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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 43rd MEETING

Chairman:

Mr. MAYCOCK

(Barbados)

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

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 134: ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY ASPECTS OF THE FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS (continued) (A/45/493 and Add.1, A/45/502, A/45/582, A/45/801)

1. Mr. MERIFIELD (Canada) said that the viability of the peace-keeping work of the United Nations was undermined by the inadequate reimbursement of troop-contributing countries and by erratic, inefficient and unreliable funding of peace-keeping operations. The statement made by the United States delegation at the preceding meeting had been disappointing and it was to be hoped that that delegation would reconsider its position on the matter. The substantial and long-standing burden on troop-contributing countries had been made even heavier by the failure of some Member States to honour their commitments to peace-keeping operations. An adequate rate of reimbursement for troop contributors was therefore essential. As an active participant in virtually all of the peace-keeping operations over the years, Canada was strongly committed to collective peace efforts and supported the updating of rates of reimbursement and full funding of all peace-keeping operations.

2. In document A/45/582, the Advisory Committee noted that the median absorption factor, representing the cost burden borne by troop-contributing countries, had increased to 58.5 per cent. The additional costs borne by troop-contributing countries over and above their assessments for peace-keeping operations must be regarded as a large voluntary contribution by those countries. Moreover, the report indicated an increase of 7.4 per cent in the average cost per person per month between 1984 and 1988; the increase over the 10 years since the establishment of the reimbursement rates was much greater. Even in 1980, the level of the reimbursement rates had required considerable absorption of costs by troop-contributing countries, and substantial world-wide inflation had occurred since that time. For those reasons, his delegation felt that the Advisory Committee's recommended increase of 4 per cent was inadequate and that the increase should be at a rate of at least 7.4 per cent, in accordance with paragraph 11 of document A/45/582. Since even a 7.4 per cent increase would not redress existing inequities, his delegation proposed that another review of the rates should be conducted for 1989 instead of for 1990.

3. The other key factor in ensuring continued support for peace-keeping operations was full United Nations funding of all such operations. In the Security Council, his delegation intended to address the long-standing contradiction in the financing of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) to correct the inadequacies and unfairness of the current arrangement. His delegation reaffirmed its strong commitment to United Nations peace-keeping operations and urged other Member States to do likewise.

4. Mr. TANG Guangting (China) said that recent rapid changes in the international situation had enabled the United Nations to play an increasingly important role in mediating and alleviating conflicts through peace-keeping operations. His delegation attached great importance to such operations as an effective means of

(Mr. Tang Guangting, China)

safeguarding world peace and security, and noted with concern that the amounts allocated for the ever-increasing needs of peace-keeping operations had reached the level of the Organization's regular budget. It was therefore essential to address questions regarding the resources, administration and efficiency of those operations.

5. Because it had primary responsibility for the maintenance of world peace and security, the Security Council should take clear decisions on the scale and duration of each peace-keeping operation, as well as on the number of military personnel involved. In addition, the role of the Advisory Committee should be strengthened to ensure strict control over the administrative and financial aspects of such operations. Although peace-keeping operations were effective in facilitating the settlement of disputes, they were no substitute for just and final solutions to conflicts and should not be unduly prolonged. In that regard, the successful performance of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) should serve as an example for future peace-keeping operations.

6. The establishment of a support account for peace-keeping operations to meet the costs of overload posts, as proposed by the Secretary-General in document A/45/493, would help meet the needs arising from the additional work-load associated with the pre-implementation phase of prospective operations by providing flexibility in the use of resources, and would be an obvious improvement over the previous ad hoc arrangements. His delegation supported the proposed method and ratio for financing the support account, as well as the Advisory Committee's view that the method and ratio must be constantly reviewed and that the support account should not be used solely for the purpose of financing new posts.

