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## Fifth Committee

### Summary record of the 7th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 17 October 2013, at 10 a.m.

*Chair:* Mr. Taalas ..... (Finland)  
*Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions:* Mr. Ruiz Massieu

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*Conditions of service and compensation for officials other than Secretariat officials,  
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*The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.*

**Agenda item 135: Programme planning** (*continued*)  
(A/C.5/68/L.3)

*Draft resolution A/C.5/68/L.3: Programme planning*

1. **The Chair** invited the Committee to consider draft resolution A/C.5/68/L.3, entitled “Programme planning”, which had been submitted on his behalf by the representative of Nigeria.

2. *Draft resolution A/C.5/68/L.3 was adopted.*

3. **Ms. Moreno Guerra** (Cuba) said that her delegation would not insist on the amendments outlined in its general statement, to allow for the resolution’s adoption. Her delegation intended to submit those amendments when the budget for 2014-2015 was discussed.

4. **Ms. Power** (Observer for the European Union) said that the members of the European Union had long felt that the programme planning process and the work of the Committee for Programme and Coordination were in need of improvement. Programme plans should indicate the expected impact of the Organization’s activities and the actual outcomes to be delivered and not just the number of reports to be written or meetings to be held, so as to identify the difference that those activities would make in the lives of people around the world. She welcomed the fact that the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts was continually looking to make such improvements and said that she hoped that they would be clearly reflected in the draft strategic framework for 2016-2017.

**Agenda item 136: Improving the financial situation of the United Nations** (*continued*) (A/68/524)

5. **Mr. Takasu** (Under-Secretary-General for Management) said that, since his presentation of the report of the Secretary-General on improving the financial situation of the United Nations (A/68/524) on 9 October 2013, Belarus had paid its regular budget contributions in full, bringing to 135 the number of Member States that had paid their regular budget assessments in full. Qatar had paid its contributions for the international tribunals, making a total of 97 Member States that had paid in full. With the payments by Georgia and Mexico, the number of Member States that had paid their assessments for peacekeeping operations in full had risen to 35. The number of

Member States that had paid their contributions in full for all budgets was now 35, thanks to those payments from Georgia and Mexico.

6. With regard to the regular budget cash situation as at 16 October 2013, a shortfall of \$38 million had been covered from the Working Capital Fund. The Secretariat would continue to monitor the situation closely.

7. **Mr. Navoti** (Fiji), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group would have preferred to receive the updates communicated by Mr. Takasu in a more timely manner to allow Member States to analyse the information. The Group noted that unpaid assessments at 1 October 2013 were higher by \$90 million than unpaid assessments at 5 October 2012. Similarly, unpaid assessments for peacekeeping operations had increased considerably in 2013; however, those assessments represented a lower percentage of total peacekeeping assessments compared to one year earlier. The Group was pleased to note, however, that the bulk of the assessed contributions for the capital master plan budget had been received. While the Group of 77 and China was encouraged by the fact that cash positions were projected to be positive at year-end for peacekeeping, the tribunals and the capital master plan, it was concerned that the projected regular budget expenditure would exceed the level of reserves.

8. With regard to outstanding payments to Member States that had provided personnel and equipment to peacekeeping operations, the Group noted that the level was projected to be \$423 million by the end of 2013. While it welcomed the Secretariat’s efforts to reduce that debt, the Group remained concerned about the negative effects that the delay in reimbursement had on troop- and police-contributing countries, particularly with regard to the maintenance of equipment. More should be done to ensure that those countries, in particular developing countries that faced serious challenges in sustaining their peacekeeping commitments, were reimbursed in full as a matter of priority.

9. Payment of assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions was an obligation under the Charter of the United Nations. All Member States in a position to honour their financial commitments should do so promptly. It was critical that all Member States met their financial obligations to enable the United Nations to carry out its given mandates in an effective

and efficient manner. The Group rejected all unilateral coercive measures contrary to international law that obstructed or impeded payments from its members.

