

1999/57. Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its thirty-ninth session

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its thirty-ninth session,¹⁵⁹

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its thirty-ninth session;¹⁵⁹

I. IMPROVING THE WORKING METHODS AND PROCEDURES OF THE COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION

2. *Welcomes* the effort to improve the working methods and procedures of the Committee, and requests the Committee to take steps to ensure further improvement;

3. *Urges* the Committee, given the importance of its work in the areas of coordination, programming, planning and evaluation, to schedule its spring session so as to make its report available well in advance of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in order to allow the Council to devote adequate time to its consideration;

II. PROGRAMME PLANNING

4. *Re-emphasizes* the importance of the planning, programming and coordination functions carried out by the Committee in accordance with its mandate and in the context of a continuing need for greater efficiency and effectiveness in the United Nations system;

5. *Reiterates* that the effectiveness of the instruments at the disposal of the Committee to fulfil its functions, *inter alia*, in-depth evaluations and triennial reviews of the implementation of its recommendations thereon, annual overview reports of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, programme budget mechanisms and medium-term plans, should continue to be improved;

6. *Invites* the specialized intergovernmental bodies, as well as the Economic and Social Council and the Main Committees of the General Assembly, to include in their programmes of work an agenda item on programme planning for the review of the proposed medium-term plan and its revisions;

III. PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 2000–2001

7. *Notes* the improved format and the timely submission of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001 to the Committee;

8. *Also notes* that the general level of resources was lower than indicated in the proposed budget outline;

9. *Further notes* a trend towards an increasing use of extrabudgetary funds for activities that should be funded under the regular budget;

IV. ANNUAL OVERVIEW REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION

10. *Takes note* of the annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1998;¹⁶⁰

¹⁵⁹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/54/16).*

¹⁶⁰ E/1999/48.

V. UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM-WIDE SPECIAL
INITIATIVE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS NEW AGENDA
FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICA
IN THE 1990s

11. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General¹⁶¹ and of the results achieved in the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative for the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s;¹⁴⁵

12. *Invites* the Administrative Committee on Coordination to consider broadening the coverage of countries and clusters of priority areas to reflect the original commitment in the New Agenda;

13. *Notes* the contribution of the programmes, funds and organizations of the United Nations system and, in particular, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to the follow-up to the New Agenda, and recommends that they continue their important role in assisting African countries in that regard;

14. *Welcomes* the closer collaboration between the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, the Economic Commission for Africa and the secretariat of the Special Initiative, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that those entities work closely on the harmonization of the various initiatives on Africa, and to enhance the linkages and common elements among them;

VI. REPORT OF THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT

15. *Concurs* with the recommendation of the Committee for Programme and Coordination that the Secretary-General should expedite the comments by the Administrative Committee on Coordination for due consideration of the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit by the Committee for Programme and Coordination and take concrete steps to ensure the full implementation of the recommendations contained in the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit as approved by the General Assembly.

*46th plenary meeting
30 July 1999*

¹⁶¹ A/54/133-E/1999/79.