



**REPORT  
OF  
THE COMMITTEE ON  
CONTRIBUTIONS**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
**OFFICIAL RECORDS : EIGHTEENTH SESSION**  
**SUPPLEMENT No. 10 (A/5510)**



**UNITED NATIONS**

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**UNITED NATIONS**  
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## I. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

1. The twenty-second session of the Committee on Contributions was convened at United Nations Headquarters from 10 September to 16 September 1963. The following members were present:

Mr. Raymond T. Bowman  
Mr. B. N. Chakravarty  
Mr. T. W. Cutts  
Mr. James Gibson  
Mr. F. Nouredin Kia  
Mr. D. Silveira da Mota  
Mr. José Pareja y Paz Soldan

Mr. Stanislaw Raczkowski

Mr. Maurice Viaud

2. Mr. P. Chernyshev, who is a member of the Committee, was unable to attend the session and designated Mr. V. G. Solodovnikov to represent him. This designation was accepted by the Committee on the understanding that the substitute would remain in consultation with the member he represented.

3. The Committee elected Mr. Chakravarty as Chairman and Mr. Kia as Vice-Chairman.

## II. TERMS OF REFERENCE

4. The Committee's general terms of reference were set out in the annex to its report to the sixteenth session of the General Assembly.<sup>1</sup> At its seventeenth session, the Assembly adopted resolution 1870 (XVII) in which it made the following requests:

"5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to undertake an expert study of different systems of national accounting with a view to obtaining advice on all relevant problems of comparability arising in the prepara-

tion of statistical material for use by the Committee on Contributions when it further examines the scale of assessments;

"...

"7. *Requests* the Committee on Contributions, in the light of the results of the expert study provided for in paragraph 5 above and of all information from Members which may be made available to it, to report to the General Assembly at its eighteenth session with any recommendations concerning possible revisions in the scale of assessments as may appear warranted."

<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixteenth Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/4775 and Corr.1), annex.*

## III. STATISTICAL INFORMATION

5. Under paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 1870 (XVII), the Committee was requested to report to the Assembly at its eighteenth session with any recommendations concerning possible revisions in the scale of assessments. The Committee considered this question in the light of certain results available from the study undertaken by the Secretary-General, as requested in paragraph 5 of the same resolution.

6. That study had been recommended by the Committee following the discussions at its twentieth and twenty-first sessions<sup>2</sup> concerning the conceptual differences between the national income statistics of Member States using one of the two main systems, *vis*, the United Nations System of National Accounts (SNA) on the one hand, and the Material Product System (MPS) on the other.

7. The Secretary-General reported to the Committee on the first phase of the study. This first phase had been carried out in close association with the work of the Group of Rapporteurs, under the Conference of

European Statisticians,<sup>3</sup> which has, for some years, been studying the problems of comparability between the two main systems of national accounts. The Secretary-General had arranged with the Governments of Czechoslovakia, Hungary, the United Kingdom, and the United States, that they designate, as expert consultants for the purpose of the initial phase of this study, their rapporteurs participating in the Group of Rapporteurs and the period of the consultations was arranged to follow the fourth session of the group.

8. The Committee wishes to record its appreciation of the work achieved by the Secretary-General and the consultant group. The principal points resulting from the consultations are summarized below.

9. The difference in the area of economic activity covered by the two systems of national accounts was selected for early study by the Secretary-General not only because of its quantitative importance but also because it illustrated the primary difference in the economic concepts which underlie the national accounting of the two sets of countries. This aspect had been of particular concern to the Committee on Contribu-

<sup>2</sup> For the reports of the Committee on its twentieth and twenty-first sessions, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixteenth Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/4775 and Corr.1)*; and *ibid.*, *Seventeenth Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/5210)*.

<sup>3</sup> Operating under the aegis of the Statistical Commission and the Economic Commission for Europe.

tions when it drew up the current scale of assessments on Member States.

