



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
28 June 2012

Original: English

Committee for Programme and Coordination

Fifty-second session

4-29 June 2012

Agenda item 7

Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-second session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Ms. Imelda Smolcic (Uruguay)

Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015

(Item 3 (b))

Part one

Plan outline

1. At its 5th and 17th meetings, on 6 and 14 June 2012, respectively, the Committee considered part one: Plan outline, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015 (A/67/6 (Part one)).
2. The Chef de Cabinet introduced the plan outline and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the plan outline.

Discussion

3. The fundamental role of the Committee was reaffirmed, and the view was expressed that the role of the Committee needed to be strengthened.
4. Appreciation and support were expressed for the presentation of the document, which was concise and reflected the vision of the Secretary-General on the strategies to be applied in achieving the objectives of the Organization.
5. The view was expressed that the vision of the Secretary-General should continue to be presented within the framework of mandates agreed by Member States, as it was noted that in some areas the plan outline appeared to go beyond intergovernmental mandates and included "priorities within priorities". The view was expressed that priority-setting was within the purview of Member States.



6. Clarification was sought on the mechanism in place to ensure that the documents produced by the Secretary-General reflected the mandates approved by Member States and that the mandates would be fully observed. The view was expressed that such a course of action from the Secretariat would contribute to fostering a positive environment for the negotiations and the decision-making process.

7. Concern was expressed about references to specific concepts within the plan outline for which no prior General Assembly mandates had been approved, in particular with regard to the “responsibility to protect”. The view was expressed that the presentation of the term “responsibility to protect” did not take into account the developments concerning the concept since the 2005 World Summit. It was also recalled that the Committee had made observations regarding the use of the term at its fiftieth session, as reflected in paragraph 37 of its report (A/65/16).

8. Clarification was sought regarding the concept “global governance architecture” and whether the development of such a system constituted part of the Secretary-General’s vision. Clarification was also sought on the use of other concepts, such as “formal treaty-based organizations” and the specific organizations referenced, “flexible but robust international architecture”, “stresses on the international system” and “global governance”. Views were also expressed that concepts such as “governance of oceans”, “green economy” and “fragile States”, were not part of intergovernmental agreements.

9. The view was expressed that the plan outline for the period 2012-2013 had provided more concrete information on measures to strengthen the Organization, in particular on the implementation of the new enterprise resource planning system and the introduction of International Public Sector Accounting Standards.

10. Clarification was sought on the plans to modernize and streamline the Organization’s processes, introduce a culture of efficiency and ensure a fully results-oriented Organization. The view was expressed that the promotion of a culture of responsibility within the Secretariat, in line with General Assembly resolutions 59/275, 61/235, 62/224, 63/247, and 64/259, could have been better reflected in the plan outline. Further, clarification was sought on where the realization of the modernization efforts of the Secretary-General were reflected in the strategic frameworks submitted for the period 2014-2015.

11. Confirmation was sought on whether the methods used to address “new challenges” and “management reforms”, referenced in paragraph 37 of the plan outline, would be implemented with the prior consent of Member States.

12. Support was expressed for the attention accorded to gender equality in the document, with the qualification that the term “women’s empowerment” should not be limited to “access to economic empowerment and opportunities”.

13. Attention was drawn to the fact that the Secretary-General should avoid prejudging the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in the plan outline and instead anticipate provisions for revised programme planning as a result of the Conference.

14. The view was expressed that the reference in the plan outline to the recent global economic crisis was vague. It was also noted that the plan outline did not clearly link the concept of sustained economic growth to the needs of medium-

income countries, and clarification was sought on whether the term “countries with special needs” included medium-income countries.

15. The view was expressed that paragraphs 33 through 35 of the plan outline were not balanced and that trafficking in persons should be reflected in the section of the plan outline entitled “Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations”.

16. The need to coordinate the activities put forward in the biennial programme plan with those of other United Nations agencies was highlighted since it was noted that the longer-term objective of nuclear non-proliferation within the field of disarmament could be considered to overlap with the functions of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

17. The need for greater methodological coherence in presenting expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement was highlighted. The view was expressed that the setting of indicators of achievement should not just be formulaic. Concern was expressed that there was a lag between the adoption of legislative mandates and the start of the programme planning cycle. In this regard, it was noted that the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/2000/8) should be updated to reflect the changes approved by the General Assembly in its various resolutions on programme planning.

18. Clarification was sought on the reason why poverty eradication as a main objective of the Organization was not reflected in the plan outline.

19. The view was expressed that it was difficult to find a common definition of “lessons learned” and that, in the year since the request made in this regard, the Secretariat had yet to come up with one.

Conclusions and recommendations

20. **The Committee reiterated the importance of the long-term objectives of the Organization, which were aimed at ensuring the full achievement of its goals. In that regard, the Committee stressed the need for coordinated efforts by the Secretariat to improve the formulation of suitable expected accomplishments in such a way that, at the stage of budget preparation, all activities and outputs mandated by Member States would be included for their effective and efficient implementation.**

21. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the eight priorities for the period 2014-2015, contained in paragraph 41 of the plan outline (A/67/6 (Part one)).**

22. **While recognizing the improvements in the logical framework, the Committee recommended that the General Assembly continue to encourage programme managers to further improve the qualitative aspects of indicators of achievements, in order to enable better evaluation of results, bearing in mind that indicators should be strategic, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound.**

23. **The Committee expressed concern over the inclusion of concepts and terms that had not been approved by the relevant intergovernmental bodies and recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to**

take all necessary measures aimed at guaranteeing that the content of the proposed biennial programme reflect only the mandates agreed by Member States.

24. The Committee reiterated its recommendation that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure, when preparing future outlines, that the proposed strategic frameworks take fully into account the guidelines provided by the Assembly in its resolutions 59/275, 61/235, 62/224 and 63/247, as well as subsequent relevant resolutions, so that the outlines reflect more accurately the longer-term objectives of the Organization, based on all mandates approved by Member States.

25. The Committee further recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to present concrete measures and information on actions taken to promote a culture of accountability within the Secretariat in future strategic frameworks, in accordance with its resolution 66/257.

26. With reference to measures to strengthen the United Nations in the plan outline, the Committee noted the intention of the Secretary-General to consult widely with Member States before presenting specific proposals on management reforms to the General Assembly for its consideration and approval.

27. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to present at its sixty-eighth session, through the Committee on Programme and Coordination, a report proposing revisions, based on changes approved by the Assembly in its various resolutions on programme planning, to the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/2000/8).

28. In view of the differences between Member States on some aspects of the plan outline of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015 (A/67/6 (Part one)), the Committee recommended that the General Assembly review the plan outline at its sixty-seventh session, under the agenda item entitled "Programme planning".
