



**Executive Board  
Third Regular Session**

**Rome, 21 - 24 October 1996**

**INFORMATION NOTE  
ON ECOSOC  
RESOLUTIONS  
1996/33, 1996/42 AND  
1996/43**

**E**

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**RESOLUTIONS OF PARTICULAR RELEVANCE  
TO THE WORK OF WFP, ADOPTED BY THE  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AT ITS  
SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF 1996**

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1. Three resolutions were adopted by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) at its Substantive Session in June/July 1996, which are of particular relevance to the work of the Programme. These are:
  - a) Resolution 1996/33: "Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations" (document E/1996/L.33, issued on 22 July 1996), which follows up on ECOSOC resolution 1995/56;
  - b) Resolution 1996/42: "Progress on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/120" (document E/1996/L.45, issued on 25 July 1996); and
  - c) Resolution 1996/43: "Strengthening collaboration between the United Nations development system and the Bretton Woods institutions" (document E.1996/L.48, issued on 25 July 1996), which follows up on ECOSOC resolution 1995/50.
- \_. The final texts of these resolutions are not yet available. The texts provided in the annex to this document are the unedited versions received from the United Nations Secretariat.

## **Follow-up to ECOSOC resolution 1995/56**

2. **ECOSOC resolution 1996/33** requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Council, at its Substantive Session of 1997, a comprehensive analytical report on the implementation of ECOSOC resolution 1995/56, including options, proposals and recommendations for a review and strengthening of all aspects of the capacity of the United Nations system for humanitarian assistance.
3. For this purpose, the resolution urges all relevant organizations of the United Nations system to actively participate in the follow-up process established in Council resolution 1995/56. The governing bodies of the relevant agencies are urged "to complete their consideration of the follow-up to Council resolution 1995/56 in good time, no later than their first regular session of 1997", to permit a timely consideration of their recommendations.
4. The Executive Board will recall that a first comprehensive report (document WFP/EB.A/96/7 (Part IV)) was submitted to its Annual Session in May 1996. The purpose of that report was to respond to the indicative list of issues contained in ECOSOC resolution 1995/56 for consideration by the governing bodies of the United Nations entities, specifically those concerning WFP's mandate, role and operational responsibilities in relief response, and its contributions to strengthening local capacity and coping mechanisms, and coordination.
5. In response to the Board's request at its Annual Session, a second report is now being submitted to the Third Regular Session (document WFP/EB.3/96/3). The report analyses WFP's capacity to meet its current mandate, role and operational responsibilities, as well as capacity issues in areas proposed for an expanded WFP role in emergency response. It also specifically responds to issues raised by delegations at the Annual Session.
6. Given the late date of the Board's Third Regular Session in 1996 and the early date of



its First Regular Session in 1997, a third report in response to resolution 1995/56 will be presented at the Second Regular Session of the Board in March 1997. This report will bring together in a single document the complete WFP response to this ECOSOC resolution, following consultations with partner agencies on issues of capacity and division of labour, and taking into account the Board's guidance and recommendations provided at the Annual and Third Regular Sessions of 1996.

## Follow-up to ECOSOC resolution 50/120

7. **ECOSOC resolution 1996/42** builds upon earlier policy-setting resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, in particular resolution 50/120, in which the Assembly had invited ECOSOC to consider the issues of harmonization and administrative services, common premises, and monitoring and evaluation. The Board will recall that a progress report on the implementation of resolution 50/120 and its predecessor resolutions 44/211 and 47/199 (document WFP/EB.A/96/7 (Part I)) was approved by the Board at its Annual Session in May 1996, and transmitted by the Secretariat to ECOSOC.
8. This Council resolution requests the United Nations development system to report to ECOSOC at its Substantive Session of 1997 on progress made towards, *inter alia*, improving the definition and guidelines for the programming approach; promoting a common understanding of capacity-building concepts and their operationalization; increasing synergies between the activities of the Funds and Programmes of the United Nations system through the use of harmonized and synchronized programming and enhancing collaboration in all areas of programming, including evaluation and mid-term reviews; and developing and implementing an agreed methodology to establish common country databases in consultation with national Governments.
9. The resolution urges the Funds and Programmes to finalize work on the harmonization of their budget presentations in time for a final decision to be made by their respective Executive Boards prior to the biennium 1998-99, and to include a common presentational framework for the budget based on agreed definitions and usage of budget terms. It further urges the Funds and Programmes to work on identifying additional steps to further harmonize and improve transparency.
10. The Council also requests the Funds and Programmes to take a number of concrete measures for the establishment common administrative services, and the further implementation of the policy seeking to increase the number of common premises, and to work towards increased delegation to the country level of decision-making authority and accountability.
11. The Secretariat intends to submit a further progress report on measures taken and envisaged for the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/120 and ECOSOC resolution 1996/42 at the Board's Annual Session in May 1997.



## Follow-up to ECOSOC resolution 1995/50

12. In **ECOSOC resolution 1996/43**, the Council considers that the strengthening of collaboration between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions requires an integrated approach encompassing a closer policy dialogue at the intergovernmental level on relevant areas of international development policy issues.
13. The Council decides to explore concrete modalities for strengthening the exchange of information on development issues between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions. It further calls for the full implementation of existing agreements, the strengthening of existing mechanisms and the exploration of new avenues of cooperation between the Bretton Woods institutions and other bodies of the United Nations system through, *inter alia*, participation in relevant meetings, information gathering and exchange, research, policy analysis, and operational activities.
14. The Council also emphasizes that the United Nations development system and the Bretton Woods institutions should expand their collaboration in co-financing field programmes and projects, and that they should explore innovative ways to combine and maximize their resources in support of development activities at the field level.
15. The Board will recall that as a follow-up to ECOSOC resolution 1995/50 a report on steps taken by WFP to strengthen collaboration with the Bretton Woods institutions (document WFP/EB.A/96/7 (Part II)) was approved by the Board at its Annual Session in May 1996, and was subsequently transmitted by the Secretariat to ECOSOC.
16. The Secretariat plans to present a report on the implementation of ECOSOC resolution 1996/43 at the Board's Annual Session in May 1997.



ANNEX

