

1998/39. Status of the least developed countries

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 52/210 of 18 December 1997 which included, *inter alia*, a reference to an assessment of the usefulness of a vulnerability index for small island developing States as a criterion for the designation of least developed countries,

Noting that the requested assessment has not been completed,

Welcoming the proposals to continue the work on improvements to the criteria and methodology for the designation of least developed countries,¹³⁰

Taking note of the content of the letter dated 8 July 1998 from the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Vanuatu to the President of the Economic and Social Council on the proposed graduation of Vanuatu from the list of the least developed countries,¹³¹ wherein reasons were advanced to support the position that the review of the status of Vanuatu should be deferred to the year 2000, and which was circulated as a document of the Council,

1. *Reaffirms* the need for such an assessment to be made in respect of a decision on the graduation of Vanuatu from the list of the least developed countries;

2. *Notes* that the Economic and Social Council will discuss the programme of work of the Committee for Development Planning during the organizational session for 1999 of the Council, and, in this regard, stresses the need for the Committee to include in its report to the Council at its substantive session of 1999 an assessment of the usefulness of a vulnerability index for small island developing States as a criterion for the designation of least developed countries and consideration of the work of all relevant international agencies on the vulnerability of small States;

3. *Decides* to postpone its consideration of the graduation of Vanuatu until the above-mentioned report of the Committee for Development Planning has been submitted and to take a decision accordingly.

*46th plenary meeting
30 July 1998*