

1998/44. Integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of major United Nations conferences and summits

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its productive dialogue with a broad range of representatives of the United Nations system and with non-governmental organizations at its session on the integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of major United Nations conferences and summits, held from 13 to 15 May 1998, and taking note with appreciation of the summary of that session by the President of the Economic and Social Council¹³⁹ and of the report of the Secretary-General¹⁴⁰ as well as the guidance provided by Member States,

Reiterating the need for integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of major United Nations conferences and summits, while recognizing the specific identity and integrity of each conference,

Recalling its agreed conclusions 1995/1 of 28 July 1995, on coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system and implementation of the results of the major international conferences organized by the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields,¹⁴¹

Noting that the work concerning the follow-up to General Assembly resolutions 50/227 of 24 May 1996 entitled "Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields" and 52/12 B of 19 December 1997 entitled "Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform", as well as on the triennial policy review of operational activities, on mainstreaming the gender perspective and in many other areas, addresses key issues related to integrated conference follow-up and is complementary to the present resolution,

Reaffirming the importance of the progress made towards meeting the commitments, objectives and goals emanating from conferences,

Recognizing that, while each country has the primary responsibility for the implementation of the integrated and coordinated follow-up to major United Nations conferences, the United Nations system is an important instrument in helping countries to meet this challenge,

¹³⁹ E/1998/90.

¹⁴⁰ E/1998/19.

¹⁴¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/50/3/Rev.1), chap. III, para. 22.*

I

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

1. *Reiterates* that poverty eradication and the improvement of the living conditions of people everywhere are key development objectives of the efforts of the Council to ensure integrated and coordinated follow-up to conferences;

2. *Reaffirms* the urgent need for the timely and full implementation of all commitments, agreements and targets agreed upon at the major United Nations conferences and summits, including by the United Nations system and international financial institutions, and, in this context, notes the efforts to achieve those targets as well as the target of reducing by one half, by 2015, the proportion of people living in extreme poverty;

3. *Reiterates* the importance of mobilizing new and additional resources from all sources for implementing conference outcomes, and, in this regard, reaffirms the commitments undertaken to fulfil as soon as possible the agreed United Nations targets for official development assistance, and stresses the need for further progress in implementing the 20/20 initiative for interested countries;

4. *Stresses* the important role of civil society in support of the implementation of conference goals, calls upon Governments and organizations of the United Nations system to support the participation of non-governmental organizations, in particular those from developing countries, in the conference follow-up processes of the United Nations, stresses that efforts should be made to facilitate the balanced participation of non-governmental organizations from developed and developing countries, and invites the Non-Governmental Liaison Service to play an active role in involving non-governmental organizations, in particular those from developing countries, in United Nations conference follow-up activities, as appropriate, and in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996;

II

COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT ROLE OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Functional commissions

5. *Notes* the results obtained from the review of the functional commissions, and, in that context, agrees that the Council, on the basis of an integrated report by the Secretary-General, shall consider annually the relevant outcomes of the functional commissions on conference follow-up, for transmission, as appropriate, to the funds, programmes and specialized agencies;

Regional commissions

6. *Notes* the results obtained from the review of the regional commissions, and, in that context, invites the regional commissions to pursue conference follow-up on a systematic basis, within their respective mandates and priorities by, *inter alia*, enhancing their interaction with other parts of the United Nations system, in particular the functional commissions;

Executive boards of the funds and programmes

7. *Invites* its Bureau and secretariat to convey the outcome of its deliberations to the executive boards of the funds and programmes, and requests the executive boards to take into account the guidance of the Council on the coordinated implementation of conferences, in accordance with their respective mandates and priorities;

