

principal issue debated was whether this task should be undertaken by the Council itself or by the General Assembly. Canada shared the majority view that by-passing the Council in this study would necessarily affect ECOSOC's position and hence the outcome of the review itself.

Debate on this question continued at the thirty-ninth session of the Council, which was held in Geneva in July. The problem of ECOSOC's role arises from the diversity of United Nations activities in the field of economic and social development, which have grown and expanded as needs arose. Many of these tasks are being performed by the Specialized Agencies; others by the United Nations itself, to the point where it can almost be referred to as an "unspecialized" Specialized Agency. The diversity of the organizational framework in which the many and growing responsibilities of the United Nations system are being met requires increasing co-ordination to ensure that current programmes are not being duplicated, that forward planning is complementary and that the overall resources at the disposal of the United Nations for economic and social development are used most efficiently according to a well-defined set of priorities. The necessity of such a review was especially prompted by the establishment in 1964 of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,¹ which will take over and expand the work in this field in which ECOSOC was hitherto involved. The Council asked the Secretary-General to submit to the twentieth session of the General Assembly² an analytical summary of the views expressed at the meetings of the Council. In the light of the debate on the question at the General Assembly, the Council decided to resume consideration of the review at one of its forthcoming sessions.

In the context of the debate on its role and functions, the thirty-ninth session decided to improve the management capacity of the Council by reconstituting the Special Committee on Co-ordination, which was initially established for the purpose of following the progress of the United Nations Development Decade. It directed that henceforth the Committee should meet with the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (which brings together the heads of the Specialized Agencies) so that all the programmes of the United Nations system could be properly co-ordinated. To assist the committees in their studies, the Council passed a resolution calling upon the Specialized Agencies to produce budgets which could be more easily compared or even standardized, and supported efforts to produce an integrated United Nations programme and budget. These new management responsibilities required some administrative changes in the operation of ECOSOC itself, and

¹See *Canada and the United Nations 1964*, Page 24, and Page 42 of this issue.

²See Page 27.