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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 21st MEETING

Chairman: Ms. MUSTONEN (Finland)
(Vice-Chairman)

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

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 117: REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL
FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 119: PROGRAMME PLANNING (continued)

Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (continued)

Major programme IV. International economic co-operation for development

Major programme V. International co-operation for social development

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

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/45/L.3 concerning agenda
item 29

Revised estimated under sections 3, 13, 27 and 31 and income section 1
(continued)

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In the absence of the Chairman, Ms. Mustonen (Finland),
Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 117: REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS (*continued*) (A/45/16 (Part I) and Add.1 and A/45/16 (Part II), A/45/226, A/45/370 and A/45/617)

1. Mr. OWONO MENGUELE (Cameroon) said that his delegation broadly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) contained in paragraphs 13-25 of document A/45/16 (Part I). It supported the Secretary-General's adjustments to the structures of the Secretariat in the political and administrative areas and believed that conditions were now propitious for similar action in the economic and social sectors. Care should, however, be taken to avoid the hasty elimination of any organ and to promote the process of decentralization, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/197, in particular by strengthening the regional commissions. In that connection, his delegation was following closely the Secretary-General's endeavours to make the Economic Commission for Africa more effective, looked forward to the Fifth Committee's consideration of measures recommended by the Secretary-General to strengthen that Commission's administrative structure and was also awaiting the Secretary-General's report on the strengthening of the Commission's language services. The timetable drawn up by the General Assembly for construction work at the headquarters of the regional commissions in Addis Ababa and Bangkok should be scrupulously observed.

2. While reserving the right to revert to personnel questions at a later stage, his delegation wished to emphasize, in connection with recommendation 15 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations (Group of 18), that staff reductions should be applied with flexibility in order to avoid any negative impact on programmes. Serious attention should also be devoted to the question of high-level posts, the representation of developing countries in such posts and the mandate of the Office for Human Resources Management (OHRM).

3. Member States must ensure that the Organization had sufficient resources to meet both its traditional and its new responsibilities. Although the new budget process was being applied in a generally satisfactory manner, his delegation fully agreed with CPC that the decision-making process must be governed by the provisions of the Charter and the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. The level of the contingency fund must also be adjusted to changing circumstances: given the new challenges faced by the Organization, that issue must receive fresh consideration at the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly. Meanwhile, extraordinary expenses, including those relating to fluctuations in rates of exchange and inflation, should continue to be treated in accordance with established procedures. There was a need to redefine what was constituted by unforeseen and extraordinary expenses.

(Mr. Owono Menguete, Cameroon)

4. The Secretary-General's generally positive assessment of the impact of General Assembly resolution 41/213 was to a large extent warranted. It was more or less possible to state that confidence had been restored in the Organization. Endeavours to restore the Organization's financial viability were as yet incomplete, further consideration being required of matters such as extrabudgetary resources, an equitable scale of assessments, the prompt and regular payment of contributions and management procedures. There had been considerable improvement in the system of programme planning, implementation and monitoring, although much remained to be done in the economic and social sectors. Reform, it must be remembered, was a continuous process: there was a need to consolidate progress already made, to find lasting solutions to existing deficiencies and to devise new instruments to enable the Organization to fulfil its vital tasks.

AGENDA ITEM 119: PROGRAMME PLANNING (continued) (A/45/6, A/45/16 (Part I) and Add.1 and A/45/16 (Part II), A/45/204, A/45/218 and Corr. 1 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, A/45/279 and A/45/617; A/C.5/45/CRP.1).

5. Mr. MONTHE (Cameroon) said that the introduction to the medium-term plan (A/45/6) should have included a clearer and more coherent assessment of major international problems. Its analysis of legislative mandates should have emphasized trends and reflected the principal priorities, while making clearer the individual contributions of different elements throughout the United Nations system. Its failure to do so appeared to be inconsistent with regulation 3.7 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation. The Secretary-General should in future ensure that the introduction fulfilled its purpose as an instrument for analysis, co-ordination and the establishment of major priorities. Notwithstanding those comments, his delegation supported the Secretary-General's policy orientations concerning the maintenance of international peace and security and economic and social development, as well as the related recommendations of CPC and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ).

