

Conference on Trade and Development while simultaneously alleviating some of the chronic problems facing the provision of such services to the Assembly and its Main Committees,

Noting, however, that, as far as Arabic translation services are concerned, the Secretary-General in his progress report⁶³ makes it clear that those organizational arrangements have not sufficiently achieved their purported objectives with regard to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and to the General Assembly and its Main Committees, while admitting the uncertain nature of their future prospects,

Recognizing the great importance which the Arab States Members of the United Nations attach to the work of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as well as their expressed need for having its documentation issued in Arabic in time to enable their delegations to participate constructively in its deliberations and activities,

Convinced that an efficient, timely and less costly provision of Arabic translation services to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development can be achieved only by the installation of an adequately staffed service at its headquarters,

Bearing in mind the magnitude and urgency of the efforts needed to enable such a service to meet adequately the Arabic translation requirements of the fifth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to be held in 1979,

1. *Takes note* of the progress report of the Secretary-General⁶³ concerning Arabic language services in the United Nations;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General, while continuing the speedy implementation of the organizational arrangements contained in paragraphs 15 to 21 of his report,⁶² to replace the present arrangement set out in paragraph 25 of his report by establishing, as from 1 January 1978, on a permanent basis, an Arabic Translation Section in the United Nations Office at Geneva primarily to serve the bodies of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and, as an initial step, to provide the staff requirements for the biennium 1978-1979 for this Section by transferring to it the posts already established under section VIII of General Assembly resolution 31/208, with the addition of a post of Chief of Section;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, in close consultation and co-operation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, proposals aimed at the full implementation of Conference resolution 86 (IV) of 28 May 1976,⁶⁴ endorsed by the General Assembly in paragraph 18 of its resolution 31/159, and to submit those proposals to the Assembly at its thirty-fourth session;

4. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to continue his search for and to apply adequate methods, including advance translation of appropriate documentation and provision of temporary assistance when necessary, to ensure the timely provision of Arabic

translation services to the General Assembly and its Main Committees, and to report on the results to the Assembly as appropriate.

*110th plenary meeting
21 December 1977*

32/206. Recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination

The General Assembly,

Recalling that the Economic and Social Council, in the annex to its resolution 2008 (LX) of 14 May 1976, set out the terms of reference of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, in paragraph 2 (a) (ii) of which it is stated that the Committee shall recommend an order of priorities among United Nations programmes as defined in the medium-term plan,

Recalling also paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 31/93 of 14 December 1976 on the medium-term plan,

Noting Economic and Social Council resolution 2098 (LXIII) of 3 August 1977 dealing with the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its seventeenth session,⁶⁵

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implications of the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination⁶⁶ and the relevant comments of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,⁶⁷

I

1. *Confirms* that the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, by virtue of its review of both the medium-term plan and the programme aspects of the programme budget, is the main subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly for planning, programming and co-ordination with the perspective necessary to make recommendations on the relative priorities of United Nations programmes;

2. *Urges* subsidiary bodies to refrain from making recommendations on the relative priority of the major programmes, as outlined in the medium-term plan;

3. *Requests* such bodies to propose, through the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, relative priorities to be accorded to the various subprogrammes within their respective fields of competence;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to give all assistance to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination in its work, *inter alia* in connexion with the recommendation in paragraph 2 of the report of the Committee on its seventeenth session,⁶⁵ in particular to enable the Committee to assess the implications of its recommendations;

II

1. *Notes* the methodology described by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination in paragraph 3 of the report on its seventeenth session⁶⁵ for improving its determination of relative growth rates;

⁶³ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/32/38)*.

⁶⁴ A/C.5/32/26 and Corr.1.

⁶⁵ See *Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Fourth Session*, vol. I, *Report and Annexes* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.II.D.10 and corrigendum), part one, sect. A.

⁶⁷ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 8A (A/32/8/Add.1-30)*, document A/32/8/Add.14.

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to implement, in the light of the relevant recommendations and comments of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and in the most appropriate manner, the relative growth rates accepted by the General Assembly as the framework of programme priorities;

3. *Considers* that the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, while proposing priorities in its programme review, should continue to limit its recommendations to ranges of growth;

4. *Invites* the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, in its review of the medium-term plan at its eighteenth session, to take into account the above-mentioned consideration;

III

1. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the executive secretaries of the regional commissions concerned, to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session through the Economic and Social Council, in the light of the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and of paragraph 16 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,⁶⁷ programme proposals for increased activity in the transport programmes of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Latin America, the Economic Commission for Western Asia and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and revised estimates to that end;

2. *Decides*, in the light of additional information provided to the General Assembly and of subsequent developments, to defer until its thirty-third session consideration of the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination dealing with programme transfers and reductions.

*110th plenary meeting
21 December 1977*

32/207. Technological innovations in the production of the publications and documentation of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Concerned about significant costs accruing to all Member States, including direct costs to themselves as well as charges to the United Nations, which result from current methods of producing and distributing the publications and documentation of the United Nations,

1. *Commends* the Secretary-General for his efforts and initiatives to improve documentation and publications services;

2. *Concurs* with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in its report⁶⁸ to pursue measures proposed by the Secretary-General with regard to technological innovations in the production of the publications and documentation of the United Nations;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to explore and recommend additional measures to improve and expedite the production and distribution of publications

⁶⁸ *Ibid.*, document A/32/8/Add.12.

and documentation, using a cautious, step-by-step approach, and in particular requests him to study:

(a) The means to ensure publication of the full official records of sessions of the General Assembly;

(b) Increased revenue from the sale of publications and documentation in recognition of the improved service;

(c) Further limitations on free distribution of publications and documents;

(d) Installation of modern facilities to improve the in-session availability of important documents;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session on the progress achieved in the implementation of approved measures, on the results of further studies and on recommendations for additional measures to improve documentation and publications services.

*110th plenary meeting
21 December 1977*

32/208. United Nations accommodation at Nairobi

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3004 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, in which it decided to locate the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme in a developing country and further decided to locate it at Nairobi,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations accommodation at Nairobi⁶⁹ and of the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;⁷⁰

2. *Accepts with appreciation* the generous grant by the Government of Kenya of the site at Gigiri, Nairobi, upon which to construct the project, subject to a suitable agreement between the Secretary-General and the Government;

3. *Concurs* in the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee;⁷¹

4. *Approves*, in principle, the construction of permanent headquarters facilities for the United Nations Environment Programme and accommodation for the other United Nations offices at Nairobi;

5. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General, bearing in mind the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee, to proceed in accordance with the recommendations contained in his report;⁷²

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly annually on the status of the project.

*110th plenary meeting
21 December 1977*

32/209. Expenditure with respect to experts and consultants in the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Recalling that its decision of 18 December 1974,⁷³ taken at its twenty-ninth session, by which it outlined

⁶⁹ A/C.5/32/19 and Add.1.

⁷⁰ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 8A (A/32/8/Add.1-30)*, document A/32/8/Add.10.

⁷¹ *Ibid.*, paras. 10-29.

⁷² A/C.5/32/19, para. 32.

⁷³ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 31 (A/9631)*, pp. 136 and 137, item 73.