10. **Ms. Moreno Guerra** (Cuba), speaking on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), said that, although CELAC welcomed the positive position of the cash balances for peacekeeping operations, the international tribunals and the capital master plan at year-end and the increase in the number of Member States that had met their obligations in full, it was concerned about the cash position of the regular budget at the end of the year. Similarly, arrears could undermine the Organization's financial stability. Member States must meet their financial obligations on time and without conditions, especially when their debt was substantial, as was repeatedly the case for one particular Member State. In that connection, the efforts made by developing countries to meet their financial obligations to the Organization, despite the economic problems they faced, should be duly recognized.

11. Welcome progress had been made by the Secretariat in paying outstanding debts to Member States for troops, police units and contingent-owned equipment, and it was to be hoped that further efforts would be made to reimburse States in full and on time. That reimbursement depended, of course, on the prompt and full payment of assessments by all Member States. She noted that several CELAC members were making considerable sacrifices in order to sustain their troop commitments and maintain contingent-owned equipment.

12. Most Member States had paid their contributions to the capital master plan in full. However, CELAC was concerned about the financial situation of the plan after April 2014 and its associated costs, which would result in the project exceeding initial cost projections. It was the responsibility of the Secretariat to implement the project on budget and within the agreed time frame.

13. While recognizing the need to achieve efficiencies within the Organization, CELAC stressed that any budget cuts should be made only when it had been determined that they would not have any negative impact on mandate delivery. Doing more with less should not be the only solution to the United Nations financial problems. Lastly, CELAC rejected all unilateral coercive measures contrary to international

law and liable to obstruct or impede payments from its members.

14. **Ms. Power** (Observer for the European Union), speaking also on behalf of the candidate countries Iceland, Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; the stabilization and association process countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova, said that the partnership between the United Nations and its Member States underpinned the Organization's work. Providing and utilizing funding in a responsible manner was a vital element of that partnership; the significant level of outstanding assessments was therefore a cause for concern. Although the financial indicators for 2013 were generally positive, largely because it had not been necessary to utilize the Working Capital Fund and Special Account, there was still a need to reduce spending while maintaining delivery. She also noted that the regular budget cash position, while better than that of 2012, would be tight in the final months of 2013 if incoming contributions were not received in a timely manner. She therefore encouraged Member States to pay their assessed contributions in full and as soon as possible.

15. In the light of the financial situation, it was unacceptable that the Secretariat continued to plan and spend in 2013 as if the General Assembly had already agreed on a regular budget that made full provision for recosting. Steps must be taken at all levels to ensure that resources were spent more wisely and that the Organization respected agreed budget levels. The Organization should also continue to make every effort to improve its working methods and to find new and creative ways to achieve a more effective delivery of mandates and sustainable use of resources.

16. Lastly, the members of the European Union, which contributed 35 per cent of the United Nations regular budget, far exceeding their gross national income share, and approximately 37 per cent of its peacekeeping budgets, called for the budgetary responsibilities to be shared more equitably, on the basis of the capacity to pay. Only then would the financing of the United Nations system be sustainable.

17. **Ms. Belshaw-Hauff** (Canada), speaking also on behalf of Australia and New Zealand, welcomed the fact that, despite the difficult international economic situation, the financial situation of the United Nations was generally positive and that the number of Member

States that had paid all of their assessed contributions had increased, compared to 2012. However, the total of unpaid assessments was currently higher by \$90 million than in October 2012 and, unless those Member States that had yet to do so paid their contributions, there was a risk that the total cash available would not be sufficient to cover disbursements through to the end of the year.

18. While the rise in the percentage of peacekeeping operations assessments paid in full was to be welcomed, it was increasingly important, in the light of the greater number and complexity of peacekeeping mandates, to improve operational planning, implementation and support to ensure that those mandates were carried out effectively. In that connection, it was hoped that the recommendations contained in the report of the Senior Advisory Group on rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries would be implemented comprehensively and thus enhance the efficiency, effectiveness and accountability of peacekeeping operations. She also welcomed the Secretariat's efforts to expedite outstanding payments to Member States that had provided troops and equipment to peacekeeping operations.

19. She expressed concern at the significant level of outstanding unpaid assessments and the projected budgetary shortfall, and recalled that persistent arrears led to cash flow issues, with serious consequences for the entire Organization. All Member States should therefore pay their contributions in full, on time and without conditions. Eligible Member States should also consider multi-year payment plans to address their payment arrears. As many Member States continued to pursue fiscal austerity at home, it was incumbent upon the Organization to ensure that its resources were well-managed and that its activities were conducted efficiently and effectively. In that connection, the Secretary-General's efforts to improve financial discipline, oversight and accountability, including the development and implementation of Umoja and the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), were most welcome.

