

2478 (XXIII) of 21 December 1968, 2538 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969, 2609 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, 2836 (XXVI) of 17 December 1971, 3415 (XXX) of 8 December 1975, 31/140 of 17 December 1976 and 32/71 and 32/72 of 9 December 1977,

Concerned at the frequent delay in the issue of documentation required for the work of United Nations bodies, which impedes the organization and progress of work,

I

1. *Reaffirms* the need for the continued application of the criteria for the provision of meeting records as set forth in General Assembly resolution 3415 (XXX) and of the provisions of resolution 2538 (XXIV);

2. *Calls upon* all United Nations bodies to review periodically, on the basis of statements of the financial implications, the requirements for meeting records, to explore possibilities for reduced services with regard to records, to dispense, whenever possible, with meeting records and to report their experience to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session;

3. *Reaffirms* its previous decisions, including those in resolutions 2292 (XXII) and 2836 (XXVI), *inter alia*, that the reports of its subsidiary bodies should not include as annexes material such as verbatim or summary records, working papers or extracts therefrom or any texts already available in easily accessible documents;

4. *Urges* the Secretariat to play a more active role in advising bodies on means to limit meeting records and documentation, with particular reference to General Assembly resolutions 2292 (XXII) and 2836 (XXVI);

II

1. *Urges* all intergovernmental bodies:

(a) To bear in mind the need to keep their requests for documents to the minimum compatible with the efficient conduct of their work and within the limits of the available resources of the Secretariat;

(b) To review all their recurrent documents to determine whether those documents have become redundant, have lost their usefulness or could be issued at less frequent intervals;

(c) To endeavour to prepare as brief reports as possible;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To draw the attention of intergovernmental bodies to areas where duplication of documentation is likely to occur and/or where opportunities for integrating or consolidating documents that deal with related or similar themes might exist with a view to rationalizing documentation;

(b) To follow the necessary administrative and managerial procedures to ensure the scheduling, preparation and submission of documents in good time;

(c) To circulate eight weeks before the opening of a meeting of an intergovernmental body, with the annotated agenda of the meeting, a report on the state of preparedness of all the documents for the session, in all languages, at that time;

(d) To take measures to ensure that pre-session documents for meetings shall be distributed not less than six weeks before the meetings, in all languages, in so far as the subjects dealt with, the schedule of meetings or the reporting system allow;

(e) To bring to the attention of intergovernmental bodies, at the time when decisions are being adopted, any request for documentation that exceeds the ability of the Secretariat to produce such material on time within its approved resources and to give due explanations;

(f) To continue to apply to all action-oriented documents prepared by the Secretariat for intergovernmental meetings a limit of thirty-two pages, in accordance with internal instructions of the Secretariat;

(g) To develop systematic training programmes for staff in the Professional category and newly recruited staff who are required to produce documents, with a view to securing a consistent drafting standard and to improving drafting skills.

84th plenary meeting
14 December 1978

33/116. Questions relating to the programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979

A

The General Assembly

I

ORGANIZATIONAL NOMENCLATURE IN THE SECRETARIAT

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the organizational nomenclature in the Secretariat³⁰ and the related oral report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;³¹

2. *Endorses* the general direction of the Secretary-General's policy and the measures indicated in his report and encourages the Secretary-General to proceed with the reforms in organizational nomenclature, taking into account the observations made by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the views expressed by the members of the Fifth Committee;

3. *Decides* to consider the final report of the Secretary-General on the remaining organizational elements at its thirty-fourth session;

II

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INFORMATION SERVICES UNIT IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

1. *Recalls* the decision in section V, paragraph 2, of its resolution 32/212 of 21 December 1977 that there is no commitment on the part of the Organization subsequently to transfer the costs of the operation of the Information Services Unit of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to the regular budget;

³⁰ A/C.5/33/6.

³¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Fifth Committee, 20th meeting, paras. 64 and 65; and ibid., Fifth Committee, Sessional Fascicle, corrigendum.*

2. *Decides* to authorize the Secretary-General to use computerization in carrying out the work of the Information Services Unit in 1979, in accordance with the extrabudgetary provisions for this purpose described in paragraph 12 of the note by the Secretary-General,³² and to ensure that the unpublished material in the files of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development is fully utilized through appropriate arrangements with the Unit;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session on the results of the two-year operation of the Information Services Unit, taking into account the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Joint Inspection Unit in addition to those made by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in paragraphs 8 and 9 of its report³³ and including the results of a review of the operation by the Information Systems Board and a detailed breakdown of the estimated start-up and operation costs of the Secretary-General's proposals as well as the utility of the information to actual and potential users of an Information Services Unit system, and the extent of compatibility and co-ordination achieved with the United Nations Bibliographic Information System and with the relevant information systems of other United Nations bodies, such as the International Labour Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme;