7. During the previous session, the Secretary-General had first proposed the establishment of a reserve stock of equipment and supply items for peace-keeping operations to meet the requirements of the start-up phase, as well as an increase of the Working Capital Fund to cover start-up costs. If Member States made their contributions on time and paid up their arrears to restore the Working Capital Fund to its original level of \$100 million, the problem of start-up costs would be solved easily. While the establishment of a reserve stock of equipment and supply items was a good idea, it required further development; for example, expenses associated with the turnover, maintenance and management of stock items should be taken into account. For the time being, his delegation agreed with the Advisory Committee on the formation of a reserve stock with the residual equipment and the unencumbered cash balance from UNTAG, in addition to equipment purchased with available voluntary contributions.

8. The experience of UNTAG had proved the feasibility of using civilian personnel in peace-keeping operations. Although the reimbursement rate for military personnel could also apply to civilian personnel, his delegation hoped that, whenever possible, Member States would contribute civilian personnel for such operations on a non-reimbursable basis. It also hoped that more consideration would be given to securing civilian personnel provided by Governments, as opposed to Secretariat staff, in order to economize resources. With regard to

(Mr. Tang Guangting, China)

reimbursement rates for troop-contributing countries, his delegation agreed with the Advisory Committee's recommendation to increase the rate by 4 per cent.

9. Action was also required on other questions relating to peace-keeping operations, such as status-of-forces agreements and effective co-ordination among different parts of the Secretariat. He hoped that the model status-of-forces agreement which had been submitted to the Special Political Committee would be useful in the context of future peace-keeping operations and that co-ordination within the Secretariat would be strengthened to enhance efficiency. The obligation of all Member States to help fund peace-keeping operations should be emphasized, and other forms of financing, such as voluntary contributions from various sources, should be encouraged.

10. Mr. DJANKLA (Togo) said that every effort should be made to preserve and strengthen Member States' renewed confidence in the Organization's capacity to promote international peace and security. His delegation welcomed the use of civilian personnel provided by Governments or civilian employees of commercial contractors in peace-keeping operations as a means of increasing the Organization's potential for action, broadening the involvement of Member States in matters of collective security and increasing awareness of peace-keeping issues among the peoples of the world. Such participation should be encouraged through the establishment of a fair rate of reimbursement for Governments which provided military personnel. His delegation therefore supported the Advisory Committee's proposal to increase the reimbursement rate by 4 per cent, as well as the payment of the basic salary and allowances of civilian personnel by the contributing Governments on a non-reimbursable basis.

11. The proposed establishment of a support account for peace-keeping operations would provide a single mechanism for the distribution of costs among the various peace-keeping operations and would ensure the timely launching of the growing number of new operations. However, the method of financing recommended in the Secretary-General's report (A/45/493) should be studied further in order to guarantee the long-term effectiveness of the account. The support account should not be considered a means of financing additional posts. The proposed establishment of a reserve stock of equipment and supply items was also a welcome initiative, since it would provide for the rapid implementation of new operations while reducing start-up costs. However, the use of a reserve stock of rations should be strictly monitored. Finally, the Secretary-General's role should be strengthened in order to avoid a paralysing rigidity in the management of peace-keeping matters and to ensure that decisions were taken in the light of a whole range of operational, political, financial and security considerations.

12. Mr. CONMY (Ireland) said that the proposed establishment of a support account for overload posts would be a practical and overdue improvement, and fully supported the proposal and the associated procedures suggested by the Advisory Committee. He also welcomed the proposal to establish a reserve stock of equipment, although he regretted that the Secretary-General's report did not fully address the funding of the reserve stock or the relationship between the proposal

(Mr. Conmy, Ireland)

and the decisions taken the previous year on the UNTAG reserve equipment. The Advisory Committee's proposed arrangement for crediting the UNTAG account when drawing on its reserve equipment was in fact a purchase and would not lead to the existence of a reserve on an ongoing basis.

13. The system of paying standard rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries demonstrated the international character of peace-keeping operations and the collective responsibility of Member States. The additional costs, or absorption factor, incurred by troop contributors should be recognized as an additional voluntary contribution to such operations. The late payment or non-payment of mandatory assessed contributions by some Member States placed an increased burden on troop-contributing countries by impairing the Organization's ability to pay the standard rates of reimbursement; according to the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/45/17), unpaid debts to troop-contributing countries currently amounted to \$272 million. That situation was unacceptable, and the announced intention of some countries to pay off their arrears was a welcome but long overdue development.

