

1996/46. Regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting with appreciation that the summaries of the economic surveys of the five regional commissions have been made available to the Council,

1. *Recognizes* that the regional commissions provide a useful forum and mechanism for enabling, promoting and strengthening regional cooperation and development;
2. *Also recognizes* that the regional commissions are the regional arm of the United Nations in the economic and social fields and that they facilitate the United Nations role of promoting development and international cooperation;
3. *Notes with appreciation* the role played by the regional commissions in the preparation of regional plans and programmes of action for United Nations conferences and in their necessary follow-up activities;
4. *Recognizes* that the regional commissions have important contributions to make to the deliberations of the Council and that the regional perspectives of development should further enrich the Council's debate on economic and social development;
5. *Recommends* that the Council, at its resumed substantive session of 1996, consider placing the agenda item on regional cooperation at the beginning of the general segment of the substantive session of the Council;
6. *Decides* to incorporate in the existing format for this agenda item informal briefings and dialogue between the executive secretaries and the Council along the lines of the informative briefing held on the margins of the substantive session of 1996;
7. *Reaffirms* the provisions regarding the review by the Council of the regional commissions contained in General Assembly resolution 50/227 of 24 May 1996 and in Council resolution 1996/41 of 26 July 1996.

*52nd plenary meeting
26 July 1996*