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FIFTH COMMITTEE  
50th meeting  
held on  
Friday, 14 December 1984  
at 10.30 a.m.  
New York

DEC 21 1984

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 50th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MAYCOCK (Barbados)

later: Mr. DITZ (Austria)

later: Mr. BUSHEV (Bulgaria)

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

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- (a) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND CO-ORDINATION
- (b) REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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18 December 1984

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The meeting was called to order at 11.45 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 109: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1984-1985 (continued)

Revised estimates under section 28C and 28J: A system of career development for all categories of staff (A/39/7/Add.5 and A/C.5/39/11)

1. Mr. NYGARD (United States of America) said that his delegation supported the efforts of the United Nations to evolve a better system of career development. Nevertheless, the programme for career development put forward by the Secretary-General did not address basic problems in an adequate manner and did not set forth a clear strategy for career development. He agreed with the view expressed in paragraph 8 of the report of ACABQ (A/39/7/Add.5) that the requests for staff resources, particularly those for established posts, were difficult to evaluate in the absence of a clear indication of what impact the proposals for a career development system would have on the overall work programme of OPS.
2. He had strong reservations about allocating additional resources to career development in the absence of a more coherent plan. When such a plan was devised, it should become an important part of the Secretary-General's administrative improvements plan. His delegation could not support the proposals of the Secretary-General in document A/C.5/39/11 and would vote against the revised estimates under sections 28C and 28J.
3. Mr. NICULESCU (Romania) said that his delegation had serious reservations with regard to the proposals in document A/C.5/39/11. Those proposals had far-reaching implications and the General Assembly was not ready to take a decision on them. The concept of career development needed further clarification and its implementation should be in accordance with Article 101 of the Charter. At that stage, therefore, he could not support the proposals under consideration or any additional appropriations arising from their implementation.
4. Mr. VISLYKH (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation could not support practical measures to implement a career development system until the concept of career development took into account the interests of personnel with fixed-term contracts. His delegation could not support the additional resources requested and would vote against the revised estimates under sections 28C and 28J submitted in document A/C.5/39/11. He reiterated his delegation's position, stressing the usefulness of a flexible system of fixed-term contracts. Expenditure for the professional training of staff was inadmissible because such an approach was at variance with the principle that only highly qualified Professional staff should be accepted for employment in the United Nations. Career development, which was admissible in certain cases, should not become a system designed to retrain staff and enable them to acquire new professions.
5. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, on the basis of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, the Committee should approve additional appropriations of \$223,800 under section 28C and \$79,000 under section 28J of the programme budget

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(The Chairman)

for the biennium 1984-1985, as well as a further appropriation of \$40,200 under section 31 (Staff assessment), which would be offset by an increase of the same magnitude in the estimates of income under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

6. A recorded vote was requested on the revised estimates under sections 28C and 28J.

In favour: Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burma, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Cuba, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Germany, Federal Republic of, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

7. The revised estimates under section 28C and 28J were approved by 80 votes to 11, with 8 abstentions.

8. Mr. MURRAY (United Kingdom), speaking in explanation of vote, said, that although his delegation supported the concept of career development planning, it had certain reservations with regard to the proposals of the Secretary-General in that regard and had been unable to support them.

AGENDA ITEM 110: PROGRAMME PLANNING (continued) (A/C.5/39/99 and A/C.5/39/L.21)

(a) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND CO-ORDINATION

(b) REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

9. Mrs. KNEZEVIC (Yugoslavia) said that the integrated management system should be implemented in a manner which would enable the allocation of budgetary resources

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(Mrs. Knezevic, Yugoslavia)

to be a function of the programmatic consideration and not vice versa. The programmatic consideration, however, should be carefully examined from the budgetary point of view. Resolution 38/227A on programme planning represented an experimental exercise justified exclusively on theoretical grounds, as was clearly reflected in section II, paragraph 12. Experience gained thus far had raised controversy and legitimate concern as to the impact of the implementation of the resolution on ongoing activities which might be important for Member States.

10. The integrated management system was a useful tool for enhancing the efficiency of the Organization. However, as a process, the system had clear political connotations: it was subject to political decisions by Member States and could not be implemented automatically by institutional and procedural mechanisms. With regard to programme budget implications, the objective of integrated statements was not to propose curtailment of low-priority programmes or to identify marginal activities with a view to the redeployment of funds. That approach had been implied in some of the integrated statements submitted at the current session, and was a misinterpretation of resolution 38/227A. Integrated statements should articulate the new activities proposed in draft resolutions in accordance with the terminology of the programme budget and section II, paragraph 7 (b), of the resolution. That would make it possible to avoid overlapping with activities already implemented in the framework of the current programme budget and facilitate systematic monitoring and evaluating functions, which should be further strengthened. Moreover, statements should be confined to the programme budget of the United Nations and should not deal with the budgets of the specialized agencies. The competence of the Fifth Committee, as well as the role of CPC and ACABQ, in administrative, budgetary and programme budget matter should be preserved.

11. It would be politically very inappropriate if resolution 38/227 were used to make acceptance of a draft resolution dependent on prior agreement with regard to its financial and programmatic implications. That trend could seriously jeopardize the negotiating process within the United Nations. In addition, it might limit the Organization's activities and also adversely affect multilateral co-operation in all its aspects. Such developments would be highly detrimental to the vital interests and needs of the developing countries. Thus, high priority should be given to the question of programme budget implications. Finally, her delegation supported the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (A/39/38).

12. Mr. TAKASU (Japan) said that his delegation had strongly supported efforts to strengthen programme planning and had actively participated in the development of methodology and its application. He reiterated his Government's position that United Nations activities could be best streamlined and implemented through programme planning. His delegation had proposed addenda to the medium-term plan in the field of conference services and administrative services. It was hoped that attention would be focused in that regard on the main areas of activity.

13. He expressed satisfaction at the work done by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Secretariat staff concerned. Programming and budgeting should be approached in such a way as to strengthen the functional integration of

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(Mr. Takasu, Japan)

that process. The information provided on programme budget implications was extremely useful and provided an opportunity for examining the in-depth programme aspects of proposed activities. It was hoped that CPC would continue to define that process in 1985. His delegation fully supported the efforts of the Secretariat to strengthen functional evaluation.

14. Mr. Ditz (Austria) took the Chair.

15. Mr. TOMMO MONTHE (Cameroon), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/39/L.21, said that it had been his intention, as Chairman of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, to produce a document which was not controversial in nature and could be adopted by consensus, as had been the case with the previous resolutions on programme planning referred to in the preambular section of the draft.

16. Mr. VISLYKH (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) requested that the Fifth Committee should postpone its decision on the draft resolution until a subsequent meeting.

17. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee would defer consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/39/L.21 to its next meeting.

18. Mr. GUIMARAES (Brazil) wished to raise a question concerning the statement made in the Fifth Committee on 26 October 1984 (A/C.5/39/SR.17, para. 46) by the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management, who had indicated, with reference to section II, paragraph 7 (c) (iii), of resolution 38/227 A, that the plural "sections" had been erroneously introduced into the agreed text of the resolution as originally submitted. His delegation noted the assurance that the Secretariat would respect the wording of the original agreed text but would prefer the Fifth Committee to take a decision correcting "sections" to "section", to be incorporated into the official records of the General Assembly.

19. Mr. Bushev (Bulgaria) took the Chair.

20. Mr. EL-SAFY (Egypt) agreed with the representative of Brazil and sought clarification as to whether the Fifth Committee would proceed to take a decision along the lines proposed.

21. The CHAIRMAN said that he would consult on the matter with the Bureau of the Committee.

The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.