



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 19th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ABRASZEWSKI (Poland)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative
and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

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The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 108: PATTERN OF CONFERENCES (continued) (A/37/32 and Corr.1, A/37/112 and Add.1; A/C.5/37/2, A/C.5/37/7 and Corr.1; A/C.5/37/11; A/C.5/37/L.6/Rev.1, L.7, L.8, L.9/Rev.2, L.10 to L.18; A/C.5/37/CRP.3)

(a) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES

(b) REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

AGENDA ITEM 109: CONTROL AND LIMITATION OF DOCUMENTATION (continued) (A/36/167 and Add.1 and 2; A/37/32, chap. V; A/C.5/37/11; A/C.5/37/CRP.1 and 2)

AGENDA ITEM 8: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK (continued)

(b) SUBSIDIARY ORGANS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued) (A/37/3, chap. III, sect. A and chap. IX, sects. C and H)

1. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to take a decision on recommendations 7 and 8 contained in the report of the Committee on Conferences (A/37/32 and Corr.1). If there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt those recommendations.

2. It was so decided.

3. The CHAIRMAN proposed that two introductory paragraphs should be placed at the beginning of the omnibus draft resolution which the Committee had already adopted, to read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Having considered the report of the Committee on Conferences,

"Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Committee on Conferences,"

4. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 103: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1982-1983 (continued)

Revised estimates resulting from decisions of the Economic and Social Council at its first and second regular sessions, 1982 (continued) (A/C.5/37/3 and Corr.1; A/37/7/Add.4)

Section 4

5. The CHAIRMAN recalled that, in connection with Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/26 (Preparations for the 1985 World Conference to Review and

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(The Chairman)

Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women), the Secretary-General was requesting an additional appropriation of \$98,900, \$71,400 of which was for travel of members of the preparatory body for the Conference, which would be the Commission on the Status of Women. At its 14th meeting, on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, the Committee had adopted a draft decision which provided that members of intergovernmental organs serving as preparatory bodies for special conferences should not be entitled to the payment of travel expenses by the United Nations even if the preparatory body was among those whose members were normally entitled to have their travel paid. The amount requested should therefore be reduced by \$71,400.

6. In connection with resolution 1982/29 (Preparations for the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, with special reference to its agenda), the Secretary-General was requesting an additional appropriation of \$282,100, which included an amount of \$68,600 to cover the travel expenses of representatives of the least developed countries attending the five regional preparatory meetings at the headquarters of the regional economic commissions. The Advisory Committee had recommended that the amount should be reduced to \$275,500. In addition, the payment of travel expenses of representatives of least developed countries provided for in paragraph 10 of the resolution would require an express exception to be made to paragraph 2 (b) of General Assembly resolution 1798 (XVII). The Committee would therefore have to take a decision on that matter.

7. Mr. ALI (Bangladesh) observed that Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/29 had been adopted without opposition. It had been the unanimous wish of the members of the Council that provision should be made to enable representatives of the least developed countries to participate in the preparatory meetings for the Congress and in the Congress itself. The necessary resources should therefore be made available to the Secretary-General for that purpose.

8. There were, moreover, precedents for such action: in resolution 34/162 (Preparations for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women), the General Assembly had requested the Secretary-General to provide the necessary budgetary appropriations to ensure the participation in that Conference of one representative of each of the least developed countries.

9. Mr. PAPENDORP (United States of America) requested a vote on the proposal to make an exception to the provisions of resolution 1798 (XVII).

10. Mr. KUYAMA (Japan) said that his delegation would abstain in the voting because it feared that the proposed exception might have serious implications for the future.

11. Mr. ENODIEN (Nigeria) endorsed the comments made by the representative of Bangladesh and said that he would vote in favour of the proposal.

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12. Mr. PAPENDORP (United States of America) said that, given current conditions, the principles established by the General Assembly in resolution 1798 (XVII) concerning the payment by the Organization of travel expenses of members of organs and subsidiary organs of the United Nations should continue to apply. He would therefore vote against the proposal.

13. Mr. PEDERSEN (Canada) said that the provisions of General Assembly resolution 1798 (XVII) should be observed. Nevertheless, it was desirable to provide assistance for the least developed countries, although decisions must be taken on a case-by-case basis. Accordingly, his delegation would abstain in the voting.

14. Mr. SANGARE (Mali) supported the representative of Bangladesh and hoped that the proposal would be adopted by the large majority.

15. Mr. HADID (Algeria) and Mr. GEBRU (Ethiopia) said that they would vote in favour of the proposal.

16. Mr. ZINIEL (Ghana) said that, as a representative of a country which was situated in the continent with the largest number of least developed countries, he could not but support the proposal, which he considered to be in keeping with the principle of the interdependence of States.

