



Seventeenth session
Agenda item 62

BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1963

Comprehensive review of the system of payment from United Nations funds of travel and subsistence expenses in respect of members of organs and subsidiary organs of the United Nations

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. N.A. QUAO (Ghana)

1. At the 947th meeting on 13 November 1962, the Fifth Committee considered a report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/930) containing a comprehensive review of the system of travel and subsistence expenses of members of organs and subsidiary organs of the United Nations. It was explained in the opening paragraph of the report that the Secretary-General had felt it necessary to undertake the review because of the problems that had arisen in connexion with the existing system, which was governed by General Assembly resolution 1075 (XI) of 7 December 1956. In particular, there had been difficulty in interpreting the precise intent of certain of the Assembly's directives, a difficulty accentuated in recent years by the establishment of a number of new United Nations bodies.
2. In a related report (A/5263) the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions agreed that there would be advantage in revising the text of resolution 1075 (XI) with the object of removing ambiguities and obviating future difficulties, and it concurred very largely in the Secretary-General's proposals. In the annex to its report the Advisory Committee offered comments on the proposed text together with a few amendments.
3. The Fifth Committee welcomed the initiative which the Secretary-General had taken in proposing a new text, for the resolution at present in force, if strictly interpreted, could not cover all the cases that might arise in circumstances

differing widely from those of December 1956. The Committee noted that neither the Secretary-General nor the Advisory Committee had recommended any fundamental changes in the system. The Secretary-General's report contained a valuable analysis of the difficulties encountered in the detailed application of the system, while both his recommendations and those submitted by the Advisory Committee would serve to clarify a number of its provisions.

4. The Committee approved the amendments recommended by the Advisory Committee (A/5263, annex) to operative paragraph 3 (a) (i) and (b) (iii) as proposed by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/930, annex I). The Committee also accepted the suggestion of the representative of Israel that as General Assembly resolution 1075 (XI) was to be superseded, the explicit exception which it contained^{1/} in respect of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should be retained in the new text. Finally, the Committee gave its additional endorsement to those of the Advisory Committee's observations (A/5263, annex, column D) that were not directly reflected in the proposed new text.

Decision of the Committee

5. The Committee approved, by 67 votes to none, with 1 abstention, the draft resolution proposed by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/930, annex I), as amended by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/5263, annex).

Recommendation of the Committee

6. The Committee therefore recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

SYSTEM OF TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCES TO MEMBERS OF ORGANS AND SUBSIDIARY ORGANS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The General Assembly,

Believing that the payment out of United Nations funds of travel and subsistence expenses to members of organs and subsidiary organs of the United Nations should continue to be based on the consolidated pattern established in General Assembly resolution 1075 (XI) of 7 December 1956,

^{1/} General Assembly resolution 1075 (XI), operative paragraph 1 (c) (iii).

Believing further that the provisions of that resolution require restatement in more comprehensive and explicit terms in order to facilitate their interpretation and practical implementation in current circumstances,

1. Decides that resolution 1075 (XI) shall be superseded by the present resolution;

2. Decides that the following principles shall govern the payment out of United Nations funds of travel and subsistence expenses to members of organs and subsidiary organs of the United Nations:

(a) Travel and subsistence expenses shall be paid in respect of members of organs and subsidiary organs who serve in an individual personal capacity and not as representatives of Governments;

(b) Except as provided in paragraph 3 below, neither travel nor subsistence expenses shall be paid in respect of members of organs or subsidiary organs who serve as representatives of Governments;

3. Decides that, by way of special exception to the basic principle laid down in paragraph 2 (b) above:

(a) Travel but not subsistence shall be paid:

(i) In respect of representatives or alternate representatives attending sessions of the General Assembly, subject to the conditions established in paragraph 1 of the annex to the present resolution, or as may be laid down by the Secretary-General, and provided that the number of persons whose expenses shall be so paid shall not exceed five for each Member State in respect of regular sessions, and one for each Member State in respect of special and special emergency sessions;

(ii) In respect of one representative of each Member State participating in a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council or in a sub-commission or sub-committee of a functional commission, where such representatives are nominated by their Governments in consultation with the Secretary-General and subsequently confirmed by the Council or where, in the case of representatives nominated directly by their Governments, the Council recommends and the General Assembly decides that such payments should be made;

(iii) In respect of one representative of each Member State participating in the Commission on Narcotic Drugs;

(b) Travel and subsistence expenses shall be paid in respect of the following persons:

