIX). Report of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development

In operative paragraph 9 of this resolution the Council "invites all bodies and organizations of the United Nations system to make use, if and where appropriate, both individually and collectively through the interagency machinery, of the Advisory Committee as a source of advice on scientific and technological matters".

Resolution 1546 (XLIX). Assistance in cases of natural disaster

In the operative paragraphs of this resolution, the Council commended the Secretary-General on his intention to entrust one of his senior officials with the responsibility of acting for him on a regular basis in developing and co-ordinating assistance from the United Nations system and in ensuring continual and close co-operation with the governments concerned, the League of Red Cross Societies and other voluntary agencies; requested the Secretary-General to make the staff arrangements necessary to this end in implementation of operative paragraph 4 of G.A. resolution 2435 (XXIII); reaffirmed the importance of the preparation of pre-disaster plans at the national level to meet natural disasters; stressed the importance of stand-by relief units at the national level and of the stock-piling of supplies for use in emergency situations.

It also appealed to States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies to offer, on an increasing scale, to the United Nations system, or other appropriate organizations, emergency assistance to meet natural disasters; and further requested the Secretary-General to continue to consult the Governments of States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies on this matter.

Resolution 1547 (XLIX). Development and co-ordination of the activities of the organizations within the United Nations system

The Council, inter-alia, invited the Secretary-General, the executive heads of the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency and the executive heads of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the regional economic commissions to pay special attention to the

/need to

need to eliminate overlapping and duplication in their work. The Council also invited the organizations to carry out the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies more precisely and effectively and further, whenever obstacles or problems occur, to mention these in their reports and make recommendations to overcome them. Of further interest to the regional economic commissions should be the recommendation that the Secretary-General and the specialized agencies take every possible action, including reassignment of present personnel in the light of priority programmes, in order to ensure the maximum utilization of the aid personnel.

Resolution 1549 (XLIX) Prior consultations on work programmes

During the discussion of this subject in the Council's Co-ordination Committee it was pointed out that the Enlarged Committee for Programme and Co-ordination recommended a procedure to the members of the United Nations system for sending their draft work programmes for comment to other organizations with programmes in related areas. This was followed by a statement submitted by the ACC to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on the subject. Actually a similar procedure had been developed by the Director-General of UNESCO, and approved by the Council a few years ago. UNESCO had for some years been communicating its programmes and budgets to other specialized agencies, requesting their comments, which are subsequently presented to the General Conference.

In this resolution, the Council welcomed the general agreement among the secretariats of the organizations of the United Nations system to carry out prior consultations on work programmes. The Council also attached equal importance to prior consultation by the secretariats of United Nations organizations before proposals of interest to other organizations were presented to the inter-governmental bodies, and also before changes were made in the stage of execution of approved programmes. The Council also invited all organizations of the United Nations system in the interest of better planning of international action to observe the spirit as well as the letter in the implementation of these arrangements for prior consultations.

Resolution 1561 (XLIX) Calendar of conferences

The Council reaffirmed that the question of the choice of venue for the sessions of the regional economic commissions is of the competence of the said commissions. It also recalled that the participation of States Members of the United Nations which are not members of the regional economic commissions is governed by the terms of reference and the rules of procedure of these organs.

/RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS
TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION

(16 September - 17 December 1969)

Resolution 2562 (XXIV). Tax Reform Planning

In this resolution, the General Assembly noted with appreciation that the developing countries had intensified their efforts to mobilize their own resources and considered that an effective tax reform programme and its implementation were necessary for the mobilization of domestic resources and to bring about a more equitable distribution of income in developing countries.

The Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in co-operation with interested organizations of the United Nations system and taking into account the work that had already been done, to prepare, on a selective basis, a comprehensive study of the taxation systems in developing countries and to submit the study to the 51st session of ECOSOC.

The General Assembly further requested the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the UNDP, the regional economic commissions and UNESOB, to continue to respond actively to requests from interested Member States for advice and help on matters concerning tax reform.