III

QUESTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND MANAGEMENT CONTROL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the question of administrative and management control of the United Nations;³⁴

2. *Endorses* the observations and recommendations made by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its report;³⁵

IV

AMENDMENTS TO THE FINANCIAL REGULATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

1. *Approves* the addition of the following regulation to article III of the Financial Regulations of the United Nations:

"Regulation 3.10: The Secretary-General may enter into commitments for future financial periods provided that such commitments:

"(a) Are for activities which have been approved by the General Assembly and are expected to continue beyond the end of the current financial period; or

"(b) Are authorized by specific decisions of the Assembly."

³² A/C.5/32/47.

³³ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/33/7 and Add.1-39), document A/33/7/Add.2.*

³⁴ A/C.5/33/19.

³⁵ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/33/7 and Add.1-39), document A/33/7/Add.15.*

2. *Amends* regulation 10.2 to read as follows:

"Regulation 10.2: Obligations for the current financial period or commitments for current and future financial periods shall be incurred only after allotments or other appropriate authorizations have been made in writing under the authority of the Secretary-General."

3. *Amends* the English text³⁶ of paragraph 6 (e) of the annex to the Financial Regulations of the United Nations, entitled "Additional terms of reference governing the audit of the United Nations", to read as follows:

"(e) If appropriate, transactions accounted for in a previous period concerning which further information has been obtained or transactions in a later period concerning which it seems desirable that the General Assembly should have early knowledge."

V

REVISED ESTIMATES UNDER SECTIONS 26B AND C (ALTERATION, IMPROVEMENT AND MAJOR MAINTENANCE OF PREMISES, UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA)

1. *Concurs* with the plan proposed by the Secretary-General in his report³⁷ to use the villa "La Fenêtre" as the residence of the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, without prejudice to the question of the principle of whether officials of the United Nations, other than the Secretary-General, should be provided with accommodation;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to study further possibilities of the use of the villa "Les Feuillantines" and to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session;

VI

1979 BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMPUTING CENTRE

Approves the 1979 budget estimates for the International Computing Centre in the amount of \$5,068,900.

*88th plenary meeting
19 December 1978*

B

The General Assembly

I

FIRST-CLASS TRAVEL IN THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS

Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on first-class travel in the United Nations organizations;³⁸

II

REVISED ESTIMATES UNDER SECTION 23A (DEPARTMENT OF CONFERENCE SERVICES) AND SECTION 26B (PREMISES, ALTERATION AND IMPROVEMENT)

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General with regard to technological innovations in the production of the publications and documentation of the United Nations³⁹ and of the related report of the

³⁶ Not applicable to the other languages.

³⁷ A/C.5/33/33.

³⁸ A/C.5/33/49.

³⁹ A/C.5/33/35.

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;⁴⁰

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the statement by the Director of the Medical Service of the United Nations⁴¹ and requests the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that the use of word-processing equipment is monitored adequately and will not involve any health hazards for staff members;

3. *Concurs* with the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

III

RECLASSIFICATION OF POSTS OF SUPERVISORS IN THE STENOGRAPHIC SERVICE

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the reclassification of posts of supervisors in the Stenographic Service of the Department of Conference Services⁴² and of the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;⁴³

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to study the question of the restructuring of the General Service category in such a way as to recognize the additional responsibilities of supervisors with a view to formulating proposals thereon;

IV

THIRD GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the Third General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization;⁴⁴

V

STRENGTHENING OF OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of operational activities in the field of industrial development;⁴⁵

VI

IMPACT OF INFLATION ON THE BUDGETS OF THE ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the impact of inflation on the budgets of the organizations of the United Nations system⁴⁶ and of the related oral report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions⁴⁷ and postpones consideration of this question to its thirty-fourth session;

VII

ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF "SEMI-FULL BUDGETING" AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BUDGET

Takes note of the reports of the Secretary-General on the advantages and disadvantages of "semi-full

budgeting"⁴⁸ and on the implementation of the budget⁴⁹ and of the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions⁵⁰ and requests that the Advisory Committee remain seized of these questions and report to the General Assembly, as appropriate, on developments;

VIII

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE AND COMPENSATION FOR OFFICIALS, OTHER THAN SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS, SERVING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on conditions of service and compensation for officials, other than Secretariat officials, serving the General Assembly,⁵¹ and of the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;⁵²

2. *Recalls* section VI of its resolution 32/212 of 21 December 1977;

