

1998/290. Basic indicators for the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

At its 47th plenary meeting, on 31 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council:

(a) Reaffirmed that General Assembly resolution 50/227 of 24 May 1996, the Agenda for Development⁴⁴ and other relevant resolutions of the Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as agreed conclusions 1995/1 of the Council,⁷⁸ provided a basis for intergovernmental integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits organized by the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields;

(b) Took into account the recommendation contained in the report of the Secretary-General that the United Nations system be encouraged to enhance national capacity efforts for data collection and analysis,⁷⁹ as well as the dialogue that took place during the session of the Council on integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the major United Nations conferences and summits, held from 13 to 15 May 1998;

(c) Recognized that Governments had the primary responsibility for the implementation and monitoring of conference outcomes, while the United Nations system had an important role to play in support of such national efforts, in particular those of developing countries;

(d) Recognized the need to start, on a step-by-step basis, an intergovernmental process on how to address better the need for relevant indicators to monitor the implementation of all aspects of conference outcomes at all levels;

(e) Decided to hold an informal meeting of the Council with panels of experts immediately after the resumed organizational session of the Council for 1999, of one to two days' duration, to consider in a comprehensive manner the work being carried out by the United Nations system and other relevant international and national institutions on basic indicators to measure progress towards the implementation of the integrated and coordinated follow-up to all aspects of major United Nations conferences and summits, including means of implementation, in the economic, social and related fields at all levels, with a view, as a first step, to taking stock and identifying overlapping duplication and gaps;

(f) Also decided that the informal meeting should have an interactive format so as to encourage dialogue among the participants and delegations, which dialogues should be summarized by the Secretariat;

(g) Requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on this matter, pursuant to subparagraph (a) of the present decision, which should be distributed well in advance of the meeting;

(h) Requested the Bureau of the Council, in consultation with the Secretariat, to establish arrangements for the meeting, securing a balance with respect to the participation of panellists from both developed and developing countries.

⁷⁸ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/50/3/Rev.1)*, chap. III, para. 22.

⁷⁹ E/1998/19, sect. III, recommendation (ix).

⁸⁰ A/53/65-E/1998/5.