



**Governing Council
of the
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SUPPORT

MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL IN 1989

Timing and process for the review of the mandate of
the Working Group of the Committee of the Whole

Note by the secretariat

I. INTRODUCTION

1. By its decision 85/17 of 29 June 1985, the Governing Council, on an experimental basis and within existing resources, established a Working Group of the Committee of the Whole consisting of 24 members of the Governing Council. The Working Group was established to facilitate and help expedite consideration of matters arising from the mandate of the Committee of the Whole, particularly in respect of programming matters other than country and intercountry programmes.
2. Subsequently, in its decision 86/1 of 18 February 1986, the Governing Council decided on arrangements for the Working Group, also increasing its membership to 26 and allocating the seats to the regional groups. The Governing Council thereafter, in its decision 86/23 of 27 June 1986, decided to review at its thirty-fourth session (1987) the mandate of the Working Group and that of the Committee of the Whole.
3. Following the review, the Governing Council decided, in part II of its decision 87/20 of 19 June 1987, to continue, on an experimental basis, the Working Group of the Committee of the Whole with its current status and mandate, and to review its functioning in 1989 in the light of the outcome of the General Assembly's review of the structure and the functioning of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations.

4. In its decision 88/59 of 1 July 1989, the Governing Council agreed to include in the agenda of the organizational meeting of the Council in February 1989 an item on the timing and the process of the review of the mandate of the Working Group of the Committee of the Whole. The present note by the Secretariat is submitted to the Council in response to that decision, seeking the agreement of the Council on the submission by the Administrator to the Council at its thirty-sixth session (1989) of a report along the lines suggested below.

II. PROPOSALS CONCERNING THE PREPARATION FOR THE REVIEW OF THE MANDATE OF THE WORKING GROUP OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

5. In order to comply with PART II of decision 87/20 the Council would have to carry out the review during its thirty-sixth session (1989).

6. To facilitate its consideration of the item, the Council may wish to request the Administrator to submit a report containing a factual record of the work of the Working Group under its current mandate, including information on agenda, documentation, attendance and major follow-up carried out with respect to the sixth, seventh and eighth sessions of the Working Group in April and September 1987 and August/September 1988 respectively. The Administrator would also provide a general assessment of the work of the Working Group, but would not be called upon to present any proposals as to the future of the Working Group.

7. In its decision 1988/165(f), the Economic and Social Council requested that the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, when reviewing the functioning of the Working Group of the Committee of the Whole, take duly into account the comments made by Governments to the Special Commission of the Economic and Social Council on the In-Depth Study of the United Nations Intergovernmental Structure and Functions in the Economic and Social Fields, as reflected in the report of the Governing Council to the Special Commission. These comments are contained in paragraphs 17-27 of the annex to decision 87/50 of 19 June 1987 of the Governing Council, which would be made available to the Council as part of the report by the Administrator.

8. The Council may wish to request the Administrator to carry out, as part of his preparations for the report to the Council, informal consultations with Member States to assess their views as to the functioning of the Working Group and its future.

III. PROPOSALS ON THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE OF THE WORKING GROUP OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

9. According to decision 86/1 of the Governing Council, the members of the Working Group of the Committee of the Whole are elected for a term of one year; the

elections take place during the organizational meeting each year. In view of the forthcoming review of the mandate of the Working Group scheduled for June 1989, the Council may wish to decide to extend, on an exceptional basis, the current membership of the Working Group (consisting of Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, China, Cuba, Ecuador, Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, France, India, Italy, Japan, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Poland, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America and Zimbabwe) until the thirty-sixth session of the Governing Council in June 1989. Should the Council during that session decide to continue the mandate of the Working Group, election of its members would take place at the same session. Currently, no meetings of the Working Group of the Committee of the Whole are scheduled for the period between the organizational meeting in February and the Governing Council session in June 1989.

IV. THE FUTURE OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

10. The Council will recall that in part I of its decision 87/20, it decided to review the Committee of the Whole at its thirty-seventh session (1990). In view of the subordinate nature of the Working Group with respect to the Committee of the Whole, the Governing Council may wish to consider whether, notwithstanding its earlier decision, it might decide to review the mandates of the two bodies at the same time and thus include the review of the mandate of the Committee of the Whole in the agenda for its thirty-sixth session (1989).

