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NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT ON RESOLUTIONS OF THE GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY AND OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL  
OF CONCERN TO THE COMMISSION

The secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America wishes to draw the attention of the Committee of the Whole to a number of resolutions, or excerpts from resolutions, adopted by the General Assembly at the first part of its sixteenth session <sup>1/</sup> and by the Economic and Social Council at its thirty-first and thirty-second sessions. <sup>2/</sup> All these resolutions were brought to the secretariat's attention after 15 May 1961, the date on which the Commission's ninth session ended and have some bearing on the Commission's work. The account given below is in two parts, the first dealing with those resolutions of the above-mentioned bodies that directly concern the Commission, and may call for some action by the Committee of the Whole, and the second with resolutions of possible interest to the Commission and about which it should be informed.

## I

RESOLUTIONS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
AS BEING OF DIRECT INTEREST TO THE COMMISSIONA. Resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at the first part of its sixteenth session1674 (XVI): Balanced and co-ordinated economic and social development  
(1081st plenary meeting, 18 December 1961)

In operative paragraph 2 of this resolution the General Assembly that the regional economic commissions, among other bodies, should "continue to pay special attention to problems of balanced economic and social development, taking into account the interaction of economic growth and social development and all valuable experience of countries of various economic and social systems".

In operative paragraph 5 the Assembly expresses the wish that "the regional institutes of economic development which are in the process of being created in the various regions under United Nations auspices would include in their terms of reference the study of social factors affecting economic development".

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<sup>1/</sup> The resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at the resumed sixteenth session will be circulated later to the Committee of the Whole or, if that proves impossible, to the Commission.

<sup>2/</sup> For the full text of the resolutions concerned, see Information Document N°1.

1675 (XVI): Strengthening of the work of the United Nations in the social field (1081st plenary meeting, 18 December 1961)

In operative paragraph 6 the General Assembly expresses its strong support of the hope expressed in Council resolution 830 J (XXXII) that "all necessary provision will be made to enable the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to discharge effectively its responsibilities in the social field, in particular those relating to research, operational programmes, United Nations Children's Fund projects concerned with social services for children and those arising from the increased activities in the social field of the regional economic commissions".

1676 (XVI): Urbanization (1081st plenary meeting, 18 December 1961)

In operative paragraph 4 the regional commissions, among other bodies, are requested to "co-operate with Governments in carrying out the necessary basic research and studies, in formulating comprehensive plans for urban and regional development and in establishing and expanding the required community services and facilities".

1678 (XVI): Planning for economic development (1084th plenary meeting, 19 December 1961)

In operative paragraph 1 of this resolution Governments are invited to submit through the regional economic commissions, or their appropriate subsidiary bodies, requests to the Special Fund for assistance to establish economic development institutes "closely linked to the respective regional economic commissions".

In operative paragraph 2 the Economic and Social Council is invited at its resumed thirty-second session to recommend to regional economic commissions for Africa, Latin America, and Asia and the Far East that they should "consider this matter at their forthcoming annual meetings".

1709 (XVI): Decentralization of the economic and social activities of the United Nations and strengthening of the regional economic commissions (1084th plenary meeting, 19 December 1961)

In operative paragraph 1 the Assembly notes with appreciation the Secretary-General's action and proposed arrangements with regard to decentralization and the strengthening of the regional economic commissions as reported in document A/4911.

/Operative paragraph

Operative paragraph 2 welcomes Economic and Social Council resolution 823 (XXXII) and its emphasis on "the important functions to be fulfilled by the regional economic commissions in the initiation, implementation and co-ordination of economic and social activities of the United Nations at the regional level".

In operative paragraph 3 the Economic and Social Council is commended for its resolution 856 (XXXII) concerning co-operation between the resident representatives of the Technical Assistance Board and the Executive Secretaries of the regional economic commissions. The Technical Assistance Committee is also commended for its resolution recommending to the Executive Chairman of the Technical Assistance Board that he "invite the Executive Secretaries of the regional economic commissions to present their views on the economic and social factors to be taken into account in the preparation of technical assistance programmes".

In operative paragraph 4 it is urged that the secretariats of the regional economic commissions be strengthened "by means of an increasing delegation to the regional secretariats of substantive and operational functions and responsibilities and the provision of the requisite resources, including personnel".