3. *Decides* that salary, entitlements, other forms of remuneration and conditions of service of full-time members of the International Civil Service Commission and of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions should continue to be set by the General Assembly outside the common system, since it is essential that these officials be treated in every way as independent of the secretariats;

4. *Approves* an annual compensation of \$55,000 to the two full-time members of the International Civil Service Commission and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, with an additional allowance of \$5,000 for the Chairman of the International Civil Service Commission and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, effective 1 January 1979;

5. *Approves also* the other conditions of service for the above described officials as recommended by the Advisory Committee in its report;⁵²

6. *Decides* that the compensation of full-time members of the International Civil Service Commission and of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions should continue to be reviewed every four years or when the consumer price index in the United States of America has risen by 10 per cent since the last review, whichever comes first;

IX

DISARMAMENT COMMISSION AND ITS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

1. *Requests* the Committee on Conferences, on a priority basis, to study the possibility of rearranging the calendar of conferences in such a way as to enable the Disarmament Commission and its committee of the whole to hold simultaneous meetings, if necessary;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Disarmament Commission with verbatim records of

⁴⁰ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/33/7 and Add.1-39), document A/33/7/Add.16.

⁴¹ Ibid., Thirty-third Session, Fifth Committee, 50th meeting, paras. 11-13.

⁴² A/C.5/33/55.

⁴³ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/33/7 and Add.1-39), document A/33/7/Add.17.

⁴⁴ A/C.5/33/57.

⁴⁵ A/C.5/33/40.

⁴⁶ A/C.5/33/47.

⁴⁷ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Fifth Committee, 55th meeting, paras. 36-38.

⁴⁸ A/C.5/33/10.

⁴⁹ A/C.5/33/11.

⁵⁰ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/33/7 and Add.1-39), document A/33/7/Add.8.

⁵¹ A/C.5/33/41.

⁵² Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/33/7 and Add.1-39), document A/33/7/Add.19.

its plenary meetings and to provide the committee of the whole, should it be established, with summary records of its meetings.

*91st plenary meeting
21 December 1978*

C

The General Assembly

I

METHODOLOGY USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THE BUDGET

Requests the Secretary-General to prepare an addendum to the budget, which should set out clearly and simply the methodology used in preparing the budget, giving illustrative examples, as appropriate, and address, in particular, the concepts of maintenance base and real growth, and should also give a definition of basic terms and list the regular documents issued by the Secretariat where basic financial data can be found;

II

METHODOLOGY FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1980-1981

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on considerations of methodology⁵³ and on the identification of activities that are completed, obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective⁵⁴ and of the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;⁵⁵

2. *Approves* the Secretary-General's proposals in section VI of his report⁵³ regarding the methodology for the preparation of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981, subject to the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee in paragraphs 6 to 18 of its report;⁵⁵

3. *Concurs* with the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee, in paragraphs 23 to 26 of its report,⁵⁵ on the identification of activities that are completed, obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective;

III

REVISED ESTIMATES RESULTING FROM THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND CO-ORDINATION AT ITS SEVENTEENTH SESSION AND THE SECOND PART OF ITS EIGHTEENTH SESSION

1. *Approves* the transfer of funds from sections 5D and 21 of the programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979 in the amount of \$243,200 to sections 7, 8, 9 and 10, as well as the increase of \$2,000 for staff assessment under section 25, offset by the same amount under income section 1;

2. *Requests* the Committee to Review United Nations Public Information Policies and Activities to make recommendations as to the most effective means of continuing the short-wave broadcasts;

⁵³ A/C.5/33/12.

⁵⁴ A/C.5/33/13.

⁵⁵ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/33/7 and Add.1-39), document A/33/7/Add.18.*

IV

SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE UNITED NATIONS TO ACTIVITIES FUNDED FROM EXTRABUDGETARY RESOURCES AND TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION SUPPORT COSTS: REDISTRIBUTION OF REGULAR BUDGET AND REIMBURSEMENT RESOURCES

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the services provided by the United Nations to activities funded from extrabudgetary resources⁵⁶ and of the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;⁵⁷

2. *Takes note also* of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on agency support costs⁵⁸ and transmits it to the Governing Council and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, together with the summary records of the debate on this item in the Fifth Committee, and decides to consider this question further at its thirty-fourth session;

3. *Further takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on technical co-operation support costs and redistribution of regular budget and reimbursement resources⁵⁹ and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions⁶⁰ and accepts the transfer of posts proposed by the Secretary-General;

V

UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women⁶¹ and of the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;⁶²

2. *Concurs* with the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

VI

COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF THE QUESTION OF HONORARIA PAYABLE TO MEMBERS OF ORGANS AND SUBSIDIARY ORGANS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Decides to postpone action concerning the comprehensive study of the question of honoraria payable to members of organs and subsidiary organs of the United Nations until its thirty-fourth session;

VII

REVISED ESTIMATES UNDER SECTION 1B.5 (EXECUTIVE DIRECTION AND MANAGEMENT, OFFICE FOR SPECIAL POLITICAL QUESTIONS)

Approves the recommendation in paragraph 7 of the Secretary-General's report⁶³ involving the upgrading

⁵⁶ A/C.5/31/33 and Corr.1; A/C.5/32/29 and Corr.1.

