

The Economic and Social Council reports annually on its work to the General Assembly, while six Functional Commissions report to the Council. They are responsible for work in specific fields and include the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Population Commission, the Social Commission, the Statistical Commission and the Commission on the Status of Women.¹

In addition to initiating programmes, the Council co-ordinates the economic, social and relief programmes carried out by subsidiary bodies of the United Nations and by related agencies. Until the end of 1965, the Technical Assistance Committee (TAC), a standing committee of the Council, had general responsibility for administering the regular technical assistance programme of the United Nations itself and the much larger inter-agency Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (EPTA). The United Nations Special Fund also reported to ECOSOC. On January 1, 1966, EPTA and the Special Fund were merged into the new United Nations Development Programme,² whose 37-member Governing Council will report annually to ECOSOC. In addition, the Council reviews the work of its four Regional Economic Commissions, which provide forums for exchange of information and co-operative endeavours in matters of regional concern. ECOSOC receives yearly reports from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).³

Sessions of the Economic and Social Council in 1965

The Economic and Social Council held both its resumed thirty-seventh and its thirty-eighth sessions in New York in March 1965, during which it named Akira Matsui of Japan as its President for 1965 and filled vacancies on a number of subordinate bodies. Canada was elected or re-elected to the Statistical Commission, the Governing Council of the Special Fund and the Special Committee on Co-ordination. The Council also dealt with the reports of the four financial agencies,⁴ including a proposal of the International Monetary Fund to increase its monetary quotas by 25 per cent. Most of the time of the Council at these two sessions was devoted to discussing the question of a major review and reappraisal of the role and functions of ECOSOC. The

¹In March 1965, the Council decided to discontinue the Commission on International Commodity Trade. Its functions were transferred to the Committee on Commodities of the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

²See Page 24.

³See Pages 44 to 46 for an account of the activities of these bodies.

⁴See Page 77.