



United Nations

Resolutions and Decisions of the Economic and Social Council

**Organizational session for 2002
New York, 14 January and 12–15 February 2002**

**Resumed organizational session for 2002
New York, 29 and 30 April 2002**

**Substantive session of 2002
New York, 1–26 July 2002**

**Resumed substantive session of 2002
New York, 4 and 25 October and 19 December 2002**

**Economic and Social Council
Official Records, 2002
Supplement No. 1**

2002/35. The need to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States

The Economic and Social Council,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation in the field of informatics,¹¹⁴

Recognizing the interest of Member States in taking full advantage of information and communication technologies for the acceleration of economic and social development,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the need to harmonize and improve United Nations information systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States, with due regard to all official languages,

Welcoming the report presented by the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics on the progress achieved so far in fulfilling its mandate,¹¹⁵

1. *Reiterates once again* the high priority that it attaches to easy, economical, uncomplicated and unhindered access for States Members of the United Nations, observers and non-governmental organizations accredited to the United Nations, to the computerized databases and information systems and services of the United Nations, provided that the unhindered access of non-governmental organizations shall not prejudice the access of Member States and that it shall not impose an additional financial burden for the use of databases and other systems;

2. *Requests* the President of the Economic and Social Council to convene the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics for one more year to enable it to carry out, from within existing resources and with its mandate as stated in Council resolution 1995/61 of 28 July 1995, its work of facilitating the successful implementation of the initiatives being taken by the Secretary-General with regard to the use of information technology and of continuing the implementation of measures required to achieve its objectives; in this regard, the Working Group is requested to continue its efforts in order to act as a bridge between the evolving needs of Member States and the actions of the Secretariat;

3. *Supports* the efforts of the Working Group to keep intact the network of national focal points that was established in connection with the year-2000 problem, as a vehicle for the diffusion of best practices and lessons learned, in particular for the exchange of information on locally and regionally appropriate solutions, and in this regard appeals once again to countries and other sources to provide the extrabudgetary resources necessary to maintain the mailing list of the national focal points;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to extend full cooperation to the Working Group and to give priority to implementing its recommendations;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Council at its substantive session of 2003 on the follow-up action taken on the present resolution, including the findings of the Working Group and an assessment of its work and mandate.

*41st plenary meeting
26 July 2002*

2002/36. Report of the Committee for Development Policy

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1998/46 of 31 July 1998, in which it decided that the Economic and Social Council should decide on an appropriate programme of work for the Committee for Development Policy,

Recalling also its resolutions 2000/34 of 28 July 2000 on the report of the Committee on its second session and 2001/43 of 24 October 2001 on the report of the Committee on its third session,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 46/206 of 20 December 1991 on the report of the Committee and criteria for identifying the least developed countries,

Taking note with appreciation of the presentation by the Chairman and other members of the Bureau of the Committee and of the report of the Committee on its fourth session,¹¹⁶

Having considered the memorandum submitted by the Government of Maldives,¹¹⁷

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its fourth session,¹¹⁶ the views contained therein regarding the criteria for the identification of the least developed countries and the recognition of the importance of ensuring a smooth transition for graduating countries;

2. *Requests* the Committee to continue its work on the re-examination of its recommendation to graduate Maldives from the list of least developed countries at its fifth session and to submit its recommendations to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2003 in the context of the triennial review of the list of least developed countries, taking into account the information referred to above and further information to be provided by relevant development partners and multilateral organizations;

¹¹⁴ E/2002/78.

¹¹⁵ See E/2002/78.

¹¹⁶ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2002, Supplement No. 13 (F/2002/33).*

¹¹⁷ See E/2000/104.

3. *Urges* the international organizations, bilateral donors and graduating or near graduating countries to continue the debate concerning the treatment of graduating countries with a view to ensuring that the graduation of a country from the list of the least developed countries should not result in disruption to its development plans, programmes and projects and the importance of ensuring a smooth transition from least developed country status for countries that become eligible for graduation;

4. *Takes note* of the recommendation of the Committee that country vulnerability profiles be prepared for each country close to the graduation thresholds, including Maldives, and that such profiles be completed before the end of 2002, so that they will be available for the preparation of the next triennial review in 2003;

5. *Reiterates* the importance of consulting with relevant Member States in the preparation and use of country vulnerability profiles as well as the continuing need for transparency, objectivity and accuracy in those processes;

6. *Requests* the Committee to continue its work on the methodology to be used for the identification of the least developed countries, where appropriate in association with other international organizations working on environmental and economic vulnerability issues;

7. *Also requests* the Committee, at its fifth session, to examine and make recommendations regarding the theme chosen for the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2003 of the Council;

8. *Welcomes* the proposals made by the Committee regarding its future programme of work;

9. *Invites* the Chairman and, as necessary, other members of the Committee to continue the practice of reporting orally to the Council on the work of the Committee.

*41st plenary meeting
26 July 2002*

2002/37. Strengthening the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking into account the fact that the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, within its mandate, is the coordinator of science and technology activities within the United Nations system,

1. *Decides* that the Commission on Science and Technology for Development should meet annually;

2. *Requests* the Commission to establish an open-ended working group for the purpose of analysing ways and

means to improve the role and participation of the Commission in the recommendation and policy-making process of the United Nations system on science and technology issues, with the aim of working towards the strengthening of the Commission. The Working Group should submit to the next session of the Commission concrete measures for adoption;

3. *Decides* to study the feasibility of establishing an international mechanism for supporting and enhancing research and development within the developing countries and in areas critical to the developing countries especially in the fields of health, education and agriculture.

*41st plenary meeting
26 July 2002*

2002/38. Coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium,¹¹⁸ which was adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth special session,

Recalling also all the relevant resolutions on human settlements, in particular General Assembly resolutions 3327 (XXIX) of 16 December 1974 and 32/162 of 19 December 1977, and further stressing the importance of General Assembly resolutions 56/205 and 56/206 of 21 December 2001,

Recalling further the goal contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration³ of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020,

Recognizing that urgent steps should be taken to ensure a better mobilization of financial resources at all levels, to enhance the implementation of the Habitat Agenda,¹¹⁹ the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and the relevant goals of the Millennium Declaration, particularly in developing countries,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,¹²⁰

1. *Invites* Governments in a position to do so to increase their financial contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, and also invites international financial institutions, as appropriate, to assist

¹¹⁸ General Assembly resolution S-25/2, annex.

¹¹⁹ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3–14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

¹²⁰ E/2002/48.