14. Because ten years had passed since the establishment of the current reimbursement rates and because costs for troop contributors had risen by an average of 7.4 per cent over a period of only four years, the Advisory Committee's recommendation to increase the rates by 4 per cent was insufficient, since it appeared to be based on the unjustified assumption that the average absorption factor prevailing in 1980 should be applied to the 7.4 per cent average increase in costs between 1984 and 1988. His delegation felt that an increase of even 7.4 per cent would be insufficient. It strongly agreed with the Advisory Committee that the General Assembly should increase the standard rates at the current session.

15. Mr. SEZAKI (Japan) said that the United Nations had yet to arrive at fundamental solutions to many issues relating to peace-keeping operations, such as economies of scale, administrative and budgetary co-ordination among various operations, financing of the start-up stage, the establishment of a reserve stock of equipment and supplies, the support account and the rates of reimbursement to troop contributors.

16. His country wished to contribute to the achievement of a consensus in the Fifth Committee, and would therefore extend its fullest support to the United Nations in its efforts to solve regional conflicts. Japan had made voluntary contributions to the start-up costs of peace-keeping operations and had provided civilian personnel for the election observer teams in Namibia and Nicaragua. His Government was also considering enacting new legislation in order to ensure co-operation on a continuous rather than an ad hoc basis.

17. Since no adjustments had been made over the past decade in the rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing States despite world-wide inflation, a more rational and transparent system for adjusting the rates should be established, taking into account the views expressed in document A/45/801.

(Mr. Sezaki, Japan)

18. He noted with satisfaction that the support account for peace-keeping operations would soon become operational, and endorsed the views of the Advisory Committee in that regard, particularly its reservations concerning the application of an across-the-board percentage to every peace-keeping operation. He also noted that the essential purpose of the account was to ensure the availability of adequate staff resources for the start-up activities of new peace-keeping operations, including good offices.

19. His delegation welcomed the proposal to establish a reserve stock of equipment and supplies and agreed with the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the residual stocks of UNTAG and other peace-keeping operations should be fully utilized in establishing the reserve. It was clear that the UNTAG equipment and supplies included a wide variety of items which must be carefully inventoried. It was necessary to identify the requirements which could not be met from UNTAG and other operations, and then to inform Governments of those needs so that they could be met through voluntary contributions.

20. With regard to the use of civilian personnel in peace-keeping operations, he endorsed the Advisory Committee's recommendation in paragraph 35 of document A/45/801. Since the Secretary-General had defined the status and functions of civilian personnel to be provided by States, there was a sufficient basis for the Secretary-General to prepare the standard administrative procedures required by the General Assembly. Such procedures would make possible a wider participation in peace-keeping operations by States which were not in a position to provide military contingents to the United Nations.

21. He regretted that the issue of start-up financing had not been dealt with as such. The need to ensure timely financing of peace-keeping operations in the initial stage had inadvertently been merged with the issue of the general financial crisis of the Organization. In view of the current prospects for the payment of outstanding contributions, efforts should be made to find a concrete solution which met the specific requirements of peace-keeping operations in the initial stage. Every alternative solution should be explored, including the use of voluntary cash grants or advances.

22. It was to be hoped that in the planning and management of future peace-keeping operations, the Secretariat would bear in mind the following requirements of Member States. First, in order for States to have confidence in the budget estimates, there was a need for greater transparency, which could be achieved through more realistic and precise cost projections. Secondly, States should be encouraged to provide personnel, material and technical resources, and services. Thirdly, briefings and exchanges of views between the Secretariat and interested Member States should be organized from the planning stage onwards, in order to ensure substantial co-operation by the Governments concerned in the financing and management of new operations.