20. **Mr. Raja Zaid Shah** (Malaysia) said that the high level of unpaid assessed contributions could jeopardize United Nations operations, particularly as the current cash resources for the regular budget were not sufficient to cover disbursements until the end of the year. Over the years, his country had seen a

significant increase in its assessments, but as Member States had a legal obligation to finance the Organization, Malaysia would continue to pay its assessments in full and on time.

21. The maintenance of international peace and security was the collective responsibility of all Member States; the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations was therefore vital and the shortfall in payments from Member States was a cause for concern. As a troop-contributing country, his delegation urged Member States to fulfil their obligations to finance peacekeeping operations. Lastly, he stressed that the financial health of the Organization depended to a large extent on the ability and willingness of Member States to pay their assessed contributions.

22. **Mr. Lee** (Singapore) said that, while the efforts of those Member States that had paid their assessed contributions on time, in full and without conditions were to be applauded, it should be recognized that some Member States, particularly those in the developing world, faced genuine constraints in paying. Such countries however accounted for a very small proportion of the total budget; it was the delay in payments by several major contributors that had a disproportionate impact, particularly on peacekeeping operations. Among those that had not paid their peacekeeping assessments as of 1 October 2013 were permanent members of the Security Council. Those Member States, which had the most power and influence in deciding peacekeeping mandates and had special responsibilities for international peace and security and prerogatives such as the right of veto, were regrettably the ones that owed the most. He called on major contributors to pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions.

23. Just as Member States were expected to fulfil their financial obligations to the Organization, the Secretariat must also take proactive and appropriate steps to reduce outstanding payments to troop- and police-contributing countries. While he acknowledged that efforts had been made to improve the management of peacekeeping operations and to increase efficiencies, more could be done to resolve the matter of outstanding payments by instilling discipline and reviewing, refining and, if necessary, revamping existing structures and processes.

24. **Mr. Masood Khan** (Pakistan) said that, with the global financial climate remaining complex and uncertain, the Organization's past difficulties with collecting assessed contributions had not been completely resolved. Although the overall financial indicators for 2013 were generally positive, a significant amount of assessments remained unpaid. The issue of recosting had also created additional challenges, resulting in an extremely tight cash situation during the final months of each year. He hoped that the Committee would address the negative implications of partial recosting during its consideration of the biennium budget.

25. His delegation was also particularly concerned at the increasing arrears in payments owed to Member States contributing troops, police and equipment to peacekeeping missions. That situation not only had a negative effect on the Organization's liquidity, but also compromised its ability to fulfil its mandates and presented its peacekeeping structures with increasing operational challenges. While the payment of assessments for peacekeeping operations was sometimes delayed for understandable procedural reasons, countries with the capacity to pay should have no difficulty settling outstanding amounts within a reasonable time. The systemic problem of peacekeeping financing must be resolved, and his delegation hoped that the negative effects of persistent failure to pay would be taken seriously by those States which had the capacity to pay but had delayed doing so. It also hoped that the Secretariat would continue its efforts to ensure that the amounts owed to troop-contributing countries were paid rapidly and in full as a matter of priority.

26. Finally, he reiterated that financial constraints could not be invoked as a reason for withholding funds from the Organization, which could not fulfil its mandates or be effective if it was under-resourced. As proof of their responsibility, Member States must honour their financial obligations under the Charter.

27. **Ms. Uemura** (Japan) said that, pursuant to the Charter of the United Nations, every Member State had an obligation to pay its assessments in full and on time. Japan's determination to fulfil its international commitments and play an active role in maintaining international peace and prosperity was unchanged, and it had therefore complied with its payment obligations towards the Organization despite suffering financial strain.

28. Although the overall financial indicators for the Organization for 2013 were generally positive, the Secretariat should pursue greater efficiency and effectiveness in carrying out the mandates conferred by the Organization's legislative organs. The General Assembly should examine the effect on the current budget of any potential additional requirements and also scrutinize the proposed programme budget for 2014-2015 in order to set realistic levels of resources for the implementation of mandates.