Resolution 2563 (XXIV). The role of the regional economic commissions in the field of development planning during the Second United Nations Development Decade

This resolution is of great significance to the regional economic commissions and UNESOB since its purpose is to strengthen their capacity to render continuing advisory services in various fields to governments within the framework of the Second Development Decade. In operative paragraph 1 the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, the Executive Secretaries of the regional economic commissions and the Director of UNESOB to intensify their efforts to meet more satisfactorily the requirements of Member States in development planning, plan implementation, public administration and management, especially by organizing continuing advisory services in these fields, in particular, with a view to action to facilitate the achievement of the objectives of the Second Development Decade. The General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to

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examine at the earliest opportunity the various means of organizing and financing such services, which should begin to operate as soon as possible, and to this end to secure the close co-operation of bodies likely to be interested, including the UNDP and specialized agencies.

Resolution 2564 (XXIV). Special Measures in Favour of the Least Developed Among the Developing Countries

In its resolution, the General Assembly:

"1. Affirms the need to alleviate the problem of the least developed among the developing countries with a view to enabling them to draw full benefits from the Second United Nations Development Decade;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the heads of the specialized agencies and the regional economic commissions, the Committee for Development Planning, the Group of Experts appointed under Trade and Development Board resolution 63 (IX) and any other appropriate consultants, to carry out a comprehensive examination of the special problems of the least developed among the developing countries and to recommend special measures within the Second United Nations Development Decade for dealing with those problems."

Resolution 2579 (XXIV). Final Report of the Enlarged Committee for Programme and Co-ordination

This resolution deals with the question of improved co-ordination within the United Nations system of organizations and more efficient use of their resources. In this resolution the General Assembly reaffirmed a number of objectives set out in its resolution 2188 (XXI), including the following: Maximum concentration of resources on programmes of direct relevance to Member States; a flexible, prompt and effective response to the specific needs of individual countries and regions, as determined by them; minimum burden on the administrative resources of Member States and of the organizations in the United Nations system; evolution of an integrated system of long-term planning on a programme basis; institution of systematic procedures for evaluating the effectiveness of operational and research activities. The General Assembly requested the Economic and Social Council to examine and to keep under continuing review the machinery for co-ordination and programme review and to introduce improvements or

/modifications which

modifications which might appear necessary in the light of the experience gained and relevant developments within the United Nations system. Operative paragraph 9 of the resolution seems to be of a particular interest to the regional commissions. In this paragraph the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the specialized agencies and other bodies in the United Nations system, to include, as part of the report requested by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1454 (XLVII) to be submitted at its forty-ninth session an examination of the existing advice in the United Nations system and to prepare recommendations for its reorganization in a way which would enable it to contribute most effectively to the selection of priorities and to the planning and programming of United Nations activities designed to meet the growing and changing needs of the United Nations system, the international community and of Member countries. The regional commissions will be pleased to note that the General Assembly in this resolution welcomed the practice recently initiated by the Secretary-General of holding top-echelon meetings of staff concerned with economic and social affairs within the United Nations, including the regional economic commissions. The General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General, as Chairman of ACC, to bring to the attention of all organizations in the United Nations system the recommendation of the Enlarged Committee for Programme and Co-ordination for strengthening the present arrangement for co-ordination by adoption of more effective procedures for prior consultations on work programmes. Resolution 2497 (XXIV).

Youth, its education in the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, its problems and needs, and its participation in national development

In view of the important role and contribution of youth in the promotion of social and economic progress and human rights, and the increasing attention the regional commissions are paying to questions relating to this important role of youth in developing countries this resolution is of significance to the regional commissions. After recognizing, inter-alia, the importance of co-ordinating the activities and programmes relating to youth among the United Nations organs and the specialized agencies concerned, the General Assembly in operative paragraph 6 of

/Resolution I

Resolution I recommended to the Secretary-General that appropriate use should be made of the resources of the United Nations programme of advisory services in the field of human rights for the achievement of the purposes of the present resolution and that in this respect regional seminars on youth should be organized as early as possible.

