At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 9 February 1996, the Economic and Social Council, recalling General Assembly resolution 1166 (XII) of 26 November 1957, in which the Assembly provided for the establishment of an Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, as well as Assembly resolutions 1958 (XVIII) of 12 December 1963, 2294 (XXII) of 11 December 1967, 36/121 D of 10 December 1981, 42/130 of 7 December 1987, 45/138 of 14 December 1990, 48/115 of 20 December 1993 and 49/171 of 23 December 1994, in which the Assembly provided for subsequent increases in the membership of the Executive Committee, took note of the request regarding the enlargement of the Executive Committee contained in the letter dated 23 November 1995 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ireland to the Secretary-General and recommended that the Assembly take a decision at its fiftieth session on the question of increasing the membership of the Executive Committee from fifty to fifty-one States.