In operative paragraph 8 the executive heads of the specialized agencies and the Executive Secretaries of the regional economic commissions are invited "further to adjust co-operative arrangements to the extent require by decentralization".

In operative paragraph 9 the regional economic commissions are requested "to develop further close co-operation among themselves in their substantive and operational activities, and to report on the progress made in their annual reports to the Economic and Social Council".

The question of decentralization was also the subject of another decision by the General Assembly. On the recommendation of the Fifth Committee (A/5073) the General Assembly decided, without objection, (a) to take note of chapter V of the report of the Committee of Experts on the Review of the Activities and Organization of the Secretariat (A/4776)

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and the relevant comments and observations of the Secretary-General (A/4794) and the Advisory Committee (A/4901) thereon, and (b) to endorse the report (A/5006) dealing specifically with the question of decentralization of economic and social activities with particular reference to General Assembly resolution 1709 (XVI).

1710 (XVI): United Nations Development Decade (I): A Programme for International Economic Co-operation (1084th plenary meeting, 19 December 1961)

In operative paragraph 1 the current decade is designate as the United Nations Development Decade. In operative paragraph 4 the Secretary-General is requested, in consultation, as appropriate, with (among other bodies) the regional economic commissions, to develop proposals for the intensification of action in the fields of economic and social development by the United Nations system of organizations, with particular reference to certain approaches and measures, enumerated in the resolution, designed to further the objectives to be attained during the United Nations Development Decade.

1712 (XVI): Activities of the United Nations in the field of industrial development (1084th plenary meeting, 19 December 1961)

The third preambular paragraph of this resolution recalls the provision of the Economic and Social Council resolution 751 (XXIX) to the effect that the Committee for Industrial Development shall exercise its functions without prejudice to the activities of the regional economic commissions.

In operative paragraph 2 the General Assembly requests the Economic and Social Council, at its resumed thirty-second session, and the Committee for Industrial Development to exert every effort with a view to enabling the Industrial Development Centre to establish working contacts "in co-operation with the regional economic commissions, with national bodies and both industrial and research organizations in charge of or concerned iwth industrial problems". Both the Council and the Committee are also requested to ensure that the Industrial Development Centre co-ordinate its activities with the activities of, inter alia, the regional economic commissions.

B. Resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its thirty-first and thirty-second sessions

819 (XXXI): Freedom of information (1149th plenary meeting, 28 April 1961)

In this resolution the Council draws the attention of Member States "to the possibilities of action and international co-operation in promoting the development of national information media in the less developed countries", and recommends that the more developed countries "co-operate with less developed countries with a view to meeting the urgent needs of the less developed countries in the development of independent national information media, with due regard for the culture of each country".

In operative paragraph 6 the Council invites the regional economic commissions, among other bodies "to assist, as appropriate, the less developed countries in developing and strengthening their national information media".

822 C (XXXII): Annual report of the Economic Commission for Latin America (1171st plenary meeting, 19 July 1961)

In this resolution the Council takes note of the annual report of the Economic Commission for Latin America covering the period 30 March 1960 to 15 May 1961, and endorses the programme of work and priorities contained in the report.

823 (XXXII): Decentralization of the United Nations economic and social activities and operations, and strengthening of the regional economic commissions (1172nd plenary meeting, 20 July 1961)

The particular attention of the Committee of the Whole is drawn to this resolution, since decentralization of activities has been a major subject of discussion in both the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. The General Assembly has adopted a separate resolution on the question. This matter is related to co-ordination in the field, which is the subject of Council resolution 856 (XXXII), referred to below.

829 A (XXXII): Main trends of inquiry in the field of natural sciences, the dissemination of scientific knowledge and the application of such knowledge for peaceful ends (1177th plenary meeting, 1 August 1961)

In this resolution the Council deals with the United Nations study Current trends in scientific research (E/3362/Rev.1), edited by Professor Auger. Operative paragraph 5 requests the regional economic commissions "to bear in mind in their work the importance of the application of science and technology to the needs of the less developed areas".

830 B (XXXII): Urbanization (1179th plenary meeting, 2 August 1961)

In operative paragraph 2 of the resolution the Council invites "the United Nations, including the regional economic commissions and the specialized agencies concerned, to strengthen their work on various aspects of urbanization and to make the necessary provisions for full participation in the concerted programme of international action in this field".