10. The problem involved is to estimate the value of "non-material production" in MPS countries as this area of economic activity is included in the national income of SNA countries but is by definition excluded from material product in the MPS countries. Since, however, "non-material production" is not a conventional component of the national accounts, the statistical systems of the countries concerned do not provide for it to be calculated and it consequently has to be derived from a variety of data prepared for other purposes and differing from country to country. The consultants were in agreement that in comparing SNA countries with MPS countries an amount should be added for the non-material product excluded in the MPS countries but the amount of this addition varied from country to country and could not therefore be taken as a uniform percentage.

11. The question of the method of valuation used in the national accounts was also made the subject of consultation with the experts because certain aspects of the question had been raised in the Committee on Contributions and in the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly at its sixteenth and seventeenth sessions. One aspect of the question related to the comparability of the aggregate of national income at factor cost in the SNA countries with the aggregate obtained from MPS countries by taking net material product plus non-material production (without duplication). It had been claimed in the Fifth Committee that the latter aggregate being equal to net national product at market prices was necessarily higher than the corresponding figure of national income at factor cost by the amount of net indirect taxes. The Committee on Contributions in its 1962 report had noted that "by taking the net national product (including non-material product) of the socialist countries and the net national product at factor cost of the other countries some incomparability may remain, since, on the basis of the information available, no specific allowance could be made in the case of the socialist countries in respect of such elements as may correspond to the indirect taxes of the private enterprise economies."<sup>4</sup>

12. In this connexion the consultants noted that the net domestic product of the SNA countries was generally comparable with the net material product (increased by non-material production) of the MPS countries—both aggregates being at market prices. The consultants were in agreement that it was difficult to identify in the MPS countries a component corresponding to the indirect taxes of the SNA countries. It was considered by all the consultants that the aggregate at market prices would almost certainly be higher than the corresponding aggregate at factor cost if the latter were available. One consultant qualified this by saying

<sup>4</sup> A/5210, para. 9.

that there is an undetermined element of indirect taxes in the turnover taxes of the MPS countries which would require detailed statistical investigation before it could be evaluated.

13. The consultants regarded the adjustments required between the two systems to place both on a "factor cost" basis as short-term expedients arising from the problems of the existing scale of assessments based on national income at factor cost. They considered that, as a longer-term solution, a study should be made of the suitability of an aggregate at market prices which would avoid the difficulty of estimating factor costs in situations where they were clearly not applicable, as in the MPS countries.

14. The consultants discussed the nature of the aggregate at market prices which would be most suitable for international comparisons. The net national product was clearly preferable conceptually as a measure of capacity to pay but had the drawback that the deduction made for fixed capital consumption was not computed on a comparable basis in all countries. It was felt, however, that statistical progress could be expected to bring about an improvement in these computations and that consequently the practical disadvantages of net national product could be expected to diminish in the future.

15. In the light of these observations by the consultants the Committee reviewed the information which had been made available by Member States, and decided that in the case of two Member States, Czechoslovakia and Hungary, a revision of their assessments was warranted. For both of these countries, the Committee was able to accept the estimates of non-material production submitted by the Governments with consequent reductions in their assessments. The Committee noted that the observations of the consultants left an area of uncertainty concerning the adjustments to be made in respect of the effect of indirect taxes (or their equivalent). In the case of Hungary, the Committee felt that sufficient data had been produced to warrant a further downward adjustment of 12.5 per cent in the national income figure used by the Committee, to take account of the indirect taxation element. With regard to Czechoslovakia, the Committee felt that little information specifically relevant to the indirect taxation element had been provided but, within the limits considered as appropriate by the expert consultants, a further downward adjustment of 7.5 per cent of the national income figure used by the Committee could be granted.

16. In view of the above-mentioned adjustments, the Committee recommends a downward revision of the rate of assessment for Hungary from 0.56 to 0.51 and for Czechoslovakia from 1.17 to 1.04.

17. The Committee left for future study the observations made by the consultants on the subject of the national accounts aggregate which would be most suitable for improving international comparability in this field.

