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The General Assembly,

Aware that the diversity of languages of the United Nations is a source of general enrichment and of better understanding among States Members of the Organization,

Recalling all its previous resolutions on the use of languages in the United Nations, including resolutions 2 (I) of 1 February 1946, 2247 (XXI) of 20 December 1966, 2292 (XXII) of 8 December 1967, 3189 (XXVIII), 3190 (XXVIII) and 3191 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973 and resolution 36/117 B of 10 December 1981,

Recalling also its resolutions 37/14 of 16 November 1982, 38/32 of 25 November 1983, 39/68 of 13 December 1984, 40/243 of 18 December 1985, 41/177 of 5 December 1986 and 41/213 of 19 December 1986,

Expressing the conviction that in view of the importance consistently attached by Member States to the respect for equal treatment of official languages of United Nations bodies, the provision of adequate conference services is an essential element in the efficient functioning of the Organization,

Concerned about the increasing difficulties in the provision of conference services, which are reflected particularly in delays in the distribution of documents and unequal treatment of some official languages,

1. Requests United Nations bodies and the Secretary-General to ensure respect for equal treatment of the official languages of the United Nations;
2. Affirms that the provision of adequate conference services is an essential element in the efficient functioning of the Organization;
3. Affirms further that in order to ensure the provision of adequate conference services to the United Nations, the allocation of resources for those services should be sufficient to meet requirements;
4. Requests the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to ensure the provision of conference services to the United Nations with adequate personnel, with due respect for the equal treatment of all official languages of the United Nations;
5. Also requests the Secretary-General to continue to ensure the full application of General Assembly resolution 36/117 B;
6. Further requests the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to implement the present resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-third session.

*97th plenary meeting
11 December 1987*

42/208. Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Recalling all its previous resolutions on the scale of assessments, particularly resolution 39/247 B of 12 April 1985,

Having considered the report of the Committee on Contributions,¹⁸ and noting with appreciation the efforts of the Committee,

Taking note of the views expressed in the Fifth Committee during the forty-second session,

1. Requests the Committee on Contributions:

(a) To recommend to the General Assembly, at its forty-third session, a scale of assessments for the period 1989-1991, prepared on the basis of the methodology and criteria used to prepare the current scale;

(b) In this connection, to review the limits in the scheme to avoid excessive variations of individual rates of assessment between successive scales;

2. Also requests the Committee on Contributions to continue to undertake studies in pursuance of its work on the improvement of the methodology for drawing up future scales of assessment, in the light of views expressed in the Fifth Committee during the forty-second and previous sessions, and to submit a progress report on its work to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the Committee on Contributions with the facilities it requires to carry out its work, including supplementary assistance if necessary.

*97th plenary meeting
11 December 1987*

42/211. Implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/213

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986 on the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations,

Reaffirming that measures to improve the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations and to improve the planning, programming and budgeting process should aim at and contribute to strengthening the effectiveness of the Organization in dealing with political, economic and social issues, in order better to achieve the purposes of and respect for the principles set out in the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming also that all Member States must honour, promptly and in full, their financial obligations as set out in the Charter,

Emphasizing that the financial stability of the Organization will facilitate the orderly, balanced and well co-ordinated implementation of resolution 41/213 in all its parts,

Recognizing that the implementation of resolution 41/213 by all concerned—the Secretary-General, Member States and intergovernmental bodies—is a continuing process,

Recalling the relevant parts of its resolutions 37/234 of 21 December 1982 and 38/227 A and B of 20 December 1983,

Taking into account its resolutions 42/170 and 42/207 C of 11 December 1987,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General,¹⁹

Having considered also the relevant parts of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on the work of its twenty-seventh session²⁰ and of the reports of

¹⁹ A/42/225 and Add.1, A/42/234 and Corr.1 and A/C.5/42/2/Rev.1.

²⁰ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 16 and addendum (A/42/16 and Add.1).