830 C (XXXII): Housing and urban development (1179th plenary meeting, 2 August 1961)

In operative paragraphs 1 and 2 the Council establishes an ad hoc group of ten experts on housing and urban development to advise the Social Commission on housing and related matters.

In operative paragraph 3 the Council requests that the regional economic commissions be invited "to participate in the work of the ad hoc group of experts".

830 H (XXXII): Balanced and co-ordinated economic and social development (1179th plenary meeting, 2 August 1961)

In the preamble the Council notes the "useful work" of the regional economic commissions in the study of balanced and co-ordinated economic and social development. Operative paragraph 2 recommends that these commissions, among other bodies, should "continue to pay special attention to problems of balanced economic and social development with due regard to the study and utilization of all useful experience of countries in this field".

830 J (XXXII): Strengthening of the work of the United Nations in the social field (1179th plenary meeting, 2 August 1961)

In operative paragraph 4 the Council expresses the hope that all necessary provision will be made to enable the Department of Economic and Social Affairs "to discharge effectively its responsibilities... arising from the increased activities in the social field of the regional economic commissions".

837 (XXXII): African educational development (1180th plenary meeting, 3 August 1961)

In this resolution the Council congratulates the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Economic Commission for Africa and other agencies concerned on the co-ordinated preparation of the Conference of African States on the Development of Education in Africa, held at Addis Ababa in May 1961, and considers that this example might be followed in other regions of the world.

839 (XXXII): Concerted action in the field of industrialization (1180th plenary meeting, 3 August 1961)

In this resolution the Council once again stresses the importance of industrialization in the process of economic and social development, and of the contribution which can be made in this field by the United Nations, "in particular, the Committee for Industrial Development and the regional economic commissions...", and recognizes that "special attention should be given in development planning and its implementation to the industrial development of the less developed countries".

In operative paragraph 1 the Secretary-General and the executive heads of the agencies concerned are invited to carry out the suggestions for concerted action in the field of industrialization (document E/C.5/2) "taking into account the views and activities" of, among other bodies, the regional economic commissions.

840 (XXXII): Rural development (1180th plenary meeting, 3 August 1961)

In operative paragraph 3 the Council invites the Secretary-General and the executive heads of the specialized agencies, the Technical Assistance Board and the Special Fund "to study, in consultation with the regional economic commissions, the possibility of extending regional training and research programmes on rural development...".



841 (XXXII): Co-ordination between industrialization, rural development, urbanization and housing (1180th plenary meeting, 3 August 1961)

Operative paragraph 1 draws attention to the need "to deal with the problems relating to industrialization, rural development, urbanization and housing as a whole", which cannot be dissociated without "threatening the balance which should be maintained between economic development and social progress".

856 (XXXII): Co-ordination in the field (1182nd plenary meeting, 4 August 1961)

In this resolution the Council, being aware of the problems that the diversity of aid available through the United Nations system presents to Governments of the recipient countries, and reaffirming its belief that "the resident representatives and the regional economic commissions have a particularly important role to play in assisting Governments in this respect", aims at strengthening the institution of the resident representative. The resolution is of particular importance to the regional economic commissions not only because of the fourth preambular paragraph but because operative paragraph 1 states that the resident representatives "should maintain appropriate co-operation with the Executive Secretaries of the regional economic commissions". In operative paragraph 3 the Council reiterates the hope that Governments to whom resident representatives are accredited" will continue to make full use of their services and of the services of the regional economic commissions... and keep them generally apprised of their development plans and requests for technical assistance to the extent those Governments consider this useful".

In the same connexion attention is also drawn to the resolution adopted by the Technical Assistance Committee at its 247th meeting (E/TAC/L.244/Rev.1) during its session in June-August 1961. In this resolution the Committee, "bearing in mind the growing role of the regional economic commissions in advising Governments on the preparation of economic development plans and projects, recommends to the Executive Chairman of the Technical Assistance Board that he invite the Executive Secretary of each of the regional economic

/commissions to

Commissions to present his views on the economic and social factors to be taken into account in the preparation of programmes of technical co-operation in the countries of his region". The Executive Chairman of the Technical Assistance Board will report on the implementation of the recommendation to the Technical Assistance Committee at its summer session in 1962.

