

By a Council decision subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly, 1967 will be International Tourist Year, whose practical objectives will include an improvement in tourist statistics and the reduction of entry formalities to the lowest feasible level. Following a decision by the General Assembly to designate 1968 as International Year for Human Rights, ECO-SOC urged intensive preparation by states, organizations and national and regional bodies to mark the year by special events and legislative enactment to preserve human rights.

In other human rights issues, the Council condemned policies of *apartheid*, racial discrimination and segregation, and called for urgent consideration by its own Commission on Human Rights of ways and means of improving the United Nations capacity to halt violations of human rights wherever they occur. A common thread in all of these resolutions was the Council's concern with violations of human rights and discriminatory practices in colonial territories. In a related area, the Council forwarded to the General Assembly a draft Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

Inter-agency Co-ordination and Co-operation

Much of the time spent by the Council on this, its second area of major responsibility, is necessarily devoted to reviewing the activities of its 14 autonomous affiliates, the Specialized Agencies¹. Over and above this, 1966 saw particular emphasis placed on improving the mechanics for keeping those concerned—notably the Council itself but also the other Agencies—informed of relevant developments in programmes throughout the United Nations system, and to standardizing the approach adopted by individual Agencies to problems common to all.

On substantive questions, there was a similar emphasis on securing a concerted common approach towards the major problem confronting most member states of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies—the drive towards accelerated economic and social development. There was lengthy discussion of the fourth report of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development (ACAST), whose “world plan of action” to promote the effective application of modern scientific technology to development necessarily covered the areas of work of many of the Specialized Agencies, particularly the FAO, WHO and UNESCO. The Council endorsed the objectives of the proposed plan (of which the provisions, if implemented, would cost several hundred million dollars in educational infrastructure alone) and made a number of recommendations to

¹ See Chapter V.