6. Turning to the content of the plan itself, he said that the Secretary-General's failure to provide financial data appeared to be inconsistent with the pertinent regulations and should be remedied in future. His delegation also endorsed the Advisory Committee's criticisms of the plan, as contained in paragraph 12 of document A/45/617. Noting that the plan's new structure had had a negative impact on programmes, it urged that every effort be made to avoid further adverse effects in future revisions of the plan. The sectoral introductions of individual programmes should have included broader coverage of the problems and of the responsibilities of different bodies within the system. His delegation accorded particular importance and priority to programmes relating to the economic and social development of developing countries. In particular, it wished to emphasize those relating to the Economic Commission for Africa, apartheid, information and African economic recovery and development.

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(Mr. Monthe, Cameroon)

7. The link between the medium-term plan and the programme budget required careful examination, in accordance with the suggestions made by the Advisory Committee. The similarities in the two instruments' structures should be made clearer at both the programme element and output levels. There was also a need to ensure greater predictability of extrabudgetary resources, with a view to enhancing effectiveness, co-ordination and respect for the priorities established by the General Assembly. The Advisory Committee's comment in paragraph 14 of document A/45/617 was extremely relevant in that connection.

8. In conclusion, his delegation hoped that detailed consideration of individual programmes in the Fifth Committee, together with the pertinent recommendations of CPC and ACABQ, would lead to the adoption by the General Assembly of what constituted "the principal policy directive of the United Nations".

Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (continued)

Major programme IV. International economic co-operation for development

9. Mr. ABRASZEWSKI (Chairman of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination) said that CPC recommended approval of all the programmes contained under major programme IV, subject to the modifications, conclusions and recommendations contained in paragraphs 147 to 237 of document A/45/16 (Part I). Under programme 12, the Committee stressed that more emphasis should be given to the link between economic and social development and that the co-ordination of activities with other programmes, as well as with specialized agencies, was an essential element of the programme's implementation. It also recommended that the provisions of certain General Assembly resolutions should be adequately reflected in the relevant subprogrammes as mandates. Suggested modifications to the narrative of programme 12 were contained in paragraph 153.

10. Under programme 13, the major responsibility for implementation of which lay with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the International Trade Centre, the Committee recommended that high priority should be assigned to subprogrammes 1, 2 and 3. It also recommended that General Assembly resolution S-18/3 should be included in the legislative mandate of the relevant subprogrammes.

11. Under programme 14, it was recommended that subprogrammes 1 and 2 should be assigned high priority and that the latest relevant General Assembly resolutions should be included as legislative mandates for subprogrammes 1, 2 and 3. The Committee also stressed the need for close co-operation, in particular with the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, on issues related to debt.

12. Under programme 15, the Committee recommended the assignment of high priority to subprogramme 1 and noted that the subprogramme would be adjusted in the light of the results of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in 1990. It also noted that the part of subprogramme 2 concerning island developing countries should take into account the results of the forthcoming

(Mr. Abraszewski)

intergovernmental expert meeting scheduled for 1990 and the consideration of the question at the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly. A number of specific modifications to the narrative of programme 15 were contained in paragraph 175 of the CPC report.

13. Under programme 16, the Committee felt that recent mandates of the General Assembly should have been reflected. It stressed the provisional nature of the programme, which would have to be revised, as appropriate, in the light of the decisions to be taken by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992. It also stressed the close relationship between environment and development and emphasized the importance of co-operation and co-ordination within the United Nations system and within the international community as a whole for the implementation of programme 16. It recommended that subprogramme 13 should be renamed Global and regional co-operation, and should also be designated high priority. It felt that the issues of deforestation, drought and desertification should have been better highlighted and that the activities of the regional commissions in the area should have been specifically acknowledged.

14. With regard to programme 17, CPC recommended that the legislative mandates derived from the most recent General Assembly resolutions on the subject should be fully reflected in the programme. Under programme 18, subprogramme 5 concerning technical co-operation in population was recommended for high priority. In connection with programme 19, the Committee agreed that General Assembly resolution 44/228 should be included as legislative authority for subprogramme 2 and stressed the fact that the programme would need to be revised in the light of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992.

15. The Committee recommended that the relation between environment and energy should be emphasized throughout programme 20, and that co-ordination should be improved. It further recommended that high priority should be given to subprogramme 6, Development and transfer of technology for exploiting critical energy resources.