In operative paragraph 4 of Resolution II the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General and the specialized agencies engaged in various studies and programmes on the problems and needs of youth and its participation in national development to identify separately the problems and needs of youth in the developed and developing countries and suggest possible solutions accordingly. Also of interest to the regional commissions is operative paragraph 5 inviting the attention of Governments, the United Nations organs and the specialized agencies concerned to the need for ensuring to youth equal and increased opportunities of access to education at all levels and to employment. Finally in operative paragraph 7 the Secretary-General was requested to consider further the ways and means through which the United Nations could best serve the objectives of ECOSOC resolution 1407 (XLVI), in particular the measures to be taken to establish channels of communication with youth and international youth organizations.

Resolution 2529 (XXIV). Establishment of an intergovernmental tourism organization

The resolution recognized that the operational capacity of the International Union of Official Travel Organizations in the field of tourism has been limited by its status as a non-governmental organization.

The General Assembly suggested a formula that would allow agreement to be reached more readily among Governments for the establishment of an international tourism organization of an intergovernmental character, particularly to assist the developing countries. The formula would be:

(a) The conversion of the International Union of Official Travel Organizations into an international organization of an intergovernmental character through a revision of its statutes;

(b) The establishment of operational links between the United Nations and the transformed Union by means of a formal agreement.

/An agreement

An agreement between the United Nations and the Union would establish close co-operation and relationship between the United Nations and the transformed Union, which should function as an executing agency of UNDP in order to assist in the preparation and implementation of technical assistance and pre-investment projects in the field of tourism. Resolution 2538 (XXIV). Publications and documentation of the United Nations

This resolution, which is aimed at further reduction in the volume of documentation is naturally of direct concern also to the regional commissions and UNESOB. In this resolution the General Assembly appealed to all United Nations organs, bodies and committees to consider ways of reducing documentation and in particular the possibility of adopting a form of records less voluminous and less costly than that currently being used. The General Assembly also took note of recommendations and suggestions for reductions in the volume of documentation contained in a number of reports, noted that many of them had been or were being implemented already, and requested the Secretary-General in the light of his own comments and those of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on them, to implement as quickly as possible those recommendations and suggestions that fell within his competence and authority and to continue his efforts to reduce documentation. The General Assembly noted that the traditional system of commissioning background papers for international conferences sometimes gave rise to a great deal of documentation, and requested the Secretary-General to draw to the attention of the bodies concerned with organizing such conferences the desirability of giving careful consideration to employing whenever possible annotated agendas, lists of headings for discussions, and the like, instead of or in conjunction with a reduced number of background papers.

Resolution 2539 (XXIV). Composition of the Secretariat

The resolution reiterated the need for an equitable geographical distribution of the Staff of the Secretariat as between regions and within each region and requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to achieve a better geographical distribution of the staff at all /levels, giving

levels, giving preference to nationals from countries not yet represented or inadequately represented, in particular with respect to appointment to higher posts.

It requested also the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to achieve a better linguistic balance within the Secretariat.

Resolution 2542 (XXIV). Declaration on Social Progress and Development

This resolution in which the General Assembly proclaimed a Declaration on Social Progress and Development, consisting of 9 articles on Principles, 4 articles on Objectives and 14 articles on Means and Methods is of great concern to the regional economic commissions and UNESOB who are so much committed to the promotion of the goals embodied in the Declaration. Measures to promote the effective realization of the provisions of the Declaration were recommended in resolution 2543 (XXIV) on Implementation of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development.

Resolution 2543 (XXIV). Implementation of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development

This resolution in conjunction with resolution 2542 (XXIV) containing the Declaration itself is, of course, of great interest to the regional economic commissions and UNESOB. Operative paragraph 2 seems to be of particular concern to the regional commissions, since in this paragraph the General Assembly decided that the Declaration should be taken into account in the formulation of the strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade and in the implementation of programmes of international action to be carried out during the Decade. In paragraph 3 the General Assembly urged all Governments to take into account the provisions of the Declaration in their bilateral and multilateral relations in the field of development. Paragraph 4 recommends that international organizations and agencies concerned with development should consider the Declaration as an important international document in the formulation of strategies and programmes designed to achieve social progress and development and that it might be taken into consideration in the drafting of instruments that the United Nations might undertake in the field of social progress and development.

