



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

E/2003/102
15 July 2003

Original: ENGLISH

Substantive session of 2003

Geneva, 30 June-25 July 2003

Agenda item 7 (c)

**Coordination, programme and other questions: calendar
of conferences and meetings in the economic, social and
related fields**

**Letter dated 26 June 2003 from the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences
addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council**

In response to the invitation of the Economic and Social Council set forth in its decision 1988/103 of 5 February 1988, the Committee on Conferences met on 26 June 2003 to review the provisional calendar of conferences and meetings for 2004 and 2005 in the economic, social and related fields.¹ The Committee welcomed the opportunity to review the provisional calendar of conferences and meetings and to provide, as appropriate, its recommendations thereon to the Council.

In introducing the provisional calendar, the Secretary of the Committee on Conferences drew the attention to some important guidelines, also referred to in the preamble of the document, set out by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in their resolutions and decisions on the calendar of conferences and meetings. Those guidelines included the Council's decision to biennialize the sessions of its subsidiary bodies, although the trend seems to be in the other direction. Concern was raised regarding exceptions to biennialization. It was noted that a number of subsidiary bodies have yet to comply with the Council's decision on this matter, and that, in fact, one more body was this year requesting annualization. Consequently, further consideration of this issue is warranted.

It was noted that, once the calendar is adopted, no additional meetings representing departures from the biennial cycle would be authorized.

¹ E/2003/L.7.

In the preparation of the calendar, careful consideration was given to avoiding scheduling meetings on Orthodox Good Friday, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 53/208 A of 18 December 1998.

The Committee on Conferences also noted that subsidiary bodies should end their sessions at last eight weeks before the session of the Economic and Social Council to which they report and pointed out that every effort had been made in the preparation of the draft calendar to follow this guideline as much as possible. It was also reiterated that every effort was made to avoid any overlap of meetings related to the same sector of activity.

The Committee on Conferences further encouraged the Economic and Social Council to review the calendar as a whole in the context of its review of the mandates, composition, functions and working methods of its functional commissions and expert groups.

The Committee on Conferences recommends the adoption of the provisional calendar of conferences and meetings of subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council for 2004-2005,¹ and recommends that the Council bear in mind the above observations/suggestions.

In closing, I would like to express the appreciation of the Committee on Conferences for the invitation of the Economic and Social Council to review its draft calendar of conferences and meetings and of the continued close cooperation between the Council and the Committee.

(Signed): **Mahammad Tal**
Chairman,
Committee on Conferences