¹⁸ Ibid., Supplement No. 11 and addendum (A/42/11 and Add.1).

the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,²¹

Taking into account the views expressed by Member States during the consideration of this item at the forty-second session,

1. *Calls upon* Member States to demonstrate their commitment to the United Nations by, *inter alia*, meeting their financial obligations in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;

2. *Stresses* that, in order to carry out successfully the process of reform and restructuring, it is essential that the present financial uncertainties be dispelled;

3. *Reiterates* its support for the Secretary-General in the fulfilment of his responsibilities as chief administrative officer of the Organization;

4. *Reiterates also* that the implementation of its resolution 41/213 must not have an adverse effect on mandated activities and programmes;

5. *Stresses* the importance of the timely and successful completion of the in-depth study of the intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields being undertaken by the Economic and Social Council, as mandated by the General Assembly in section I, paragraph 1 (e), of its resolution 41/213, and reaffirms its resolution 42/170, in particular paragraphs 3 and 4 thereof;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in implementing those recommendations contained in its resolution 41/213 for which he has responsibility, to take into account the reviews, studies and decisions entrusted to the intergovernmental bodies and invites him to co-operate with those bodies as required;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in implementing those recommendations contained in its resolution 41/213 which are within his purview, to seek the approval of the General Assembly for a departure from the approved recommendations;

8. *Stresses* the importance of the revised estimates for the biennium 1988-1989 that the Secretary-General will submit to the General Assembly at its forty-third session, through the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and requests the Secretary-General, in preparing those revised estimates, to reflect the state of implementation of the relevant provisions of resolution 41/213;

9. *Notes* that the implementation by the Secretary-General of certain recommendations of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations,²² adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213, is not in accordance with the decisions of the Assembly;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in implementing further recommendations 5, 15, 19, 25, 29 and 37 of the Group, and particularly when preparing revised estimates for the biennium 1988-1989 and proposals for revision of the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989, to take into account the following guidelines:

(a) Regarding recommendation 5, the General Assembly takes note of the report of the Secretary-General²³ and invites him to proceed as necessary on both already ap-

proved projects in accordance with the provision of section I, paragraph 1 (a), of resolution 41/213, on the understanding that no additional appropriation will be required in that regard for the biennium 1988-1989;

(b) Regarding recommendation 15, on the reduction of posts in the United Nations, the Assembly stresses the importance that it attaches to the submission by the Secretary-General to the Assembly of his plans for the implementation of this recommendation in accordance with the provisions of section I, paragraph 1 (b), of resolution 41/213, and reiterates its conclusion that the Secretary-General should implement this recommendation with flexibility in order to avoid, *inter alia*, negative impact on programmes and on the structure and composition of the Secretariat, bearing in mind the necessity of securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity of the staff, with due regard to equitable geographical distribution;

(c) Regarding the implementation of recommendation 19, on activities relating to Namibia, the Secretary-General is invited to implement this recommendation in consultation with the United Nations Council for Namibia;

(d) The Secretary-General is invited to consider the location of the functions related to liaison with non-governmental organizations in the context of the implementation of recommendation 25; the Secretary-General is further invited to review his decisions on this matter in the context of the decisions to be taken by the Economic and Social Council on the intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields, as they will pertain to the functioning and servicing of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations;

(e) Regarding recommendation 29, the Secretary-General is invited to review his decisions in the light of the debate of the Fifth Committee at the forty-second session and to reflect the results of that review in his revised estimates;

(f) Regarding recommendation 37, the General Assembly takes note of the additional information provided by the Secretary-General with regard to the reform in the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat; stresses that such reform should fully respect the mandated programme of work of the Department as detailed in section 27 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989;²⁴ takes note of the assurances by the Secretary-General in that respect, including those provided in writing;²⁵ requests the Secretary-General to complete the thorough review of the functions, working methods and policies of the Department of Public Information and the review of the functions and activities of the United Nations information centres called for under recommendation 37, as a matter of priority; and further requests the Secretary-General to reflect in his revised estimates the findings of those reviews, the concerns expressed by Member States at the forty-second session and the above-mentioned assurances, when finalizing the reform and work programme of the Department of Public Information;

11. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-third session, through the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary

²¹ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 7 (A/42/7); *ibid.*, Supplement No. 7A (A/42/7/Add.1-10), document A/42/7/Add.2; and A/42/640.

²² *Ibid.*, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 49 (A/41/49).

²³ A/C.5/42/4.

²⁴ A/42/6 (Sect. 27) and A/42/6/Corr.1.

²⁵ A/C.5/42/L.22.

Questions, a progress report on the state of implementation of resolution 41/213;

12. *Concurs* with the relevant observations and recommendations made by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its report;²⁶

13. *Approves* the guidelines for the contingency fund as annexed to the present resolution;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-third session, through the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, proposals for provisional procedures for the use and operation of the contingency fund based on the above-mentioned guidelines;

15. *Decides* to review the procedures for the use and operation of the contingency fund in the light of experience gained, no later than at its forty-seventh session;

16. *Also decides* to consider at its forty-third session the question of a comprehensive solution to the problem of all additional expenditures, including those deriving from inflation and currency fluctuations, on the basis of the reports to be submitted by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

17. *Reaffirms* the relevant provisions of resolution 41/213 concerning the role and mandate of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination;

18. *Decides* that the date for submission of the outline of the programme budget shall be 15 August of the off-budget year.