/Resolution 2561

Resolution 2561 (XXIV). Public Administration and Management

This resolution considered that measures to increase the capability and effectiveness of public administration were fundamental in the formulation and implementation of plans and programmes for economic and social development.

The General Assembly recommended to the United Nations Member States to give due attention to public administration in their plans and programmes for national development and take account of the requirements of the developing countries in the field of public administration.

The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to invite the co-operation of the specialized agencies, the IAEA and non-governmental organizations concerned with public administration with a view to developing a co-ordinated programme for international activities in this area, including those which the regional economic commissions, through their public administration units, should carry out to meet the needs of the countries concerned.

Resolution 2566 (XXIV). Promoting effective measures for the prevention and control of marine pollution

In the operative paragraphs of the resolution, the Secretary-General was requested to complement the reports and studies under preparation, with special reference to the United Nations Conference on Human Environment, by (a) a review of harmful chemical substances, radioactive materials and other noxious agents and wastes which may dangerously affect man's health and its economic and cultural activities in the marine environment and coastal areas; (b) a review of national activities and activities of specialized agencies of the United Nations and inter-governmental organizations dealing with prevention and control of marine pollution; (c) seeking the view of Member States on the desirability and feasibility of an international treaty or treaties on the subject.

Resolution 2567 (XXIV). Mobilization of public opinion

In the operative paragraphs among other things, the General Assembly endorsed in general the activities now being undertaken in support of the aims of the Second Development Decade. It also recommended to the Secretary-General that appropriate consultations at the technical level be pursued

/as soon

as soon as possible with representatives of the specialized agencies and other organizations dealing with the preparation and dissemination of information material, in order to explore the best means of co-ordination and focusing the activities in support of the aims of the Decade. Lastly, the General Assembly urged the Governments to consider the establishment of new national bodies or strengthening existing ones designed to mobilize public opinion and to give increasing development orientation to educational curricula.

Resolution 2570 (XXIV). United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

In this resolution, the General Assembly expressed its concern that most of the issues referred to the continuing machinery of UNCTAD were still outstanding and requested the Trade and Development Board to resolve the outstanding issues, and to accelerate the work on the participation of UNCTAD in the international development strategy.

The General Assembly also urged the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to expedite his consultations with interested Governments with a view to reconvening the United Nations Cocoa Conference in order to conclude an international cocoa agreement as early as possible in 1970.

In operative paragraph 6, the General Assembly noted with satisfaction that some of the improvements introduced in the institutional machinery and methods of work of the Conference had been utilized, particularly by way of the decisions of the Board, to convene a special session of the Board on trade expansion, economic co-operation and regional integration among developing countries.

Resolution 2571 (XXIV). International development strategy

The General Assembly in this resolution expressed its concern that the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Development Decade was not able to prepare a preliminary draft of the international development strategy. It noted, however, that it had so far been possible to agree on a number of points. One of these was that existing arrangements for the review and appraisal of the progress towards achieving goals and objectives of the Second Development Decade should be fully and effectively utilized, strengthened as required, and complemented by new arrangements, at its

/national, regional

national, regional, other multinational and global levels, and that such arrangements should involve both developed and developing countries. The General Assembly also recognized that there was an express need for the progressive integration of social and economic goals and policies in the process of the formulation of the international development strategy for the Second Development Decade. In operative paragraph 8 the General Assembly called upon all organizations of the United Nations system to make available, as soon as possible, the contributions to the strategy expected of them, so as to enable the Preparatory Committee to consider them at its fifth session.

Resolution 2574 (XXIV). Question of the reservation exclusively for peaceful purposes of the sea-bed and the ocean floor, and the sub-soil thereof, underlying the high seas beyond the limits of present national jurisdiction, and the use of their resources in the interests of mankind

The following stipulations seem to be of particular interest to the regional commissions. In operative paragraph 6 of resolution B, the Committee of the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction was requested to formulate recommendations regarding the economic and technical conditions and the rules for the exploitation of the resources of this area in the context of the regime to be set up. In resolution C, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a further study on various types of international machinery. In resolution D, the General Assembly declared that, pending the establishment of the international regime: (a) States and persons, physical or juridical, were bound to refrain from all activities of exploitation of the resources of the area of the sea-bed and ocean floor, and the sub-soil thereof, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction; (b) No claims to any part of that area or its resources should be recognized.