16. The Committee proposed some corrections to the narrative of programme 21 and emphasized the need to avoid programme overlap and to enhance co-ordination between the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Under programme 22, the Committee was of the view that the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 should be more fully reflected throughout the programme and recommended high priority for subprogramme 6, Infrastructure development and operation. With reference to programme 23, it considered that emphasis should be placed on the impact and role of transnational corporations in the context of environment and development, and recommended some amendments to the narrative. Lastly, with regard to programme 24, the Committee stressed the importance of the reliability, comparability and availability of statistical information and the need to maintain the central and intersectoral role of the Statistical Office.

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17. MR. ZVONKO (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that his delegation fully shared the conclusion of CPC contained in paragraph 188 of document A/45/16 (Part I). The fact that environmental issues constituted a major international problem had not been adequately reflected in the medium-term plan. There was almost no reference in the presentation of the corresponding programme to the effects on the environment of production and consumption patterns in the developed countries. His delegation therefore took note with satisfaction of the comments of CPC in paragraph 186 of its report and believed that programme 16 should duly reflect the new mandates of the General Assembly arising from resolutions adopted at its forty-fourth session, as well as any legislative provisions deriving from resolutions adopted during the current session.

18. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) proposed that, in view of the developing countries' critical debt problem which had been exacerbated by recent developments, subprogramme 3 of programme 12, concerning external debt and development, and subprogramme 2 of programme 14, concerning debt and development problems of developing countries, should be merged within a single programme. Referring to paragraph 12.42 of document A/45/6 concerning programme 12, he said that falling commodity prices and rising interest rates were not the only adverse external situations to have compounded the debt problem. He endorsed the proposed course of action of the Secretariat under both subprogrammes, but reminded the Committee that, at its previous session, it had authorized the sending of debt missions to developing countries and suggested that the Secretariat should base its research and analysis on their reports. His delegation also wished to see a larger number of such missions sent to investigate conditions in developing countries with a heavy external debt burden.

19. Mr. BENNETT (United States of America) said that the delicate and important balance achieved in the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation, adopted at the eighteenth special session, between the responsibilities of developing countries for their own development and the responsibilities of the industrialized countries to contribute to a supportive international economic environment appeared to have been lost in the introduction and relevant programmes of the medium-term plan. The acknowledgement in the Declaration of the existence of an internationally agreed strategy for addressing the debt problems of developing countries and the call for broad implementation of that strategy did not appear to have been reflected in the plan, particularly in the introduction, which passed premature judgement on the debt strategy and appeared to invite alternative solutions. His delegation could not endorse that view, nor the implied call for an operational role for the United Nations in that area.

20. The introduction also spoke of a United Nations role in supporting efforts to arrest and reverse the negative net transfer of resources from developing countries. In his view, capital flows responded essentially to economic conditions and policies in each country. The real solution for improving the balance of resources was therefore to create the necessary conditions within each country to attract the vast potential reserves of private capital.

(Mr. Bennett, United States)

21. His delegation recalled that, at the thirteenth session of CPC, it had entered a reservation (A/45/16 (Part I), para. 171) regarding activities contained in programme 15 relating to the economic and social development of Palestinians, in the belief that those programmes did not provide any real benefit to the Palestinian people. In that connection, he drew attention to the fact that his country was a major contributor to the UNDP development programme for Palestinians.

22. Mr. DANKWA (Ghana) said that he did not agree with the distinction drawn by the United States between peace and security, on the one hand, and co-operation for development, on the other. He therefore proposed that the title of major programme IV should be amended to read: "Maintenance of peace and security: international economic co-operation for development". He supported the proposal by the representative of the Philippines that due importance should be given to the debt problems of developing countries by merging the two subprogrammes relating to that issue.

23. It was irrelevant to maintain that resource flows merely followed the dictates of conditions and policies in each country. The point was that existing arrangements worked to the detriment of the majority of Member States and gave undue advantage to just a few. For the sake of equity, such arrangements should be adjusted, and debt and resource transfer issues should be properly addressed by the United Nations and reflected in the medium-term plan and all relevant programmes.

Major programme V. International co-operation for social development

24. Mr. ABRASZEWSKI (Chairman of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination) said that CPC recommended approval of the major programme subject to a number of amendments. It noted the close relationship between programme 25 and a number of other programmes in the medium-term plan, and accordingly stressed the need for increased co-ordination. With reference to programme 26, the Committee noted that no priority designation had been proposed among the three subprogrammes. It recommended approval of programme 27; paragraphs 249 and 250 of the report reflected the views of the Committee on that programme. It also recommended approval of programme 28, on international drug control, on the understanding that the programme was provisional and would be revised in accordance with the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation to reflect all recent mandates contained in the global programme of action adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session. It also recommended approval of programme 29, subject to one amendment.