III

INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION

8. *Welcomes* the role played by the Administrative Committee on Coordination and the contribution of its ad hoc task forces and its standing machinery in promoting United Nations system-wide coordination and coordinated and integrated inter-agency follow-up to conferences at all levels, also welcomes the efforts of the Committee to ensure a clear sharing of tasks and interaction within its standing machinery on the follow-up to conferences, encourages regular interaction between the inter-agency committees of the Committee and enhanced interaction between the relevant executive committees and the standing bodies of the Committee, welcomes and encourages the interaction between the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, on the follow-up to conferences, and requests that collaboration among organizations of the system on conference follow-up also include the use of networks of United Nations system organizations that make use of task managers and information technology and liaison with the Committee;

9. *Also welcomes* the briefings on the work of the Administrative Committee on Coordination given in 1998, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure more intensive and improved interaction between the Committee and the Council and its functional and regional commissions, *inter alia*, by providing briefings after each meeting of the Committee on a regular and timely basis;

10. *Urges* the Administrative Committee on Coordination to disseminate widely throughout the United Nations system, including through greater use of the Internet, the results of its deliberations, including the work of the ad hoc task forces, and to make the outputs of the task forces available to intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system for their consideration when integrating conference goals into their programmes of work, and invites the organizations of the United Nations system, bearing in mind the guidance of member States, to use and implement fully the outputs of these task forces;

11. *Stresses* the role of the specialized agencies in the implementation and follow-up of conference outcomes, calls for further interaction between the Council and the specialized agencies, and encourages more active and high-level participation, in particular at the level of executive heads, by the specialized agencies in its sessions, especially in the consideration of conference follow-up;

IV

COUNTRY-LEVEL FOLLOW-UP

12. *Reaffirms* that national Governments have the primary responsibility for the implementation and evaluation

of conference follow-up, calls on all countries to continue to assess the progress made in implementing conference outcomes in those countries, and encourages the dissemination of best practices;

13. *Welcomes* the progress achieved in the coordination of conference follow-up at the country level and urges further intensified efforts to this end, reaffirms that the resident coordinators, within their mandates, have an important role to play in assisting Governments and enhancing United Nations system-wide coordination, and, in this regard, calls on the resident coordinators to facilitate through their annual reports an evaluation of the coordination of the United Nations system activities relating to conference implementation and to disseminate best practices, and invites the United Nations Development Group to exercise fully its important role in ensuring coordinated United Nations follow-up to conferences;

14. *Encourages* the resident coordinator system, within existing mechanisms and in close collaboration with Governments, to continue to foster a broad dialogue with and to support the involvement of all relevant actors in the follow-up to conferences, also encourages the establishment of thematic groups on cross-cutting conference themes as well as the full utilization of collaborative programming frameworks, including the country strategy note, where they exist, and the ongoing pilot phase of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework,³⁵ as appropriate, to support, at the request of Governments, the development of national strategies and action plans for integrated conference follow-up, and further encourages greater interaction between the country representatives of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, including the Bretton Woods institutions;

15. *Recognizes* the importance of integrated and coordinated implementation of conference outcomes, including commitments made under those conferences, in countries not covered by the resident coordinator system, calls on those countries to continue to assess the progress they have made in implementing conference outcomes, and encourages the dissemination of best practices in this regard, including through their existing national voluntary reporting mechanisms;

V

EVALUATION OF THE INTEGRATED IMPLEMENTATION OF CONFERENCE FOLLOW-UP

16. *Reaffirms* the importance of the monitoring and evaluation, by the relevant intergovernmental bodies, of the performance of relevant parts of the United Nations system, in accordance with the priorities set by Member States, with respect to assisting countries in meeting the commitments, objectives and goals emanating from conferences, and calls upon the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to carry out evaluations of the impact of their activities in support of the coordinated implementation of conferences, taking into account their existing practices;

17. *Agrees* to consider conducting in the year 2000, as a possible contribution to the Millennium Assembly, without prejudice to the discussion of this issue by the General Assembly, a review by the Council of progress made within the United Nations system in the promotion of integrated and

coordinated implementation and follow-up of major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Council at its substantive session of 1999 on possible modalities of such a review;

18. *Invites* the Secretary-General to prepare a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution for consideration by the Council in 1999.

*47th plenary meeting
31 July 1998*