

integral part of their mandatory and policy functions and that any distinction between these two categories of functions is arbitrary,

Taking note that the regional advisory services under the United Nations regular programme have in recent years been utilized by the regional economic commissions for the discharge of those responsibilities,

I

1. *Decides*, as a practical step in strengthening the regional economic commissions and the United Nations Economic and Social Office at Beirut enabling them to carry out with increasing effectiveness their duties towards the States members of their respective regions, to establish a separate section in the United Nations regular budget to provide for a unified system of regional and subregional advisory services earmarked for the operations of the regional economic commissions and the United Nations Economic and Social Office at Beirut, and to transfer to that section the existing regional advisory services at present under section 13 of the budget;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide, as appropriate, directly to the regional economic commissions and the United Nations Economic and Social Office at Beirut, the respective amounts earmarked for regional and subregional advisory services and to authorize the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions and the Director of the United Nations Economic and Social Office at Beirut to administer these funds;

II

Decides that the existing section 13 of the United Nations budget shall be maintained for 1972 at its current level of \$5,408,000 and its operations shall be concentrated substantially to support country programmes of the least developed among the developing countries as well as regional and subregional programmes of special interest to those countries.

*2017th plenary meeting,
14 December 1971.*

2804 (XXVI). Application of computer technology for development

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the need for strengthening international co-operation with a view to facilitating the access of all peoples to the achievements of modern science and technology in order to accelerate their progress and to enable the technological gap to be significantly reduced,

Noting that, in accordance with the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, contained in General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, the developing and the developed countries and competent international organizations will draw up and implement a programme in the field of science and technology for promoting the transfer of technology to developing countries,

Convinced that the utilization, on a world-wide scale, of electronic computers and computation tech-

niques may make an important contribution to accelerating the progress of vital economic and social sectors,

Recalling its resolution 2458 (XXIII) of 20 December 1968 on international co-operation with a view to the use of computers and computation techniques for development,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1571 (L) of 14 May 1971,

Considering that the United Nations system should take new measures with a view to supporting the efforts being undertaken by States in carrying out their tasks relating to the use of computers in accelerating the process of economic and social development,

Bearing in mind the report of the Secretary-General entitled *The Application of Computer Technology for Development*,¹¹ prepared in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 2458 (XXIII),

1. *Takes note with interest* of the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General, among which are those relating to the need for each developing country to draw up a broad national policy on the application of computer technology, to education and training for the application of computers to accelerate the process of economic and social development, to the increase of international co-operation in this field and to the establishment of an international advisory board on the application of computer technology to development, and believes that the early implementation of the recommendations will assist Member States, especially the developing countries, in obtaining the maximum benefits from the achievements of modern science and technology;

2. *Urges* Governments to give particular attention to the application of computer technology, consistent with their national goals, and invites them to encourage, in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, broader bilateral and multi-lateral co-operation in this field and to explore new ways and means of intensifying this co-operation;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the organizations of the United Nations system as well as to the various intergovernmental and other bodies concerned which assisted in the preparation of the Secretary-General's report for their co-operation and invites all relevant bodies in their ongoing programmes to stimulate, under sound and realistic conditions, the application of computer technology to development along the lines outlined in the Secretary-General's report;

4. *Invites* in particular the United Nations Development Programme to envisage providing the developing countries, at their request, with suitable assistance in the field of computer technology;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, on the basis of his present report and in accordance with the envisaged modalities of paragraph 3 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1571 (L), an up-dated report on the application of computer technology to development and decides to re-examine this question at its twenty-seventh session, taking into account the recommendations the Council will adopt at its fifty-third session, with a view to making further progress in this field.

*2017th plenary meeting,
14 December 1971.*

¹¹ E/4800 (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.71.II.A.1).