⁵⁷ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 8A (A/32/8/Add.1-30), document A/32/8/Add.9.*

⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, *Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/33/7 and Add.1-39), document A/33/7/Add.21.*

⁵⁹ A/C.5/33/56 and Corr.1.

⁶⁰ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/33/7 and Add.1-39), document A/33/7/Add.25.*

⁶¹ A/C.5/33/34.

⁶² *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/33/7 and Add.1-39), document A/33/7/Add.24.*

⁶³ A/C.5/33/113.

of the post of Assistant Secretary-General to the level of Under-Secretary-General and the establishment of the post in the Office for Special Political Questions;

VIII

REVISED ESTIMATES UNDER SECTION 5D (DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT), SECTION 5E (OFFICE OF SECRETARIAT SERVICES FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL MATTERS) AND SECTION 22D (OFFICE OF GENERAL SERVICES)

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates under sections 5D, 5E and 22D of the programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979⁶⁴ and of the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;⁶⁵

2. *Concurs* with the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee in paragraph 12 of its report, on the understanding that the redefinition of functions of the D-1 post will, in particular, include technical servicing of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination;

IX

ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF A SPECIAL ACCOUNT FOR FINANCING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the establishment and operation of a special account for financing the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification⁶⁶ and of the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;⁶⁷

2. *Concurs* with the recommendation made by the Secretary-General in his report, subject to the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee in paragraphs 4, 10, 11 and 12 of its report;

X

EXCEPTIONS TO THE PROVISIONS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 32/209

Approves an exception to the provisions of General Assembly resolution 32/209 of 21 December 1977, relating to expenditure with respect to experts and consultants in the United Nations, in order to provide additional consultant funds for the following activities:

- (a) United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development;
- (b) Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation;
- (c) United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy;
- (d) Protection of natural resources of Namibia;
- (e) Drafting of an International Convention against *Apartheid* in Sports.

96th plenary meeting
29 January 1979

⁶⁴ A/C.5/33/98.

⁶⁵ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/33/7 and Add.1-39), document A/33/7/Add.35.

⁶⁶ A/33/117.

⁶⁷ A/33/552.

33/117. Use of experts and consultants in the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its decision of 18 December 1974, taken at its twenty-ninth session,⁶⁸ by which it outlined principles and guidelines on the use of experts and consultants in the United Nations,

Recalling further its decision of 17 December 1975, taken at its thirtieth session,⁶⁹ as well as its resolutions 31/205 of 22 December 1976 and 32/203 of 21 December 1977, in which it reaffirmed the aforesaid principles and guidelines and called for their full and effective implementation,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General⁷⁰ and the related oral report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,⁷¹

Expressing the view that the comparative data contained in the report of the Secretary-General does not permit the General Assembly to determine whether the existing deficiencies have been corrected or to ascertain fully the status of implementation of the principles and guidelines set by the Assembly,

Taking note of the assurances of the Secretary-General contained in paragraph 22 of his report⁷² and those of his representative at the 9th meeting of the Fifth Committee, on 5 October 1978,⁷²

1. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to eliminate the present deficiencies in the implementation of the principles and guidelines on the use of experts and consultants and to improve upon the existing procedures, so that a proper evaluation of the existing practice in this regard can be carried out;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session a full and comprehensive report on the implementation of the principles and guidelines set by the Assembly;

3. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to take into account the views expressed by Member States during the consideration of this item when implementing the principles and guidelines on the use of experts and consultants.

88th plenary meeting
19 December 1978

33/118. Medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 31/93 of 14 December 1976 on the medium-term plan, as well as resolutions 3534 (XXX) of 17 December 1975 on the presentation of the United Nations programme budget and 32/206 of 21 December 1977 on the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination,

⁶⁸ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 31* (A/9631 and Corr.2), pp. 136 and 137, item 73.

⁶⁹ *Ibid.*, *Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 34* (A/10034), p. 145, item 96, subpara. (i).

⁷⁰ A/C.5/33/3.

⁷¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Fifth Committee, 9th meeting*, paras. 34-36.

⁷² *Ibid.*, paras. 38-45.