23. Ms. MUSTONEN (Finland), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, welcomed the increase in the number of troop contributors from 23 in 1988 to 46 currently. The increasing number and complexity of peace-keeping operations had led to a substantial rise in their overall costs, which underscored the importance of a sound financial basis for peace-keeping activities. Financing must be based on the principle of collective responsibility, which meant that the costs of the operations should be regarded as expenses of the Organization, to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17 of the Charter.

24. While she welcomed the role of voluntary contributions in meeting the large overall expenditures of peace-keeping operations, she believed that assessed contributions must be the financial basis of those operations. She therefore regarded as an anomaly the fact that UNFICYP continued to be funded from voluntary contributions and supported all efforts to change the financing system for that operation.

25. It was crucially important for Member States to pay their contributions in full and on time. Troop-contributing countries should be guaranteed that the United Nations would honour its obligations to them by making adequate and timely reimbursements. She noted with concern that the amount of outstanding contributions for the ongoing operations was nearly \$400 million. That debt undermined the Organization's capacity to carry out its peace-keeping activities and also put an additional burden on the troop contributors. Because of those unpaid contributions, the United Nations currently owed \$272 million to the troop-contributing countries - one third of which was owed to the Nordic countries, excluding the \$130 million which those countries were owed for the UNFICYP operation.

26. With regard to the rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing States, there was a need for a substantial increase of more than 4 per cent, as proposed by ACABQ. It should also be noted that for most of the troop-contributing States, the costs not covered by the standard reimbursement rates had increased. In the case of the Nordic countries, that meant that even if they had been fully reimbursed by the United Nations, their Governments would still have absorbed about half of the overall costs for the troops, or about \$400 million. In order for the reimbursement system to remain credible, the rates must be increased.

27. With regard to the question of efficiency and cost-effectiveness in the implementation of peace-keeping activities, one of the main issues concerned the start-up phase of peace-keeping operations. She welcomed the Secretary-General's proposals concerning a support account and a reserve stock of equipment and supplies, both of which could greatly facilitate the start-up phase of a new operation.

28. She supported the Secretary-General's proposals concerning the purpose, financing and level of the proposed account. She also agreed that 8.5 per cent should be the average ratio of costs to be applied in calculating the amounts to be included in each of the budgets of peace-keeping operations.

(Ms. Mustonen, Finland)

29. She found convincing the justification given by the Secretary-General for establishing the reserve stock of equipment and supplies and concurred with the comments made by ACABQ concerning the utilization of UNTAG equipment. With regard to the financing of the proposed reserve stock, the Nordic countries were ready to consider all the alternatives proposed by the Secretary-General.

30. With regard to start-up financing for peace-keeping operations, as pointed out by ACABQ, the existing Working Capital Fund had proved to be too small for the increased level of activities. A new arrangement must be established in order to ensure a financially sound and cost-effective start-up phase for new operations. While supporting the Secretary-General's proposal to increase the Working Capital Fund, she noted that the financing of such a Fund should be the collective responsibility of all Member States.

31. The Nordic countries endorsed the Advisory Committee's recommendation on the use of civilian personnel in peace-keeping operations, while concurring with the representative of New Zealand that the use of civilians should not be at the expense of military personnel.

32. In considering the Secretary-General's proposals concerning the financing and management of United Nations peace-keeping activities, it should be borne in mind that the responsibility for peace-keeping operations was vested in the Secretary-General and that the operations were under the authority of the Security Council.

33. Mr. KERSTEIN (Yugoslavia) said that he had taken note of the Secretary-General's proposals concerning the support account for peace-keeping operations. With regard to the application of an average ratio of 8.5 per cent in calculating the amounts to be included in each of the budgets of peace-keeping operations, he shared the Advisory Committee's reservations concerning across-the-board percentages, which might not reflect the requirements of current or future peace-keeping operations. It was his understanding that the proposed percentage would be subject to review and adjustment, if necessary, after the first two years of its application. He was also confident that the criteria for the creation of all posts chargeable to the support account, as outlined in paragraph 16 of document A/45/493, would be fully observed.