99th plenary meeting
21 December 1987

ANNEX

Contingency fund

A. CRITERIA FOR USE OF THE CONTINGENCY FUND

The contingency fund should be used for the following:

- (a) Additional resources that may be required as a result of the consideration of statements of programme budget implications;
- (b) Revised estimates in respect of:
 - (i) Amounts required over and above the estimates in the proposed programme budget for activities which had been included in the proposed programme budget but which were not acted upon at first reading pending the submission of additional information;
 - (ii) Additional requirements for construction related only to changes in the scope of the projects which are so urgent that the matter cannot wait to be considered in the context of the budget outline; additional requirements related to cost increases should be handled under provisions for dealing with inflation and currency fluctuations; similarly, additional requirements related to the effects of natural disasters or unforeseen obstacles should be handled on an *ad hoc* basis and should not be covered by the contingency fund;
 - (iii) Additional requirements resulting from legislative mandates, such as those resulting from the decisions of the Economic and Social Council.

B. PERIOD COVERED AND PATTERN OF USE OF THE CONTINGENCY FUND

1. The fund covers additional expenditures relating to the biennium which are based on decisions taken in the year preceding the biennium and during the biennium.
2. While prudent use of the fund requires that it should not be exhausted before the end of the period of use, no pre-determined propor-

tion for a given year should be set, pending review of the question, in the light of experience with the actual operation of the fund.

C. OPERATION OF THE CONTINGENCY FUND

1. In the off-budget year, the General Assembly would decide on the size of the fund in accordance with the provisions of annex I to its resolution 41/213.

2. Starting with the budget year (i.e., the year before the commencement of the biennium) and continuing throughout the biennium, the General Assembly would decide on the actual amounts to be utilized from the fund on the basis of statements of programme budget implications and proposals for revised estimates.

3. Each statement of programme budget implications and each proposal for revised estimates should contain a precise indication of how the alternatives mentioned in paragraph 9 of annex I to General Assembly resolution 41/213 would be applied in case it is not possible to finance all or part of the additional requirements from the fund. It would be understood that each draft resolution accompanied by a statement of programme budget implications would be adopted subject to the provisions of that statement.

4. The statements of programme budget implications and proposals for revised estimates, formulated as indicated in paragraph 3 above, would be considered by the Assembly as in the past. The resolutions could be adopted by the Assembly subject to the understanding described in paragraph 3 above.

5. A deadline should be set for the consideration of statements of programme budget implications and proposals for revised estimates. After that date, the Secretary-General would prepare and submit a consolidated statement of all programme budget implications and revised estimates considered at that session of the General Assembly. The amounts in that statement would correspond to those previously recommended by the Fifth Committee upon its consideration of individual statements and proposals for revised estimates (see paras. 3 and 4 above). Should the consolidated amount be within the available balance in the contingency fund, the Assembly would proceed to appropriate the required amounts under the relevant sections of the programme budget.

6. Should the consolidated amount exceed the balance available in the fund for that year, the Secretary-General would, in his consolidated statement, make proposals for revising the amount so that it would not exceed the available balance. In so doing, the Secretary-General would be guided by the indications of alternatives included in each statement of programme budget implications and in each proposal for revised estimates. The respective legislative bodies should take action on such alternatives at the time they adopt the decision or resolution in question (see para. 3 above). The Secretary-General would also take into account any indications of relative urgency that each legislative body might wish to make regarding its resolutions and decisions. Upon consideration of the consolidated statement, the General Assembly would proceed to appropriate the funds necessary under the relevant sections of the programme budget.

42/212. Current financial crisis of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Recalling the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and, in particular, Article 17,

Recalling also its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986,

Deeply concerned about the current financial crisis, caused by the non-fulfilment by some Member States of their obligations under the Charter, which threatens the financial solvency, stability and work of the Organization,

Reaffirming the need for a durable, reliable and lasting financial foundation for the Organization, in accordance with the Charter,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the current financial crisis of the United Nations²⁷ and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,²⁸

²⁷ A/42/841.

²⁸ A/42/861.

²⁶ A/42/640, paras. 4-14.