

**1997/63. Programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development for the period 1998–2002 and future methods of work of the Commission**

*The Economic and Social Council*

1. Approves the multi-year programme of work for the Commission on Sustainable Development, 1998–2002, as recommended by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session;<sup>242</sup>

2. Invites the Commission to draw up the provisional agendas for its future sessions in accordance with the approved multi-year programme of work, without prejudice to rules 5 to 9 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council;

3. Approves the following provisional agenda for the sixth session of the Commission:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Sectoral theme: strategic approaches to freshwater management.
4. Cross-sectoral theme: transfer of technology/capacity-building/education/science/awareness-raising.
5. Economic sector/major group: industry.
6. Review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (those chapters of the Programme of Action that were not covered in the in-depth review carried out at the fourth session of the Commission).
7. Other matters.
8. Provisional agenda of the seventh session.
9. Adoption of the report.

4. Invites the Commission to adjust its future methods of work in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 132 and 133 of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21;<sup>243</sup>

5. Decides that during the period 1998–2002 the Commission should continue the practice of establishing, subject to approval by the Council, up to two inter-sessional ad hoc working groups in a given year with a view to assisting the Commission in the preparations for its forthcoming regular sessions;

6. Also decides that the issues to be addressed by such working groups should, as a rule, be decided by the Commission in the context of its consideration of the provisional agendas of its forthcoming sessions and taking into account the provisions of paragraph 133 (f) of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21;

7. Further decides that, on an exceptional basis, the provisional agendas of the 1998 meetings of the working group or groups of the Commission shall be recommended by the bureau of the Commission in consultation with member States;

8. Decides on the following future arrangements for the election of the bureau of the Commission in order to implement the provisions of paragraph 136 of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21:

(a) The Commission, immediately following the closure of a regular session, shall hold the first meeting of its subsequent regular session for the sole purpose of electing the new chairman and other members of the bureau in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council;

(b) In this context, the provisions of paragraph (d) of its decision 1993/207 of 12 February 1993 apply only to the substantive part of the sessions of the Commission;

(c) The terms of office of the members of the Commission shall begin immediately after the conclusion of work of the regular session of the Commission held after 1 January following their election by the Council at its resumed organizational session for the previous year and shall end at the conclusion of the regular session held after 1 January following the election of the States that are to succeed them as members of the Commission, unless they are re-elected;

(d) The Council shall decide on the specific modalities for the period of transition from the current arrangements to those outlined above at its resumed substantive session of 1997.

*42nd plenary meeting  
25 July 1997*

<sup>243</sup> Ibid., annex.

<sup>242</sup> General Assembly resolution S-19/2, appendix.