34. With regard to the proposed reserve stock of equipment and supplies, he shared the view of ACABQ that its establishment might be beneficial, and that in many instances, its requirements could be met from the UNTAG reserve. He also agreed, however, that the Secretary-General should be urged to identify all possibilities for acquiring the necessary equipment through voluntary contributions and to report on the issue at the Advisory Committee's spring 1991 session.

35. The use of civilian personnel for peace-keeping operations was an interesting but complex question. Peace-keeping operations must be run according to United Nations rules under a single command structure. It was important, therefore, that Governments which were considering providing civilian personnel for peace-keeping operations should agree with the Secretariat on the political and administrative

(Mr. Kerstein, Yugoslavia)

implications of such participation. In view of the complexity of the arrangements for paying civilian personnel and their impact on the overall budgets of peace-keeping operations, he concurred with the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the policy and criteria of payment to civilian personnel and reimbursement of contributing countries should be kept under review. The Advisory Committee's views concerning the need to establish standard administrative procedures governing the provision of civilian personnel remained fully valid.

36. With regard to the rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing States, he could not understand why no increase had been proposed by the Secretary-General, and welcomed the Advisory Committee's recommendation of a 4 per cent increase, on the understanding that the rates would be kept under review.

37. Mr. OSELLA (Argentina) said that Argentina's commitment to peace-keeping operations was demonstrated by its contribution of troop contingents over the previous decades. His delegation believed that, when creating or extending an operation, the Security Council should set specific objectives for each mandate period, thereby enhancing the chances of the operation's success and dispelling the negative psychological impression which the automatic renewal of mandates produced on the parties to the conflict and the peace-keeping personnel as well. In the interests of efficiency, there should be a greater exchange of information on peace-keeping operations and a plan of appropriate co-ordination for decision-making, through more frequent and wide-ranging meetings between countries contributing troops or civilian personnel and the appropriate units of the Secretariat.

38. On the review of rates of reimbursement in document A/45/582, Argentina believed that the underlying principle should be equal payment to all troop-contributing countries, since the current system of uniform rates did not fully compensate all Governments for the expenditure they incurred in providing troops. The new rates should take into account the depreciation of the United States dollar and should be sensitive to the varying costs of training and maintaining military personnel in the countries concerned.

39. The proposed support account should be used to meet requirements arising in the pre-implementation stage of possible peace-keeping operations not provided for in the programme budget and should not be viewed as a kind of reserve fund for financing additional posts related to peace-keeping operations. The proposal had the merit of affording the Secretary-General needed flexibility in allocating resources and would promote a global approach to peace-keeping. The Secretariat should give more detailed information about how the account was to be used for operations financed from special accounts and for those financed with voluntary funds.

40. The establishment of a reserve stock would enable the Organization to take prompt action once a new operation had been authorized by the Security Council. The value and efficiency of the stock would be enhanced if the United Nations standardized its equipment, and the stock should not be confined to new articles as

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(Mr. Osella, Argentina)

the recycling of used materials would help reduce overall costs. Argentina agreed that the establishment of the reserve stock should be financed from the uncommitted balance remaining in the UNTAG account. The maintenance costs could only be dealt with, however, once a break-down of rental, transport, maintenance and administration expenses had been made.

41. Turning to the question of the use of civilian personnel in peace-keeping operations (A/45/502), he agreed that the political direction and administration of peace-keeping operations should be the responsibility of United Nations officials. Governments could contribute civilian personnel in various technical areas. In view of the increasing numbers of civilian personnel provided by Governments for peace-keeping operations, Argentina supported the idea of preparing an inventory of human resource requirements for peace-keeping operations, as it would assist States which did not contribute troops to become usefully involved. Civilian personnel provided by Governments would have no contractual relationship with the Organization but rather would have the status of experts on mission for the United Nations as defined in the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations. The criteria for their employment and for the reimbursement to personnel-contributing countries should be kept under constant review.

