

1999/67. Report of the Committee for Development Policy

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling section B of annex I to its resolution 1998/46 of 31 July 1998, in which it decided that the Council should decide on an appropriate programme of work for the Committee for Development Policy,¹⁹⁶

Recalling also its resolution 1998/39 of 30 July 1998 on the status of the least developed countries and its decision 1999/290 of 26 October 1999 on consideration of the graduation of the Republic of Maldives from the list of the least developed countries,

Recalling further General Assembly resolutions 46/206 of 20 December 1991 and 52/210 of 18 December 1997 on the report of the Committee for Development Planning,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its first session,¹⁹⁷ the views contained therein regarding the criteria for the identification of the least developed countries and the recognition that vulnerability should be explicitly taken into account in the identification criteria for the least developed countries;¹⁹⁸

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to facilitate an expert group meeting of members of the Committee in January/February 2000 in order to enable them to carry out the necessary diagnostic testing and simulations of the proposed criteria for the designation of least developed country status, in particular the economic vulnerability index, as contained in annex II to the report of the Committee, and to report to the Committee at its second session in April 2000;

3. *Requests* the expert group to review and analyse the format and content of the "vulnerability profiles" developed by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, as

identified in chapter III, section F, of the report of the Committee;

4. *Requests*, in this context, the Committee to continue its dialogue with other international organizations working on vulnerability issues, and encourages those organizations to communicate their views on the proposed economic vulnerability index to the Committee;

5. *Also requests* the Committee, on the basis of the report of the expert group, to recommend, as appropriate, revised criteria for the identification of the least developed countries for the consideration of the Council as soon as possible, but no later than its substantive session of 2000, so that the review and decision on the list of the least developed countries can be completed by the end of 2000;

6. *Further requests* the Committee to include in its report to be submitted to the Council in 2000 its views on the theme for the high-level segment of the Council in 2000, namely "Development and international cooperation in the twenty-first century: the role of information technology in the context of a knowledge-based global economy";

7. *Requests* the Committee to collaborate in the preparation of a draft text of an international development strategy for the first decade of the new millennium, in accordance with the General Assembly resolution on implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade.¹⁹⁹

*51st plenary meeting
16 December 1999*

¹⁹⁶ Formerly known as the Committee for Development Planning (see resolution 1998/46).

¹⁹⁷ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1999, Supplement No. 13 (E/1999/33).*

¹⁹⁸ *Ibid.*, para. 117.

¹⁹⁹ General Assembly resolution 54/206.