Resolution 2581 (XXIV). United Nations Conference on the Human Environment

The General Assembly considered the preparations for a United Nations Conference on the Human Environment to be convened for two weeks in June 1972, and endorsed in general the proposals contained in the report of the Secretary-General regarding the purposes and objectives of the Conference.

/The Swedish

The Swedish Government proposed to hold the Conference in Sweden, and it was accepted with appreciation by the Assembly.

The General Assembly, by its resolution 2581 (XXIV), established a preparatory committee for the Conference consisting of representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, France, Ghana, Guinea, India, Iran, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Mauritius, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Singapore, Sweden, Togo, the Soviet Union, the United Arab Republic, the United Kingdom, the United States, Yugoslavia and Zambia.

The General Assembly requested the Secretary-General in his consultations on the preparations for the Conference "to take account of the results of other international conferences such as the Conference on the Problems of Environment organized by the Economic Commission for Europe and scheduled to take place at Prague in 1971 ..."

It was essential, according to the resolution, that an agenda of the Conference be selective, its organizational structure be simple and efficient, and that the documentation be kept reasonably limited.

Resolution 2598 (XXIV). Housing, building and planning

The General Assembly endorsed the above-mentioned ECOSOC resolution and decided on a quinquennial housing survey of an analytical and comparative character; requested the Secretary-General to prepare as soon as possible a comprehensive housing survey in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2036 (XX); urged that, in preparation of the strategy of the Second United Nations Development Decade, due attention be given to the problems in the field of housing, building and planning; and further requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session a report ascertaining the problems and priorities confronting States Members of the United Nations in the fields of housing, building and planning, and in particular giving information on trends in building and financing costs and the need for low-income housing, rural housing, community facilities and environmental improvements, together with his conclusions and recommendations on these matters.

Resolution 2600 (XXIV). International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space

Paragraphs 3 and 4 seem to be of particular interest to the regional economic commissions. In paragraph 3, the Secretary-General was invited to bring this resolution to the attention of all organizations within the United Nations family of agencies whose objectives or programmes might be furthered by this developing technology. In paragraph 4, the General Assembly requested the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to continue its studies with regard to the possibilities of further international co-operation in connexion with the development and use of remote earth resources survey techniques so as to assure that as the practical benefits of this new technology were achieved, they were made available to both developed and developing countries.

Resolution 2609 (XXIV). Pattern of Conferences

The basic problem which had prompted the discussion leading to the unanimous approval of this resolution was the fact that Governments were finding it increasingly difficult to provide effective representation at an ever-increasing number of conferences and committee meetings.

In the main operative paragraphs of the resolution, the General Assembly approved the calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for 1970 contained in annex I to the report of the Committee on Conferences; requested the Secretary-General to complete the study provided for in ECOSOC resolution 1460 (XLVII) by widening its field of application to the whole area of conferences and meetings held by subsidiary organs of the General Assembly. It decided that no meeting other than those covered by the calendar of conferences for 1970 should be convened, except for emergency meetings; reaffirmed, for application in 1970, the general principles that in drawing up the schedule of conferences and meetings for 1971, the United Nations bodies should plan to meet at their respective established headquarters, with some exceptions that were indicated in the resolution. One of the exceptions stated that regular sessions of ECAFE, ECLA and ECA, as well as meetings of their subsidiary bodies, might be held away from their headquarters when the commission concerned so decided subject, in the case of regular sessions of the commissions, to the approval of the Economic and Social Council and of the General Assembly.

/It also

It also decided that, as a general rule, not more than one major special conference should be scheduled in any one year; urged all organs and subsidiary bodies of the United Nations to plan their future conferences and meetings in accordance with the recommendations of the Ad-Hoc Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the specialized Agencies.