#### IV. ASSESSMENT OF NEW MEMBER STATES

18. Under its terms of reference, the Committee "shall advise the General Assembly on the assessments to be fixed for new Members". The Committee therefore considered the rates to be recommended for the States which were admitted to membership in the Organiza-

tion at the seventeenth session and at the fourth special session of the General Assembly, namely: Algeria, Burundi, Jamaica, Kuwait, Rwanda, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uganda. The Committee reviewed the statistical data available for the seven new Member

States and decided to recommend that the rates of assessment for these States should be as follows:

	<i>Per cent</i>
Algeria .....	0.10
Burundi .....	0.04
Jamaica .....	0.05
Kuwait .....	0.04
Rwanda .....	0.04
Trinidad and Tobago .....	0.04
Uganda .....	0.04

In arriving at the above rate for Kuwait, the Committee took into account the *per caput* ceiling principle laid down in General Assembly resolution 238

A (III), and, consequently, the contribution was assessed at the minimum rate of 0.04 per cent.

19. In the case of Algeria, the Committee noted that the basis of the scale of assessments for 1962-1964, i.e., national income estimates for the years 1957-1959, was not appropriate to the present situation of Algeria. The Committee considered that Algeria's capacity to pay was substantially lower than would be indicated by the use of national income data for the earlier years, and therefore decided to recommend an assessment of 0.10 per cent. The Committee wishes to emphasize, however, that this rate would not constitute a guide to the level of Algeria's assessment in future years.

## V. ASSESSMENT OF NEW MEMBER STATES FOR THE YEAR OF ADMISSION

20. Under regulation 5.8 of the Financial Regulations of the United Nations, "New Members shall be required to make a contribution for the year in which they become Members and to provide their proportion of the total advances to the Working Capital Fund at rates to be determined by the General Assembly". As regards the contribution to be paid by new Members for the year of admission, the Assembly decided, in resolution 69 (I) of 14 December 1946, as follows:

"That new Members be required to contribute to the annual budget of the year in which they are first admitted, at least 33⅓ per cent of their percentage assessment determined for the following year, applied to the budget for the year of their admission."

By General Assembly decisions, exceptions have been made to the one-third rule and the prescribed minimum has been reduced for practically all new Members admitted since 1955.

21. The dates on which the new Members now under consideration were admitted are:

<i>States</i>	<i>Date of admission</i>
Burundi	18 September 1962
Jamaica	
Rwanda	
Trinidad and Tobago	
Algeria .....	8 October 1962
Uganda .....	25 October 1962
Kuwait .....	14 May 1963

After discussing the various considerations involved and bearing in mind its own earlier recommendations as well as previous General Assembly decisions, the Committee decided to recommend that, should the Assembly favour some reduction in the prescribed minimum of one-third in respect of the Members admitted in September and October 1962, namely, Algeria, Burundi, Jamaica, Rwanda, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uganda, the reduced contribution should not be less than one-ninth of the assessment for the full year. With regard to Kuwait, which was admitted in May 1963, the Committee recommends that the contribution should not be less than half of the assessment for the full year.

22. With respect to the advances to be made by the new Member States to the Working Capital Fund under financial regulation 5.8, the Committee decided to recommend that the advances should be calculated by applying the 1964 rates of assessment for the new Members to the amount of the Fund for 1964 and that the advances should be additional to the authorized level of the Fund pending the inclusion of the rates of assessment for the new Members in the scale of 100 per cent.

## VI. SUMMARY OF REVISIONS IN THE SCALE

23. As a result of its review, the Committee decided to recommend the following changes in respect of the 1964 scale:

	<i>Per cent</i>	
Present scale .....	100.16	
Rates of assessment for new Members:		
Algeria .....	0.10	
Burundi .....	0.04	
Jamaica .....	0.05	
Kuwait .....	0.04	
Rwanda .....	0.04	
Trinidad and Tobago .....	0.04	
Uganda .....	0.04	0.35
		100.51

<i>Reductions in rates of assessment:</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	
Czechoslovakia .....	0.13	
Hungary .....	0.05	0.18
		100.33

24. The Committee also decided to recommend that the downward revisions in the assessments for Czechoslovakia and Hungary should apply also for 1962 and 1963. In order to avoid the administrative complications of revising Member States' contributions as already assessed for 1962 and 1963, the Committee decided to recommend that the reductions in the contributions of Czechoslovakia and Hungary to the United Nations general budget for 1962 and 1963, that would result from the proposed lowering of the rates of assessment for the two States, should be met out of the additional income resulting from the assessment of the seven new Member States for those years.