- (i) Either the Chairman or the Rapporteur of a subsidiary organ who is called upon to present the report of such subsidiary organ to a parent organ;
- (ii) One member of an organ or subsidiary organ serving as its designated representative at meetings of a second organ or subsidiary organ;
- (iii) One representative of a Member State or one alternate participating in a subsidiary organ instituted by the General Assembly or the Security Council, and which is required, by a decision of the parent organ, to work away from United Nations Headquarters in the performance of a special task. Payments under this sub-paragraph shall be subject to the conditions laid down in paragraph 3 of the annex to the present resolution;

4. Decides that the principles set forth in paragraph 2 above shall also apply to any organ or subsidiary organ that may be established in the future, unless the resolution establishing the organ or subsidiary organ provides otherwise;

5. Decides that the application of these principles shall be in accordance with the provisions contained in the annex to the present resolution;

6. Authorizes the Secretary-General to establish such administrative rules and procedures as may be necessary for the implementation of the present resolution.

Annex: Application of principles governing the payment out of
United Nations funds of travel and subsistence expenses to members
of organs and subsidiary organs of the United Nations

Travel expenses

1. In the case of the payment, in terms of operative paragraph 3 (a) (i) of the present resolution, of the travel expenses of a maximum of five representatives or alternate representatives per Member State to regular sessions (as defined in paragraph 3 (a) (i)) of the General Assembly and of one representative or alternate representative per Member State to special and special emergency sessions, such payment shall be limited to the cost, per individual, of one round trip between the capital city of the Member State and the place of meeting, or to the actual cost of travel undertaken by an individual if it represents the lesser amount. Within the maximum number of payments so allowed may be included the travel to his capital city and return, for purposes of consultation or report, of a member of a Permanent Mission in New York who is designated as a representative or alternate representative to a session of the General Assembly, provided such travel is certified by the Permanent Representative to be in connexion with the work of the particular session and provided it takes place either during or within three months before or after such a session. The entitlement in respect of a session shall not be increased by reason of the recessing and resuming of that session.
2. In the case of such representatives of Governments to meetings of organs other than the General Assembly as may be eligible in terms of the resolution, the payment of travel expenses shall similarly be limited to the cost of round trip travel between the capital city of the Member States and the place of meeting, or to the cost of travel actually incurred, if this represents a lesser amount; however, in the case of representatives serving on the subsidiary organs dealt with in operative paragraph 3 (b) (iii), payment shall be limited to the cost of travel between United Nations Headquarters and points visited in the field and return, or, in the event that no meetings at Headquarters are involved, to travel from the duty station to points visited in the field and return, or to travel actually undertaken, whichever represents the lesser amount.

3. In respect of all persons dealt with in the resolution who serve in their individual capacities, as distinct from those serving as representatives of Governments, payment of travel expenses shall be limited to the actual cost of round-trip travel between the place of residence or duty station and the place of meeting.
4. Payment of travel expenses shall in all cases be limited to the cost of first-class accommodation by air or its equivalent by recognized public transport via a direct route.
5. The United Nations shall not be liable for the payment of any claim for reimbursement of travel expenses which is submitted later than 31 December of the year which follows the closing date of the session of the organ or subsidiary organ to which the claim relates.

Subsistence payments

6. Subsistence payments are intended to provide for additional expenses which an individual normally incurs in attending an official meeting or session and shall not include any element of fee or remuneration for services rendered.
7. In accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 1588 (XV) of 20 December 1960, the following daily amounts shall be payable to eligible members of organs and subsidiary organs of the United Nations:

	\$
(a) While attending meetings at Headquarters, New York	30
(b) While attending meetings in Geneva, the equivalent in Swiss francs of	23
(c) While attending meetings at other places, a rate to be fixed by the Secretary-General, taking into account the possible provisions of board and lodging by a host Government, and <u>not</u> to exceed the equivalent in local currency of	23
(d) While attending meetings, at the place of residence or duty station, the equivalent in local currency of	10
(e) While travelling, by a direct route, aboard vessels, planes and trains	8

8. Subsistence allowance at the above rates shall be limited to the period during which a member's presence is required at the place of meeting, except that a member receiving the \$10 allowance shall receive the allowance only for the days during which he actually attends meetings.
9. In the case of representatives on the subsidiary organs provided for in operative paragraph 3 (b) (iii) of the resolution, subsistence shall be payable only during the period of work away from United Nations Headquarters.
10. The subsistence rates specified in paragraph 7 above are subject to any change the General Assembly may subsequently approve.
