



## Economic and Social Council

Distr.  
GENERAL

E/CN.3/1987/1/Add.1  
18 February 1987

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATISTICAL COMMISSION  
Twenty-fourth session  
23 February-4 March 1987  
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

### ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

#### Provisional agenda

#### Addendum

1. The attention of the Statistical Commission is drawn to Economic and Social Council decision 1987/112 of 6 February 1987 on the in-depth study of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields. By that decision, the Council, in order to carry out the in-depth study of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields and its Secretariat support structures, as called for by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, decided to establish a Special Commission of the Economic and Social Council on the In-depth Study of the United Nations Intergovernmental Structure and Functions in the Economic and Social Fields, open to the full participation of all States Members of the United Nations on an equal basis. By the same decision, the Council also decided:

"To request all subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly in the economic and social sectors and all subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council to submit to the Special Commission, within thirty days of the conclusion of their forthcoming sessions, their views and proposals on achieving the objectives envisaged in recommendation 8 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts regarding their functioning and that of their subsidiary machinery".

2. Recommendation 8 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts reads as follows:

"Recommendation 8

- "(1) A careful and in-depth study of the intergovernmental structure in the economic and social fields should be undertaken by an intergovernmental body to be designated by the General Assembly. This body should preferably have a limited membership, at the highest possible level of representation and based on the principle of equitable geographical distribution. In discharging its tasks, the body should seek the co-operation of the intergovernmental organs whose functions are being reviewed in the study and draw on the expertise of relevant United Nations bodies, such as the Joint Inspection Unit and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research.
- "(2) In general terms, the study should include a comparative analysis of agenda, calendars and programmes of work of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and related subsidiary bodies, in particular the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Food Council. The study should also include their support structures.
- "(3) The purpose of the study should be, inter alia, to:
- "(a) Identify measures to rationalize and simplify the intergovernmental structure, avoid duplication and consider consolidating and co-ordinating overlapping activities and merging existing bodies in order to improve their work and make the structure more responsive to present needs;
- "(b) Develop criteria for the establishment and duration of subsidiary bodies, including periodic reviews of their work and mechanisms for implementing their decisions;
- "(c) Define in precise terms areas of responsibility for the various bodies. Particular attention should be given to strengthening the coherence and integrity of the structure, to facilitating the formulation of a comprehensive approach to development issues and to the necessity of putting more emphasis on regional and subregional co-operation;
- "(d) Consider the establishment of a single governing body responsible for the management and control, at the intergovernmental level, of United Nations operational activities for development;
- "(e) Improve the system of reporting from subsidiary to principal organs, thereby reducing the number of reports and avoiding duplication of documentation;

"(f) Strengthen on a continuous basis the co-ordination of activities in the economic and social fields under the leadership of the Secretary-General.

"(4) The study should be undertaken as a matter of priority and its findings and recommendations should be presented to the General Assembly not later than at its forty-third session."

-----