

Mr. Chairman, as the draft resolution now before us notes, the comments submitted by thirty-three member states and those made by members of the Council during the thirty-ninth session have been brought together in an analytical summary in document A/5920 in response to ECOSOC resolution 1091. I should also like to draw the attention of the members of the Committee to the useful report submitted by the Secretary-General in response to resolution 1091. That report, contained in document A/6109, contains the views and recommendations of the Secretary-General himself on how the current review and reappraisal of the Council's role and functions might best proceed. The Secretary-General also states that he will have further suggestions to make. We are pleased that documents A/5920 and A/6109 will be available to the Economic and Social Council at its forty-first session and we hope that the Council will also have the benefit of the Secretary-General's further suggestions, as requested in the operative paragraph of our draft resolution.

Mr. Chairman, the draft resolution takes note of the useful suggestions which have been made both by member states and by the Secretary-General to date. On this sure foundation, the Council at its forty-first session can base its further discussions of its current role and functions and the twenty-first session of the General Assembly should, as a result, be well equipped for an examination of this question if it decides to undertake one. The operative paragraph should give a further impetus to the Council's discussions by requesting from the Secretary-General detailed proposals on ways in which he believes the Council might best adapt its procedures and working methods so as to enable it effectively to meet its current responsibilities. In preparing this report, the Secretary-General will of course take into account the consensus of views of member states, reflected in document A/5920. In accordance with the decision of the Fifth Committee yesterday, contained in document A/C.2/L.858, the Secretary-General will consult with the Administrative Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in fulfilling the request we are making of him. The Secretary-General will also have available to him the comments of the Third Committee which are referred to in document A/C.2/L.853. All these comments and the Secretary-General's report will be available both to the forty-first session of the Council and to the twenty-first session of the General Assembly. In this way, Mr. Chairman, the present task of reshaping the Council's working methods and its procedures to meet new challenges should proceed without delay.

Mr. Chairman, I should like to note that while this Committee has not had an opportunity to examine the question of the review and reappraisal of ECOSOC, it is open to all member states to submit their views as a result of the decision of the thirty-eighth session of the Council. As I have already noted, thirty-three member states have responded to this invitation. It is the hope of the thirteen co-sponsors of the draft resolution now before the Committee that the Council will have the benefit of the comments of many more member states when it holds its summer session in six months' time.