29. **Ms. Moreno Guerra** (Cuba) said that, while overall the financial position of the Organization for 2013 was generally positive, with more Member States having paid their regular budget assessments as at October 2013 than October 2012, the regular budget cash level was very low and would undoubtedly require greater efficiencies for the remainder of the year. The predicted pressure on the Organization's resources at the end of the current year would abate only if financial commitments to the Organization were met in full, on time and without conditions. Only then could the debts to troop-contributing countries continue to be cleared and the surpluses in the accounts of closed peacekeeping missions be returned to the Member States.

30. She commended the efforts of the many Member States, particularly developing countries that had paid their various contributions despite the difficulties they faced. In that connection, Cuba rejected all unilateral coercive measures contrary to international law that obstructed or impeded payments from developing countries. Despite the challenges it faced as a developing country and a victim of the financial crisis and despite the aggressive economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States, Cuba maintained its commitment to meeting its financial obligations. Because it was unable to use the United States dollar or make direct transfers, its payments were subject to currency fluctuations and must be made through a third party. Her delegation would continue to demand an end to the unilateral economic, financial and commercial embargo against Cuba. The extraterritorial nature of the embargo violated international law and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. The will of the international community, as expressed in the resolutions adopted by the overwhelming majority of the General Assembly, could no longer be ignored.

31. **Mr. Pehlivan** (Turkey) noted with regret that, despite the increase in the number of Member States that had met their financial obligations to the Organization in full, the total amount of unpaid regular budget assessments was higher than previous years and continued to be concentrated among a handful of States. With the cash position of the Organization projected to be tight in the run-up to the end of the year, all Member States should pay their assessed contributions in full and on time.

32. While welcoming the fact that almost all capital master plan contributions had been paid, his delegation was concerned that the project's cost overruns might require additional assessments. The Secretariat should therefore take further cost-saving measures. His delegation also welcomed the efforts of the Secretariat to reduce outstanding debt owed to troop- and police-contributing countries; however for that debt to be reduced further, Member States must pay their assessments for peacekeeping operations in full and on time. He called on all Member States to fulfil their financial obligations under the Charter in order to allow the Organization to carry out its mandate effectively.

33. **Mr. Bamba** (Côte d'Ivoire) said that the Fifth Committee, as the body mandated to determine the level of the Organization's resources and to oversee their efficient use, must ensure that all Member States paid their contributions in full and on time in order to guarantee the success of the work of the United Nations. Despite the difficulties his country faced in mobilizing the resources needed to support national reconciliation, economic recovery and national security, his Government made a point of paying its contributions to the different United Nations budgets in full and on time. As the current Chair of the Economic Community of West African States, his country also commended the efforts of the many African countries, particularly in West Africa, that had paid their contributions in full, often by making large sacrifices.

34. As a troop-contributing country, Côte d'Ivoire shared the concerns of those countries that had been waiting to be reimbursed for troops or equipment provided to United Nations peacekeeping operations, in some cases, for over a year. That situation should be addressed as a matter of priority in order to avoid any negative impact on the ability of Member States to come to the aid of countries in distress. The Secretariat was expected to use the resources allocated to it

efficiently to carry out its given mandates in the fields of peacekeeping and international security, development assistance and respect for human rights and international law.

35. In that connection, his delegation attached great importance to the implementation of the results-based management framework and asked that information be provided on programmes under way, particularly on the progress made towards an accountability system, in order to allow Member States to appreciate the results better and to see the relevance of increasing or reducing resource requirements for a particular project.

36. **Mr. Ayzouki** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the Syrian Arab Republic, a founding member of the Organization, had always been committed to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including the principle of paying assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions. Its payments had always been prompt, despite the challenges it faced as a developing country, and notwithstanding the unjust and illegal sanctions applied to it in violation of the same Charter and international law. Accordingly, it had discharged its financial obligations to the regular budget, capital master plan and international tribunals, as well as a major portion of its peacekeeping contributions, in the previous year. However, his delegation was currently negotiating with the Secretariat to find a way to pay its contributions for the current year, since it did not have a bank account in the United States and could not make any financial transactions as a result of the trade and financial sanctions that certain States had applied illegally and unilaterally to his country.

