

**1998/3. Review of the regional commissions by the Economic and Social Council**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

Recalling General Assembly resolution 52/12 B of 19 December 1997, in which the Assembly requested the Economic and Social Council to conduct a review of the regional commissions,

Noting that the Economic Commission for Europe, at its fifty-third session, considered a note by the Executive Secretary on relations with other regional, subregional and global organizations and institutions<sup>5</sup> and a report on operational activities and cooperation with subregional groupings, interests and initiatives,<sup>6</sup>

Recalling the principles governing the relationship of the Commission with other bodies as set forth in chapter IV of its Plan of Action,<sup>7</sup>

1. *Reaffirms* the need to strengthen cooperation between the Economic Commission for Europe and other bodies according to complementarities in terms of mandates, membership and approaches to issues of common concern;

<sup>5</sup> E/ECE/1362.

<sup>6</sup> E/ECE/1359 and Corr.1.

<sup>7</sup> E/ECE/1347 and Corr.1; see also *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1997, Supplement No. 16 (E/1997/36)*, annex IV.

2. *Stresses* that, in order to ensure synergies and coherence as well as to avoid duplication and inconsistencies, these relationships should be based on regular exchange of information in common areas of work and on mutual recognition and use of the expertise and experience available in each organization and should lead to joint activities, as appropriate;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of dialogue among the secretariats of institutions and of consistent messages by Governments in different forums in order to maximize cooperation among institutions;

4. *Recognizes* that the Commission has acquired over the years considerable knowledge of countries with economies in transition and has developed long-standing working relationships with those countries in the areas of its expertise;

5. *Stresses* that, in responding to the specific needs of the region, the Commission has two core functions: the development and harmonization of legal instruments, norms and standards in its areas of expertise and the production of statistics and analyses in those areas;

6. *Welcomes* the involvement of interested non-member States in the development and adoption of norms established by the Commission as well as the interest of other regions in using these norms and in adapting them to their concerns and needs;

7. *Emphasizes* that the technical assistance activities of the Commission are limited in scale and are undertaken in support of the functions mentioned in paragraph 5 above, and are directed in particular towards countries with economies in transition;

8. *Stresses* that the Commission also has the role of bringing the contribution of the region to the global level and facilitating the implementation of international commitments in the region with respect to its areas of work;

9. *Takes note* of the information on the relationships that the Commission has built up with other organizations in its areas of cooperation.<sup>8</sup>

*35th plenary meeting  
20 July 1998*

<sup>8</sup> See E/ECE/1359 and Corr.1 and E/ECE/1362.

