work together, and that the end products meet the needs of the international community. The governments represented around this table are the same governments represented in UNCTAD, in the Functional and Regional Commissions, in the standing committees, and in the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations system. Co-ordination within individual governments is our best guarantee of co-ordination on an international plane.

This role of co-ordination on the broadest of policy fronts is the role which we think the Economic and Social Council might develop for itself. It is both ambitious and difficult. Even under the most auspicious circumstances, it could not be achieved overnight, or even in the course of several years. Certainly, it cannot be brought into being simply by saying this is the way matters should be handled. Nonetheless, we think it is practicable and worth trying.

How is it to be done? The answers here are less clear-cut, but it may well be that some minor reforms in working habits could go a long way towards setting the stage. Particular emphasis might be placed on reducing the time spent on essentially minor functions. We may find that we need more sessions or fewer, the same sessional committees or a new framework for ordering our work. The techniques of re-tooling should emerge when we have the opportunity to discuss the question at greater length during the thirty-ninth session. Our major concern should not be to shore up the position of the Council for reasons of pride or conservatism. We are not here to preserve an institution but rather to use it to our common advantage.

The item now before us will be the subject of a continuing discussion throughout our meetings this year and at the twentieth session of the General Assembly. At this stage we are not irrevocably committed to any of the tentative suggestions which we have just put forward as part of a very preliminary exchange of views. Rather we want to hear the views and comments of others, all of which will play a part in fashioning the broad consensus which should ultimately emerge on the role and functions of ECOSOC.