17. Mr. MURRAY (United Kingdom), Mr. HOLBORN (Federal Republic of Germany) and Mr. BETTILI (Italy) said that they shared the concerns expressed by the representatives of the United States and Japan and would vote against the proposal.

18. Mr. FONTAINE ORTIZ (Cuba) said that savings should not be achieved at the expense of the least developed countries. He would therefore vote in favour of the proposal.

19. The proposal to authorize, as an exception to paragraph 2 (b) of General Assembly resolution 1798 (XVII), the resources necessary for the implementation of paragraph 10 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/29 was adopted by 74 votes to 6, with 19 abstentions.

Section 13

20. The CHAIRMAN said that there had been no objection to the request for an additional appropriation of \$84,400 under section 13 to implement Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/54.

Section 23

21. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to paragraphs 18 and 19 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/37/7/Add.4) relating to additional appropriations requested for 1982 under section 23 resulting from resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council.

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(The Chairman)

22. With regard to the appropriations requested for 1983, the Advisory Committee had recommended (paras. 20 to 22) that the amount of \$6,400 requested under resolution 1982/32 be provided from already approved resources and that the appropriations requested to implement decisions 1982/131 and 1982/132 be reduced to \$41,200 and \$25,000 respectively. Nevertheless, in view of the reduction of \$71,400 already referred to and the decision just adopted by the Committee, he suggested that the Committee should approve an additional appropriation of \$453,600, comprising \$303,000 under section 4, \$84,400 under section 13 and \$66,200 under section 23.

23. Mr. TOMASZEWSKI (Poland) said that resolution 1982/26 of the Commission on Human Rights and Economic and Social Council decision 1982/133 contravened article 4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Poland was a party. They had been adopted in violation of the principle of non-interference and respect for the sovereign equality of States, contained in the Charter. Poland considered them illegal, null and void, politically dangerous and imbued with hypocrisy. Poland would not take part in their implementation. His delegation had the most serious reservations over the appropriation requested for that purpose for 1982.

24. Mr. PAPENDORP (United States of America) requested that the Chairman's suggestion be put to a vote, the amount in question being considerable.

25. Mr. YAOCHAM (Chile), referring to the financial implications of Economic and Social Council decision 1982/132, recalled the reservations he had already expressed on the matter at the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly and the relevant sessions of the Economic and Social Council. Chile, which did not, in any event, recognize the Special Rapporteur, considered that it had been treated in an unjust and discriminatory manner, although his delegation would not oppose adoption of the Chairman's suggestion.

26. Additional appropriations of \$303,000 under section 4, \$84,400 under section 13 and \$66,200 under section 23 for the biennium 1982-1983 were approved by 92 votes to 2, with 6 abstentions.

27. Mr. PAPENDORP (United States of America), speaking in explanation of vote, said that, had there been a separate vote on the various appropriations, his delegation would have voted against those requested to implement resolution 1982/26 and decision 1982/131 for purely financial and budgetary reasons. It would also have voted against the appropriations requested in connection with decision 1982/132, which it had not been in favour of at the time of its adoption, and against the appropriations relating to resolutions 1982/29 and 1982/54. Finally, if the appropriations requested as a result of the adoption of resolution 1982/32 had been put to a vote, his delegation would not have participated in the voting, since his country would not be participating in the conference referred to in that resolution.

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28. Mr. YOUNIS (Iraq) recalled that his delegation had expressed reservations on the adoption of Economic and Social Council decision 1982/131, relating to the human rights situation in Poland. If the appropriation requested in connection with that decision had been voted on separately, his delegation would have voted against it.

29. Mr. MURRAY (United Kingdom) said that his delegation's vote had been in accordance with its constant principle that any new United Nations programme should be financed from available resources. That position did not imply that it was questioning the appropriateness of the Advisory Committee's recommendations, nor that it was opposed to any of the resolutions or decisions of the Economic and Social Council with implications under section 23 of the programme budget. His delegation thus trusted that the work of the working group of the Commission on Human Rights referred to in decision 1982/131 would be successful, despite the reduction in the appropriations requested for the group by the Secretary-General.

30. Mr. LADOR (Israel) said that if the revised estimates relating to resolutions 1982/26 (Preparations for the 1985 World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women) and 1982/32 (Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination: Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination), and decision 1982/127 (Question of the violation of human rights in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine) had been put to separate votes, his delegation would have voted against them. Since the appropriations requested had been voted on together, it had chosen to abstain.

31. Mr. TOMASZEWSKI (Poland) said that, had there been a vote on the matter, his delegation would have voted against the appropriations requested in connection with Economic and Social Council decision 1982/137.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.