42. Drawing attention to the provisions of General Assembly resolution 3101 (XXVIII), which recognized the differing economic capacity of contributing countries, he stressed the need for the United Nations to remain sensitive to the changing world situation and to apportion the costs of its peace-keeping operations in an equitable manner among Member States.

43. Mr. SAVUA (Fiji) said that the changing power structure of the post-cold war world had rendered particularly timely the review of peace-keeping operations set in motion by the General Assembly at its forty-third session and had placed an increased obligation on all Member States to pay their financial assessments in full and on time. While Fiji accepted the Secretary-General's decision not to be deterred by the Organization's financial situation from setting up new peace-keeping operations, it stressed that careful consideration should also be given to the ability of personnel-contributing countries to sustain their continued involvement, which depended heavily on the prompt and full payment of assessments.

44. His delegation was disturbed by the retention of the 1980 rate of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries, despite international inflation of over 100 per cent. While Fiji welcomed the 4 per cent increase recommended by the Secretary-General in paragraph 13 of his report (A/45/582), it believed that an increase of at least 10 per cent would be more fair.

45. His delegation supported the proposal to establish a reserve stock of equipment to alleviate start-up problems, but warned that the dependence of such a venture on assessed contributions could be detrimental. The Advisory Committee's recommendation in paragraph 28 of its report (A/45/801) to fund the stock from the cash balance in the UNTAG account would only solve the problem of start-up costs and could make the reserve stock unduly expensive and burdensome to maintain.

(Mr. Savua, Fiji)

46. His delegation believed that the proposed support account for peace-keeping operations would provide much needed flexibility in planning and implementing new peace-keeping operations and would help finance professional expertise in managerial, legal, technical and administrative areas.

47. Mr. KIRUTTINAN (India) said, with reference to paragraph 4 of the Advisory Committee's report on administrative and budgetary aspects of peace-keeping operations (A/45/801), that the costs sustained by the troop contributors could be more realistically assessed by taking into account costs from a larger number of troop contributors over a longer period of time. For immediate purposes, however, India believed that the Committee should take a decision on the basis of the Secretary-General's report (A/45/582). In view of the increases in the average cost per person per month detailed in annex V to that report, the increase suggested in paragraph 13 of 4 per cent in the reimbursement rates should be approved by the General Assembly. Efforts should be made to persuade more Member States, particularly other developing countries with the necessary capacities, to contribute troops.

48. With regard to the question of overload posts outlined in paragraphs 8 and 13 of the Secretary-General's report on the support account for peace-keeping operations (A/45/493), his delegation believed that the account should comprise a mix of permanent and temporary posts in accordance with the changing requirements of the Organization and that the proposed average ratio to be applied in financing the account should be kept under review in the light of developments in the various peace-keeping operations.

49. Turning to the Secretary-General's report on the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of a reserve stock of equipment and supply items for United Nations peace-keeping activities (A/45/493/Add.1), he said that the concept of a reserve stock should be further examined by the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee in the context of the predictability and size of peace-keeping operations. The findings of such an examination would help Member States decide whether to allocate the required resources to the Secretary-General. India welcomed the start made in that regard with the centralized stockpiling of the residual equipment and supplies from the UNTAG operation.

50. While India agreed with the Secretary-General's conclusion, expressed in his report on the use of civilian personnel in peace-keeping operations (A/45/502), that the political direction and administration of peace-keeping operations must be performed by United Nations staff members, it supported the recommendation made by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 33 of its report (A/45/801) that the Secretary-General should request Member States to provide additional civilian personnel as the diversion of large numbers of United Nations personnel from existing jobs to peace-keeping functions could adversely affect the delivery of other programmes. In addition, the borrowing of additional civilian personnel from Member States would be cost-efficient.

(Mr. Kiruttinan, India)

51. The principle of recruitment on the basis of wide geographical distribution should also be followed, to ensure that developing countries with considerable expertise in the area were properly represented, and should also be applied in future recruitment for Field Service posts. India supported the Secretary-General's observations in paragraph 14 of his report regarding the reimbursement of costs for civilian personnel, for the developing countries would otherwise be hard put to participate in United Nations peace-keeping operations.

52. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America) said that his delegation was prepared to consider Canada's appeal for relief from the unfair burden that country shouldered as a result of its voluntary decision to contribute troops to United Nations peace-keeping operations. The United States Government's flexibility was limited, however, by the substantial burdens placed upon the American people by United States international defence commitments over nearly 50 years. He hoped that the emerging political order might ultimately enable the United States to give active support to the position advocated by Canada.

AGENDA ITEM 122: ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY CO-ORDINATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS WITH THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY
(continued) (A/45/798)

53. Mr. ANNAN (Controller) said that the question of support costs merited particular attention by the Committee. Referring to paragraph 3 of the Advisory Committee's report on the matter (A/45/798) and to United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Governing Council decision 90/26, which required the Administrator of the UNDP to report back to the Governing Council with specific proposals after close consultations with the agencies of the United Nations system, he noted that those consultations were in progress and agreements were yet to be reached on a number of key issues. Although specific areas still required clarification, it was already obvious that the decision had broad programmatic, financial and other implications for all the affected units of the United Nations Secretariat. He noted that any revision of the system of reimbursement of support costs, which had remained unaltered for ten years, would have to be approved by the General Assembly, for it alone had the power to determine the appropriate level of the subsidy from the regular budget of the United Nations in support of technical co-operation activities.

54. He pointed out that the term "Department of Technical Co-operation for Development", employed in decision 90/26, was understood by the Secretary-General to refer to all organizational units of the United Nations which implemented UNDP-funded technical co-operation activities. Those units were all part of the Secretariat of the United Nations and benefited from central executive management and central services. Governing Council decision 90/26 did allow initially for more flexible treatment of units of the Secretariat not included under the term in question.

(Mr. Annan)

55. With regard to support cost arrangements for other extrabudgetary funds, he noted that the current uniform rate of 13 per cent of expenditures would continue to apply to all trust funds until a uniform system of cost measurement was adopted. The United Nations was co-operating with the Administrator of UNDP in making arrangements for an independent survey of the cost of certain services required for such a cost measurement system, and the General Assembly would be informed of the outcome of the review in due course.

AGENDA ITEM 118: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1990-1991 (continued)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.73/Rev.1 concerning agenda item 12 (continued) (A/C.5/45/61)

56. Mr. MERIFIELD (Canada) said that he supported the position stated by Ireland at the previous meeting concerning the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.73/Rev.1 on the proposed World Conference on Human Rights. Also at the previous meeting, the United States delegation had suggested that the Conference should be funded from the contingency fund for the biennium 1992-1993. He wished to know whether that was the correct procedure.

57. Mrs. EMERSON (Portugal) said that she was quite satisfied with the answers provided by the Secretariat at the previous meeting. With regard to the United States suggestion just referred to by Canada, as she saw it, the Committee was going to recommend to the General Assembly that there should be no additional appropriations for 1991; as far as the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 was concerned, the Committee was going to indicate that a sum of \$1.5 million would be necessary and that that sum should be included in that budget.

58. Mr. SPAANS (Netherlands) said that he supported both the statement just made by Portugal and the statement made by Morocco at the previous meeting.

59. Mr. Y. K. GUPTA (India) said that the decision to be adopted by the Committee on the matter under consideration should indicate that the resources requested for activities relating to the Conference should be provided in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 41/213 and 42/211.

60. Mr. KALBITZER (Germany) said that he did not believe that the General Assembly could enter into a commitment at the current session concerning expenditures to be made in the forthcoming biennium. He would appreciate clarification in that connection. At the current session, the General Assembly could do no more than take note of the future expenditures.