37. Those sanctions, which contravened the Charter of the United Nations, had not only affected the Syrian economy and the ability of the Syrian people to meet their basic needs, but had also had an impact on the Syrian delegation in New York, which could not receive financial transfers to pay its day-to-day bills and obligations to the Organization. Recalling the statements made at previous sessions by his delegation, he said that the problems with the host country's banks had led first to the closure of the delegation's bank account in New York City in 2011, then to the opening of a replacement account with a bank in Washington, D.C., which had in turn been closed, and, finally, to the complete absence of a United States bank account for the previous 19 months.

38. None of the banks contacted by the representatives of his country had been willing to open an account for the use of his delegation, despite receiving instructions from the United States Department of State indicating that neither his country's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York nor its Embassy in Washington, D.C., were subject to sanctions. Unfortunately, the situation had worsened on 16 October 2013, when all members of his delegation had been informed that their personal bank accounts, held at J.P. Morgan Chase, had been closed. He was therefore pessimistic that a solution would be found to the problem in accordance with the terms of the Headquarters Agreement. He wished to remind the host country of its responsibility to ensure that delegations could conduct their business with the Organization and to urge it to find a rapid solution to the problem. The Secretariat, meanwhile, was responsible for ensuring that the host-country authorities complied with the Headquarters Agreement with the United Nations. His delegation had sent numerous urgent memorandums to the Secretary-General to seek his assistance in opening a bank account with the United Nations Federal Credit Union, as other delegations had done, but the United Nations Federal Credit Union had refused his delegation's request to open an account. At the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly, the Secretariat had promised to spare no efforts in their attempts to resolve the problem, but no solution had yet been found. Nevertheless, his country would honour all of its obligations to the Organization.

39. Lastly, in implementing its resolutions, the General Assembly should translate into action the wishes of all the Member States, rather than promoting policies which ran counter to the founding principles of the Organization and were driven by a smaller group of influential Member States.

40. **Mr. Diallo** (Senegal), noting that the level of the budget outline for 2014-2015 had increased despite stagnant global growth and austere national budgets, said that the Organization should do more with less and ensure that it collected all assessed contributions. Member States, many of which were experiencing real economic difficulties, demanded that the Organization make judicious use of its resources. While commending the Secretariat's efforts to reduce costs, his delegation called for other avenues to be explored; resources were not unlimited and it was therefore necessary to examine

appropriate reforms in order to address the shortfalls looming on the horizon. In that connection, the budgets of special political missions should be reduced, or at least kept within reasonable limits, steps should be taken to reduce the impact of exchange rate fluctuations and expenditures should be more closely monitored, all of which should be facilitated by IPSAS and Umoja. Organizational reform of the Secretariat would go a long way towards eliminating cumbersome procedures and duplication and overlapping.

41. It was to be hoped that more Member States would pay their assessed contributions in full. Although the number of countries that had paid in full had increased significantly in comparison with the previous year, nearly 36 per cent of the regular budget contributions were still outstanding. Member States' demands for results must be accompanied by a commitment to honour their financial obligations in full and on time. Late payment of contributions to the different budgets by some Member States had created in a difficult cash-flow situation that could jeopardize the Organization's ability to fulfil its noble mandates. Lastly, he called on the Secretary-General to provide an adequate response to the legitimate concerns of troop-contributing countries to the delays in reimbursing those countries, many of which were developing countries that provided troops and equipment to peacekeeping missions, and relied on those payments to train and re-equip their troops.

42. **Mr. Takasu** (Under-Secretary-General for Management), in response to comments from Member States' representatives, said that the end-of-year financial pressure could be addressed by drawing on the Working Capital Fund, but that that in itself would be insufficient. The payment of debts to troop- and police-contributing countries was a top priority for the Secretary-General and the Secretariat would make every effort to reduce the arrears further by the end of 2013 and expedite payments. He agreed that the Secretariat must observe financial discipline in order to win the trust of Member States, many of whom had made considerable efforts to pay their contributions and therefore expected the Organization to spend those resources wisely. Lastly, he recognized that a small number of Member States that wished to pay their assessments had been unable to do so owing to logistical problems. The Secretariat was working with the host country to resolve those issues, but he acknowledged that it could take some time.