## VII. OTHER MATTERS CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE

### STATUS OF COLLECTION OF CONTRIBUTIONS

25. Under its terms of reference, one of the functions of the Committee is "to consider and report to the General Assembly on the action to be taken if Members fall into default with their contributions," and, in this connexion, "it shall advise the Assembly or the action to be taken with regard to the application of Article 19 of the Charter". As at present no Member State is in arrears in the payment of its contribution to the extent that Article 19 would apply, no action of the Committee was required in this respect.

26. The Committee took note of a report by the Secretary-General on the status of payment of contributions as of 31 August 1963. This report showed the total unpaid contributions on that date, as follows:

	Contributions due for 1963 \$U.S.	Arrears due for prior years \$U.S.
Working Capital Fund.....	2,420,408.04	—
United Nations regular budget..	35,184,227.49	5,624,209.85
United Nations Emergency Force	8,329,599.75	27,268,656.04
Congo <i>ad hoc</i> Account .....	28,573,763.49	71,905,477.25
	<u>74,507,998.77</u>	<u>104,798,433.14</u>

27. The Committee viewed with concern the substantial amounts outstanding, as indicated by the above,

and expressed the hope that the Member States concerned will take steps to arrange for payment of the outstanding contributions at the earliest possible date.

### COLLECTION OF CONTRIBUTIONS IN CURRENCIES OTHER THAN UNITED STATES DOLLARS

28. The General Assembly, in resolution 1691 A (XVI), authorized the Secretary-General to accept, at his discretion and after consultation with the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions, a portion of Member States' contributions for the financial years 1962, 1963 and 1964 in currencies other than United States dollars. The Committee took note of a report by the Secretary-General which showed that for 1963 fourteen Member States had availed themselves of the facility to pay in one or more of the nine non-United States currencies in which payment could be accepted by the United Nations. In full compliance with the requests received from Member States, a total of \$9.0 million was allocated for payment in non-United States currencies.

### DATE OF THE NEXT SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE

29. The Committee decided to open its next session on 15 June 1964 at United Nations Headquarters.

## VIII. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

30. The Committee on Contributions recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"The General Assembly,

"Having considered the report of the Committee on Contributions,

"Resolves that:

"1. The scale of assessments for Members' contributions to the United Nations budget for the financial year 1964, contained in paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 1691 A (XVI), shall be revised as follows:

Member State	Per cent
Afghanistan .....	0.05
Albania .....	0.04
Argentina .....	1.01
Australia .....	1.66
Austria .....	0.45
Belgium .....	1.20
Bolivia .....	0.04
Brazil .....	1.03
Bulgaria .....	0.20
Burma .....	0.07
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic .....	0.52
Cambodia .....	0.04
Cameroon .....	0.04
Canada .....	3.12
Central African Republic .....	0.04
Ceylon .....	0.09
Chad .....	0.04
Chile .....	0.26

Member State	Per cent
China .....	4.57
Colombia .....	0.25
Congo (Brazzaville) .....	0.04
Congo (Leopoldville) .....	0.07
Costa Rica .....	0.04
Cuba .....	0.22
Cyprus .....	0.04
Czechoslovakia .....	1.04
Dahomey .....	0.04
Denmark .....	0.58
Dominican Republic .....	0.05
Ecuador .....	0.06
El Salvador .....	0.04
Ethiopia .....	0.05
Federation of Malaya .....	0.13
Finland .....	0.37
France .....	5.94
Gabon .....	0.04
Ghana .....	0.09
Greece .....	0.23
Guatemala .....	0.05
Guinea .....	0.04
Haiti .....	0.04
Honduras .....	0.04
Hungary .....	0.51
Iceland .....	0.04
India .....	2.03
Indonesia .....	0.45
Iran .....	0.20
Iraq .....	0.09
Ireland .....	0.14