61. Mr. ZAHID (Morocco) said that in preparing document A/C.5/45/61 the Secretariat should not have continued beyond paragraph 6. Once draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.73/Rev.1 had been adopted by the General Assembly, provision must be made for the activities in question in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. It was not necessary for the Secretariat first of all to obtain authorization from the Committee in order to reflect the probable financial implications of a given General Assembly resolution in the budget. Moreover,

(Mr. Zahid, Morocco)

in 1991 the General Assembly would have to adopt a decision on such implications when it considered the proposed programme budget. Morocco therefore believed that there should not be any debate on additional expenditures in connection with draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.73/Rev.1, particularly if there was agreement that no additional resources would be required for the biennium 1990-1991. The Committee should make a recommendation to that effect to the General Assembly. The financial implications of the activities resulting from the adoption of the draft resolution by the General Assembly must be reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, and the specific amount should be determined following the initial meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights in September 1991. At the current stage there was no need to bring up the issue of the contingency fund.

62. Mr. MONTHE (Cameroon), referring to paragraph 6 of document A/C.5/45/61, said that he wished to know what would happen if the number and distribution of meetings and conferences in the biennium 1990-1991 was in fact not consistent with the pattern of meetings in past years, and additional resources would therefore be required as a result of the adoption of the draft resolution under consideration. It was not clear how the Secretariat would meet the cost of holding the Preparatory Committee's session in 1991 in such an event.

63. In paragraph 8 of document A/C.5/45/61, a provision of \$1.5 million was proposed by the Secretary-General to cover such requirements as would arise out of the Preparatory Committee's first session. However, paragraph 8 must be considered in the light of paragraph 7 of draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.73/Rev.1. The draft resolution had very serious implications, all of which must be taken into consideration before the Committee could adopt a decision on the draft.

64. Mr. BAUDOT (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division), responding to the points raised by the representative of Cameroon, said that the Secretary-General's statement of programme budget implications dealt with conference-servicing costs in the standard manner.

65. Mr. MONTHE (Cameroon) said that he wished to know, in the context of the last two sentences of paragraph 6 of document A/C.5/45/61, how the Secretariat was going to obtain the amount of \$369,400, referred to in paragraph 4 of the same document.

66. Mr. BAUDOT (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division), responding to the comments made by the representative of Cameroon, suggested that, in the light of the discussion that had taken place in the Committee at the previous meeting, paragraph 7 of document A/C.5/45/61 should be ignored. Paragraph 6 of that document was essentially the same as the corresponding paragraph in any statement of programme budget implications. If \$369,400 proved to be too low, the General Assembly would have to take an appropriate decision on the matter, just as it would in connection with such sums in any other statement of programme budget implications.

67. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, on the basis of the statement of programme budget implications submitted by the Secretary-General in document A/C.5/45/61 and on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that should it adopt revised draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.73/Rev.1, as orally revised, no additional appropriations would be required for 1990-1991, and that an indicative provision should be included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 to meet such additional requirements and would be considered by the General Assembly in the light of decisions to be made by the Preparatory Committee at its session in September 1991. He further suggested that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that it endorsed the comments of the Advisory Committee in respect of operative paragraph 7 of draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.73/Rev.1 and paragraph 2 (f) of document A/C.5/45/61.

68. After a discussion in which Mr. MONTHE (Cameroon), Mr. Y. K. GUPTA (India), Mr. IRUMBA (Uganda) and Mr. ZAHID (Morocco) took part, Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee) said that the Fifth Committee might wish to consider adopting a three-part recommendation. First, it could inform the General Assembly that adoption of the draft resolution recommended by the Third Committee would not entail additional appropriations for the biennium 1990-1991. Second, it could inform the Assembly that the estimate for the Preparatory Committee and for the Conference in 1992-1993 would be considered by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session. Third, the Committee could take note of the Advisory Committee's observations, if it so wished. However, his relevant statement would be issued as an official document of the General Assembly at a later stage, together with all his other oral statements.

69. Mr. CONMY (Ireland), Mr. MONTHE (Cameroon) and Mr. IRUMBA (Uganda) endorsed the suggestion just made by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee.

70. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the suggestions just made by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee regarding the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.73/Rev.1.

71. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.