**Agenda item 134: Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 (continued)**

*Conditions of service and compensation for officials other than Secretariat officials: members of the International Court of Justice and International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, judges and ad litem judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (A/68/188 and 515, A/66/617, 709 and 726)*

*Conditions of service and compensation for officials other than Secretariat officials, serving the General Assembly: full-time members of the International Civil Service Commission and the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/68/187)*

43. **Ms. de Miranda** (Office of Human Resources Management), introducing the reports of the Secretary General on the conditions of service and compensation for officials other than Secretariat officials: members of the International Court of Justice and International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, judges and ad litem judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (A/68/188), and on the conditions of service and compensation for officials other than Secretariat officials, serving the General Assembly: full-time members of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) and the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/68/187), said that the report contained in document A/68/188 provided background information on the remuneration scheme of the judges and an overview of the other conditions of service, including allowances and benefits. Based on the outcome of the periodic review conducted in preparation of the report, the Secretary-General proposed that no changes should be effected in the current remuneration system and other conditions of service of the members of the International Court of Justice and judges and ad litem judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals. Should the General Assembly approve the Secretary-General's recommendations, the standards for the costing of those items in the proposed budget for the biennium 2014-2014 would remain at the level of the revised 2012-2013 appropriation and would not entail additional resources requirements. In

accordance with General Assembly decision 66/556 B, which had deferred to the sixty-eighth session consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on the comprehensive review of the pension schemes for the members of the International Court of Justice and judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (A/66/617), the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/66/709) and the letter from the President of the International Court of Justice addressed to the President of the General Assembly (A/66/726) the Secretary-General had resubmitted those documents for consideration at the current session.

44. In its resolution 65/268, the General Assembly had decided to review the conditions of service and compensation, other than annual net compensation, of the Chair and Vice-Chair of ICSC and the Chair of the Advisory Committee every four years, with the next comprehensive review to be conducted at its sixty-eighth session. The report contained in document A/68/187 provided the necessary background information and the Secretary-General proposed that no changes should be made to the compensation and other conditions of service of those officials.

45. The General Assembly, in its resolution 65/268, approved the restoration of the relativity relating to the annual net compensation and the post-retirement benefits of the full-time members of ICSC and of the Chair of the Advisory Committee. Additional requirements prompted by the adjustment mechanism for the annual net compensation of those three officials were seen as relating to inflationary adjustments and would therefore be reported in the context of the second performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013, to be submitted to the Assembly at the current session.

46. **Mr. Ruiz Massieu** (Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the report of the Advisory Committee on the conditions of service and compensation for officials other than Secretariat officials: members of the International Court of Justice and International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, judges and ad litem judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (A/68/515), recalled that the General Assembly, by resolution 65/258, had decided to re-establish a three-



year cycle for the review of the conditions of service and compensation of such officials.

47. As the Secretary-General had proposed no changes to the current system of remuneration and the other conditions of service for the members of the International Court of Justice and the Residual Mechanism, or to the remuneration and entitlements of the judges and ad litem judges of the Tribunals, the standards for costing those items in the proposed budget for 2014-2015 would remain at the level of the revised 2012-2013 appropriations and would not entail additional resource requirements. The Advisory Committee had no objection to the proposal made by the Secretary-General.

48. **Mr. Thomson** (Fiji), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group attached high importance to the work of the International Court of Justice, the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. It therefore favoured the improvement of the conditions of service commensurate with the responsibilities of staff members and judges, which the Assembly should endeavour to achieve in an impartial and decisive manner. The Group supported the key principles, enshrined in the statutes of the Court and the Tribunals, that the judges' salaries, allowances and compensation should be fixed by the General Assembly and may not decrease during their term of office, and was of the view that equality among judges was a basic principle of the system of international adjudication of disputes among States. In that connection, the Group would examine the conditions of service of the judges of the Residual Mechanism and the differences in pension rights between ad litem judges and permanent judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. Those questions should be resolved as a matter of priority by the Assembly during its current session.

49. With regard to the conditions of service of the full-time members of the International Civil Service Commission and the Chair of the Advisory Committee, the Group noted the Secretary-General's proposal that no changes should be made to the compensation and other conditions of service of those officials; however, he asked for more detailed information on the current level of the cost-of-living adjustment to be provided in the informal discussions.

*The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.*