<i>Member State</i>	<i>Per cent</i>
Israel	0.15
Italy	2.24
Ivory Coast	0.04
Japan	2.27
Jordan	0.04
Laos	0.04
Lebanon	0.05
Liberia	0.04
Libya	0.04
Luxembourg	0.05
Madagascar	0.04
Mali	0.04
Mexico	0.74
Morocco	0.14
Nepal	0.04
Netherlands	1.01
New Zealand	0.41
Nicaragua	0.04
Niger	0.04
Nigeria	0.21
Norway	0.45
Pakistan	0.42
Panama	0.04
Paraguay	0.04
Peru	0.10
Philippines	0.40
Poland	1.28
Portugal	0.16
Romania	0.32
Saudi Arabia	0.07
Senegal	0.05
Somalia	0.04
South Africa	0.53
Spain	0.86
Sudan	0.07
Sweden	1.30
Syria	0.05
Thailand	0.16
Togo	0.04
Tunisia	0.05
Turkey	0.40
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic	1.98
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	14.97
United Arab Republic	0.25
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	7.58
United States of America	32.02
Upper Volta	0.04
Uruguay	0.11
Venezuela	0.52
Yemen	0.04
Yugoslavia	0.38
Admitted at the sixteenth session:	
Mauritania	0.04
Mongolia	0.04
Sierra Leone	0.04
Tanganyika	0.04
Admitted at the seventeenth session:	
Algeria	0.10
Burundi	0.04
Jamaica	0.05
Rwanda	0.04

<i>Member State</i>	<i>Per cent</i>
Trinidad and Tobago	0.04
Uganda	0.04
Admitted at the fourth special session:	
Kuwait	0.04
100.33	

"2. For the year 1963, the rates of contributions for the States admitted to membership in the Organization at the seventeenth session of the General Assembly shall be as follows:

<i>Member State</i>	<i>Per cent</i>
Algeria	0.10
Burundi	0.04
Jamaica	0.05
Rwanda	0.04
Trinidad and Tobago	0.04
Uganda	0.04

These rates shall be in addition to the scale of assessments for 1963 under General Assembly resolutions 1691 A (XVI) and 1870 (XVII) and shall be applied to the same basis of assessment as for other Member States;

"3. Burundi, Jamaica, Rwanda, and Trinidad and Tobago, which became members of the United Nations on 18 September 1962, and Algeria and Uganda, which became members on 8 and 25 October 1962 respectively, shall contribute for the year of admission an amount equal to of their percentage assessment for 1963 applied to the net budget for 1962;

"4. Kuwait, which became a Member of the United Nations on 14 May 1963, shall contribute for the year of admission one-half of its percentage assessment for 1964 applied to the net budget for 1963;

"5. The reductions in the rates of assessment for Czechoslovakia (0.13 per cent) and Hungary (0.05 per cent) for 1964 shall also apply to their contributions to the United Nations regular budget for 1962 and 1963 and the resulting credits to the two States shall, notwithstanding regulation 5.2 (c) of the Financial Regulations of the United Nations, be derived from the contributions to be made by new Member States for the years 1962 and 1963 under paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 above;

"6. Under financial regulation 5.8, Algeria, Burundi, Jamaica, Kuwait, Rwanda, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uganda shall make advances to the Working Capital Fund corresponding to the 1964 rates of assessments for these States applied to the amount of the Fund for 1964, as established in paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution (XVIII), such advances to be carried as additional to the authorized level of the Fund, pending the inclusion of the rates of assessments for the new Member States in a scale of 100 per cent;

"7. The reductions in the advances to the Working Capital Fund of Czechoslovakia and Hungary, resulting from the downward revision in their rates of assessment for 1964, shall constitute a reduction in the amount carried as additional to the authorized level of the Fund in respect of the advances to the Fund by new Member States under paragraph 6 above."



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