## II

### RESOLUTIONS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST TO THE COMMISSION

#### A. Resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at the first part of its sixteenth session

1694 (XVI): Social advancement in the Non-Self-Governing Territories (1083rd plenary meeting, 19 December 1961)

In operative paragraph 2 the Secretary-General is invited to transmit the 1961 report on social advancement prepared by the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/4785, part Two) to, inter alia, the regional economic commissions.

1706 (XVI): Establishment of a United Nations Capital Development Fund (1084th plenary meeting, 19 December 1961)

1707 (XVI): International trade as the primary instrument for economic development (1084th plenary meeting, 19 December 1961)

1711 (XVI): Reaffirmation of General Assembly resolution 1522 (XV) on the accelerated flow of capital and technical assistance to the developing countries (1084th plenary meeting, 19 December 1961)

#### B. Resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its thirty-first and thirty-second sessions

813 (XXXI): Development of international travel and tourism (1147th plenary meeting, 27 April 1961)

This resolution requests among other things that the Secretary-General, in consultation if necessary with a group of experts, prepare recommendations

/ concerning the

concerning the nature, scope and location of a conference on international travel and tourism to be convened as soon as possible, but not later than the autumn of 1963, and that these recommendations be submitted for the consideration of the Council at its thirty-third session.

817 (XXXI): Report of the Committee for Industrial Development on its first session (1148th plenary meeting, 28 April 1961)

In this resolution the Council approves the report of the Committee and endorses the programme of work and the priorities set out in the report. As the report (E/3476) contains many references to the work of the regional economic commissions, copies are available for the Committee of the Whole.

820 B (XXXI): 1960 World Population Census Programme (1149th plenary meeting, 28 April 1961)

In operative paragraph 2 the Council requests the Secretary-General to expand "existing internationally sponsored facilities for demographic training and research", and to develop "such facilities in regions where they do not yet exist, especially in Africa".

820 C (XXXI): World Population Conference (1149th plenary meeting, 28 April 1961)

The resolution approves "the holding in 1964 or 1965, under the auspices of the United Nations, of a second world population conference of experts, in close collaboration with the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population and interested specialized agencies". Those attending the Conference will include "experts nominated by... the Department of Economic and Social Affairs".

830 E (XXXII): Evaluation of United Nations technical assistance activities in the social field (1179th plenary meeting, 2 August 1961)

In this resolution the Council endorses the view that there is a need for "a greater concentration and integration of technical assistance in the economic and social fields" and urges "still closer co-operation among all United Nations agencies and the Governments in this respect", at the same time recognizing "the continuing value of regional projects, especially as they contribute to improvements in national services".

834 (XXXII): Development of scientific and technical co-operation and exchange of experience (1180th plenary meeting, 3 August 1961)

In this resolution the Council decides to convene in Geneva, in August 1962, a United Nations conference on the application of science and technology for the benefit of the less developed areas.

838 (XXXII): Education and training (1180th plenary meeting, 3 August 1961)

Operative paragraph 1 welcomes the recognition by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination of the need "to harmonize the activities of the United Nations and its related agencies in the fields of education and training, and to work towards the establishment of an integrated approach to these fields". Operative paragraph 2 notes the Committee's decision "to apply this integrated approach first in Africa" and "to extend it also to other parts of the world".

851 (XXXII): Co-ordination of technical assistance activities (1182nd plenary meeting, 4 August 1961)

In this resolution the Council decides to establish an ad hoc committee of representatives of eight Member States from among the members of the Technical Assistance Committee and the Governing Council of the Special Fund, to undertake a study of the steps needed to ensure better co-ordination and co-operation between the United Nations agencies and organs responsible for providing technical assistance. The countries that have been appointed as members of this ad hoc committee are Brazil, Ethiopia, France, Japan, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Arab Republic, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

854 (XXXII): Country programming procedures: project programming (1182nd plenary meeting, 4 August 1961)

In this resolution the Council endorses the report of the Technical Assistance Board on project programming (E/TAC/105) and decides, inter alia, that "the two-year programming cycle should be extended on an experimental basis for the years 1963-1964 and the Technical Assistance Committee should review the position again in the summer of 1963".

In the above-mentioned report the Technical Assistance Board recommends that the proportion of funds to be devoted to regional and inter-regional projects be raised to 15 per cent of the over-all resources available for the field programme.