

1997/61. Integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of the major United Nations conferences and summits

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 45/264 of 13 May 1991 on restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, 46/235 of 13 April 1992, 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and 50/227 of 24 May 1996 on further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields and 51/240 of 20 June 1997 on the Agenda for Development, as well as agreed conclusions 1995/1 of 28 July 1995 of the Council on coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system and implementation of the results of the major international conferences organized by the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields,²³³ and its resolution 1996/36 of 26 July 1996 on follow-up to the major international United Nations conferences and summits, including the implementation of their respective programmes of action,

Recognizing the efforts made by the Secretary-General, through the Administrative Committee on Coordination, to establish coordinating inter-agency mechanisms in support of integrated and coordinated follow-up of the major international conferences and summits,

Recognizing also that coordinated follow-up implies that the major conferences should be viewed as interlinked and as contributing to an integrated framework of and a global partnership for development and that, in this context, the major cross-cutting themes established in the world conferences need to be identified and built upon,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of the major United Nations conferences and summits²³⁴ and of the report of the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on the outcome of the World Food Summit, held at Rome from 13 to 17 November 1996,²³⁵ including action to be taken to follow up the outcome at all appropriate levels,

1. *Stresses* the need further to promote integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of the major international conferences in the economic, social and related fields;

2. *Reaffirms* that system-wide gender mainstreaming must form an integral part of the implementation of the decisions of recent United Nations conferences and summits;

3. *Welcomes* the decision taken by the Administrative Committee on Coordination to integrate the follow-up of the World Food Summit and the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held at Istanbul, Turkey, from 3 to 14 June 1996, within the context of integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of United Nations conferences;

4. *Requests* all organizations of the United Nations system to integrate further the results of the major international conferences and summits into their programmes of work, to promote the effective implementation of the goals and commitments established by the United Nations conferences and to continue to contribute relevant information, analyses and assessments thereon in support of the Council's own thematic and action-oriented reviews; in this context, consideration may be given to the possibility of preparing, on the basis of national reporting, a country-wide compendium of best practices as regards the implementation of the goals and commitments at the field level;

5. *Reaffirms* the need to continue to ensure the harmonization and coordination of the agendas and programmes of work of the functional commissions by promoting a clearer division of labour among them and by providing clear policy guidance to them, decides that, to this end, the Council could periodically organize meetings on specific issues to allow for more dialogue with the chairpersons and the secretariats, as appropriate, of the functional commissions, other subsidiary and related bodies and the relevant executive boards and that the Bureau should also assist the Council in identifying economic, social and related issues for discussion at its sessions and should maintain contacts with the bureaux of the functional commissions and other subsidiary bodies, thus allowing for better interaction between the Council and those bodies and assisting the Council in fulfilling its role, and stresses that the Secretariat should assist the Council by ensuring that all functional commissions are made aware of the relevant recommendations of the Council and of the relevant work of other functional commissions so that they are well focused and supportive of each other's programmes of work;

6. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring that reports on conference follow-up submitted to the Council and its functional commissions draw on the experience gained at all levels, and, for this purpose, also stresses the need to enhance cooperation in the preparation of such reports between relevant departments of the Secretariat and the United Nations funds and programmes;

7. *Decides* to take appropriate measures to ensure that the regional commissions, within their respective mandates and priorities, can carry out their important role in assisting countries in each region in the integrated implementation of the recommendations of the major United Nations conferences and summits, as well as measures to ensure the active participation of the regional commissions relating to the implementation at the regional level of the results of major United Nations conferences; to this end, the Council shall continue to enhance coordination with and among the regional

²³³ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/50/3/Rev.1), chap. III, para. 22.*

²³⁴ E/1997/73.

²³⁵ A/52/132-E/1997/57, annex.

commissions, *inter alia*, by ensuring more effective participation by them in the substantive work of the Council in relation to conference follow-up;

8. *Stresses* the need for the Administrative Committee on Coordination to ensure that the highest priority continues to be given to the integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of the major United Nations conferences and summits;

9. *Also stresses* the need for the Committee to ensure that there is effective inter-agency support for the work of the intergovernmental bodies dealing with conference follow-up, including the Council and its functional commissions, that there is regular updating and feedback on the incorporation of the work of the task forces at the country level and that the Council is kept fully informed of the work and decisions of the Committee concerning integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of the major United Nations conferences and summits;

10. *Encourages* the Committee to include in its comprehensive review of the integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of the major United Nations conferences and summits information on the progress made in the area of statistics and indicators, taking into account the work done by the Statistical Commission as well as other ongoing work, in particular the work being done in developing countries;

11. *Calls upon* the organizations of the United Nations system to continue to give priority attention to the provision of effective support to the resident coordinators, including the full utilization and implementation of the outputs of the task forces;

12. *Stresses* the need for a partnership with the organizations of civil society in the integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of the major United Nations conferences and summits;

13. *Reiterates* the importance of the provisions on the mobilization of resources contained in its agreed conclusions 1995/1²³³ for the effective implementation of the results of the major international conferences in the economic, social and related fields;

14. *Decides* to include the item entitled "Integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of the major United Nations conferences and summits" in the agenda of its substantive session on an annual basis, and requests the Secretary-General, in cooperation with organizations of the United Nations system, to submit to it a report on the progress achieved by the United Nations system at the intergovernmental, inter-agency and country levels, with specific recommendations on ways to enhance the integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of the major United Nations conferences and summits.

*42nd plenary meeting
25 July 1997*