

1999/55. Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its agreed conclusions 1995/1 of 28 July 1995,¹⁵⁴ its resolutions 1996/36 of 26 July 1996, 1997/61 of 25 July 1997 and 1998/44 of 31 July 1998 and its decision 1998/290 of 31 July 1998,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General on an integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits,¹⁵⁵ on a critical review of the development of indicators in the context of conference follow-up¹⁵⁶ and on the possible modalities of a review by the Economic and Social Council in 2000 of

¹⁵⁴ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/50/3/Rev.1), chap. III, para. 22.*

¹⁵⁵ E/1999/65.

¹⁵⁶ E/1999/11.

progress made within the United Nations system in promoting an integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits,¹⁵⁷

I. WAYS TO ENHANCE THE INTEGRATED AND COORDINATED IMPLEMENTATION OF AND FOLLOW-UP TO MAJOR UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCES AND SUMMITS

1. *Calls upon* Governments, at the national and international levels, to renew their efforts to implement the commitments they have undertaken and make more tangible progress towards the targets, goals and objectives set by major United Nations conferences and summits;

2. *Decides* to transmit to the General Assembly, as inputs for the five-year reviews of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the World Summit for Social Development, the outcomes of the Council on (a) the role of employment and work in poverty eradication: the empowerment and advancement of women, (b) operational activities, in particular poverty eradication and capacity-building, and (c) coordination of implementation and coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system of initiatives on African development;

3. *Urges* its functional commissions and other relevant bodies of the United Nations system to enhance coordination and complementarity among the five-year reviews, and, to that effect, encourages the bureaux of the preparatory committees for the forthcoming five-year reviews of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the World Summit for Social Development to consult with one another to avoid duplication and ensure cross-fertilization of ideas;

4. *Recommends* that the end-of-decade assessment of progress towards the goals of the World Conference on Education for All be taken into account in the five-year reviews of other conferences;

5. *Reaffirms* the importance of ensuring the policy guidance of the General Assembly and the coordination role of the Economic and Social Council in the follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, calls for further cooperation between the functional commissions of the Council and the rest of the United Nations system in order to complement major United Nations conferences and summits in a coherent way, and recalls in this context that the adoption of multi-year thematic programmes for the functional commissions responsible for follow-up to major conferences can be helpful;

6. *Encourages* the functional commissions, in their outcomes, to identify more clearly actions that require a coordinated United Nations system-wide response as well as to highlight recommendations specifically addressed to organizations of the United Nations system and to identify areas in which the Council could provide guidance to the programmes, funds and agencies regarding the decisions and recommendations of the functional commissions addressed to them;

¹⁵⁷ E/1999/63.

7. *Invites* the regional commissions to strengthen further their active participation relating to the implementation at the regional level of the results of major United Nations conferences and summits and the five-year reviews;

8. *Welcomes* the efforts made by some of the governing bodies of the programmes, funds and agencies to address relevant aspects of themes from conferences to ensure greater coherence and complementarity in their work, including at the country level, and requests that further efforts be made in this regard and that the results of their deliberation be brought to the attention of the Council;

9. *Invites* concerned specialized agencies to advise the Council on how to improve the way in which the outcomes of the Council, together with proposed follow-up actions, can be brought to the attention of their governing bodies, in particular those concerning conference follow-up;

10. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and its standing machinery to assist the work of the Council and the functional and regional commissions, in particular in coordinating the follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, and encourages them and the United Nations system to pursue and deepen their efforts in this area;

11. *Decides* to review the follow-up by the functional commissions of the decisions and recommendations of the Council addressed to them, and invites the commissions to discuss follow-up to the outcomes of the Council under a specific agenda item at their sessions;

12. *Invites* the functional commissions, in accordance with their rules and regulations, to consider innovative modalities for further engaging non-governmental organizations and other actors, as appropriate, in conference follow-up;

II. BASIC INDICATORS FOR THE INTEGRATED AND COORDINATED IMPLEMENTATION OF AND FOLLOW-UP TO MAJOR UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCES AND SUMMITS AT ALL LEVELS

13. *Requests* the Secretariat, in particular the Statistics Division, to serve as a focal point to promote networking among national and international institutions in the area of statistics and indicators relating to the follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits so as to facilitate the exchange of relevant information and metadata;

14. *Recognizes* the importance of relevant, accurate and timely statistics and indicators for evaluating the implementation of the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits at all levels;

15. *Also recognizes* the progress made in the development of basic indicators in developing countries which require international support for national efforts to build national statistical capacity in data collection, analysis and dissemination;

16. *Stresses* the need further to develop indicators on means of implementation to evaluate progress towards conference goals in creating an enabling environment for development;

17. *Welcomes* the efforts already undertaken by the various bodies of the United Nations system, including the Administrative Committee on Coordination, to harmonize and rationalize the basic indicators used in the context of follow-up to major United Nations conferences, and encourages them to continue their efforts in order to lessen the burden on Member States;

18. *Invites* the Statistical Commission, with the assistance of the Statistics Division and in close cooperation with other relevant bodies of the United Nations system, including the Administrative Committee on Coordination, and, as appropriate, other relevant international organizations, to review, with a view to facilitating future consideration by the Council, the work undertaken in harmonizing and rationalizing basic indicators in the context of follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, taking fully into account the decisions taken in other functional and regional commissions and, in that process, to identify a limited number of common indicators from among those currently accepted and widely used by the States Members of the United Nations, in order to lessen the data provision burden on Member States, bearing in mind the work done so far in this area;

19. *Reaffirms* the important role that the functional commissions have to play in the integrated and coordinated follow-up and the evaluation of the implementation of the outcome of major United Nations conferences and summits;

20. *Urges* countries, United Nations programmes and funds, the Secretariat, bilateral funding agencies, the Bretton Woods institutions and regional funding agencies to work together closely in order to mobilize the required resources to support national statistical capacity-building in developing countries and coordinate their statistical capacity-building programmes;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a progress report on the implementation of this section of the present resolution for consideration by the Council at its substantive session of 2000;

III. MODALITIES FOR A REVIEW BY THE COUNCIL IN 2000 OF PROGRESS MADE IN THE PROMOTION OF AN INTEGRATED AND COORDINATED IMPLEMENTATION OF AND FOLLOW-UP TO MAJOR UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCES AND SUMMITS

22. *Decides* to assess, at the coordination segment of its substantive session of 2000, the progress made within the United Nations system, through the conference reviews, in the promotion of an integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields as a possible contribution to the Millennium Assembly;

23. *Invites* the functional and regional commissions, programmes, funds, and specialized agencies, and encourages non-governmental organizations, to make substantive contributions to the review by the Council;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report to support the review by the Council in collaboration with organizations of the United Nations system.