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INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION
Fifty-seventh session
Geneva, 2 May-3 June and
11 July-5 August 2005

REPORT OF THE PLANNING GROUP

Programme, procedures, working methods and documentation of the Commission

1. At its 2832nd meeting, held on 3 May 2005, the Commission established a Planning Group for the current session.¹
2. The Planning Group held four meetings. It had before it section H of the topical summary of the discussion held in the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session, entitled “Other decisions and conclusions of the Commission”, and General Assembly resolution 59/41 (paras. 6, 7, 8, 13, 14 and 17), on the report of the International Law Commission on the work of its fifty-sixth session.

¹ The Planning Group was composed of: Mr. G. Pambou-Tchivounda (Chairman), Mr. E.A. Addo, Mr. C.I. Chee, Mr. P. Comissário Afonso, Mr. R. Daoudi, Mr. C.P. Economides, Ms. P. Escarameia, Mr. S. Fomba, Mr. Z. Galicki, Mr. P. Kabatsi, Mr. J.L. Kateka, Mr. F. Kemicha, Mr. R.A. Kolodkin, Mr. M. Koskenniemi, Mr. M. Matheson, Mr. D. Opertti Badan, Mr. A. Pellet, Ms. H. Xue and Mr. B. Niehaus (*ex officio*).

I. COST-SAVING MEASURES

3. The Planning Group, having considered paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 59/41, budgetary constraints and the requirements of the programme of work of the Commission for the current session resulting from unforeseeable circumstances, decided to recommend to the Commission that it should start the second part of the fifty-seventh session on 11 July 2005, thereby reducing the duration of the session by one week.

II. DOCUMENTATION

4. The Planning Group considered the issue of timely submission of reports by Special Rapporteurs. It recalled that if the dates for the submission of reports as originally indicated by the Special Rapporteurs were not observed, the availability of reports might be jeopardized, which could have far-reaching consequences for the programme of work of the Commission. Bearing in mind the principles governing the submission of documents in the United Nations as well as the heavy workload of the relevant services of the Organization, the Planning Group wishes to emphasize the importance it attaches to the timely submission of reports by Special Rapporteurs, with a view to their processing and to their distribution sufficiently in advance to allow members to study the reports.

III. WORKING GROUP ON THE LONG-TERM PROGRAMME OF WORK

5. The Working Group on the long-term programme of work was reconstituted with Mr. Pellet as Chairman. The Working Group held two meetings and its Chairman reported orally to the Planning Group on 25 July 2005. The Working Group intends to submit a full report together with the topics that it proposes for inclusion in the long-term programme of work at the end of the quinquennium.

IV. RECOMMENDATION TO ADD A NEW TOPIC TO THE CURRENT PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE COMMISSION

6. The Planning Group recalls that the topic “Obligation to extradite or prosecute (aut dedere aut judicare)”, which is already included in the Commission’s long-term programme of work, should now be included in the programme of work of the Commission, in accordance with the decision taken by the Commission at its fifty-sixth session (A/59/10, para. 363).

V. HONORARIA

7. The Planning Group recommends to the Commission that it reiterate its position with regard to honoraria as set out in paragraph 369 of its report on the work of its fifty-sixth session (A/59/10).

VI. METHODS OF WORK

8. The Planning Group took note of a proposal concerning a review of the Commission’s methods of work in order to enhance its effectiveness and transparency, with a view to its consideration as a priority question by the Planning Group during the next session of the Commission.

VII. DATE AND PLACE OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

9. The Planning Group proposes that the fifty-eighth session of the Commission be held at Geneva from 1 May to 9 June and from 3 July to 11 August 2006.