25. Mr. DANKWA (Ghana) proposed, for reasons of consistency with his proposal concerning major programme IV, that the title of major programme V should be amended to read: "Maintenance of peace and security: international co-operation for social development".

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

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/45/L.3 concerning agenda item 29 (A/C.5/45/5 and Corr.1 and A/45/7/Add.4)

26. **Mr. MSELLE** (Chairman, Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the fifth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/45/7/Add.4), on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/45/L.3, concerning the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security, said that, on the basis of the assumptions outlined in paragraphs 4 to 16 of his statement (A/C.5/45/25 and Corr.1), the Secretary-General estimated that an additional non-recurrent appropriation of \$6,742,100 would be required under section 1 of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, with an additional appropriation of \$379,200 under section 31, which would be offset by the same amount under income section 1. In table 3 of the Secretary-General's statement, on staffing requirements in 1991, a total of 63 posts was proposed, including five additional temporary posts. As explained in paragraph 4 of its report, the Advisory Committee questioned the need for the proposed additional posts. In paragraph 7 of its report, the Advisory Committee reiterated its request that any future requests pertaining to resolutions and decisions on Afghanistan should clearly relate the resources requested to the objectives being implemented.

27. After considering the Secretary-General's statement and the additional information it had received, the Advisory Committee recommended an additional non-recurrent appropriation of \$6,150,000 under section 1 of the programme budget, with an additional appropriation of \$336,100 under section 31, to be offset by the same amount under income section 1.

28. **Mr. ETUKET** (Uganda) pointed out that, according to paragraph 14 of the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/45/25), the additional appropriation proposed for the biennium 1990-1991 could not be absorbed within existing appropriations. In the view of his delegation, the Committee needed more time to reflect on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/45/L.3 before it could take a decision.

29. **Mr. DANKWA** (Ghana) noted that the activities pertaining to Afghanistan were fully funded until the end of 1990 and pointed out that the proposed appropriations now under consideration related to 1991. Since the Committee had more urgent matters to consider at the present time, he proposed that it should continue its discussion of the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/45/L.3 at a later date.

30. **The CHAIRMAN** said that, if she heard no objection, she would take it that the Committee wished to postpone further discussion of the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/45/L.3 until the following day.

31. **It was so decided.**

Revised estimates under sections 3, 13, 27 and 31 and income section 1 (continued)
(A/C.5/45/2 and A/45/7/Add.2)

32. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America), referring to paragraph 40 (b) of the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/45/2) asked the Secretariat to justify the amount of \$275,000 for the acquisition of basic publications on Namibia. He wished to know, specifically, how many copies of each publication were to be produced and what was the estimated target readership.

33. Regarding the revised estimates under section 13, he wished to know how long it would be before the automation project for the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) was fully operational.

34. Mr. KANDJOZE (Namibia) said that General Assembly resolution 44/243, which had so gratifyingly signalled the completion by the United Nations Council for Namibia of its historic mission, had acknowledged the fact that there were still ongoing programmes and projects in Namibia, especially the Nationhood Programme and the individual scholarship programme. His delegation appealed to the members of the Committee to ensure that funds were made available to enable the young beneficiaries of those programmes, whose skills would provide an invaluable contribution to the reconstruction and development of Namibia, to pursue their studies. It was essential that, as in previous years, \$US 1.5 million should be set aside in the coming year from the General Account towards the completion of those programmes. Voluntary contributions were also needed and would be appreciated. His delegation also hoped that the United Nations Institute for Namibia would be wound down smoothly.

35. His Government welcomed the proposed establishment of an information centre in Namibia, as recommended by General Assembly resolution 44/50. Regarding final arrangements for the establishment of the centre, it should be borne in mind that the new Government had various challenges to meet and might therefore not be able to fulfil certain requirements.

36. It was his Government's wish that the unused funds originally set aside for a seminar on programme planning for the national reconstruction and development of Namibia should remain available. Arrangements were currently being made, within the context of the Government's priorities as put forward at the Donor Pledging Conference on Namibia in June 1990, to make the best utilization of such funds before the end of the year.

37. Mr. CHABALA (Zambia) said that it was important for the revised estimates under section 3C to take due account of the impact of Namibian independence and the implications of General Assembly resolution 44/243 A, which approved the continued implementation of a limited programme of activities for the biennium 1990-1991. Indeed, in view of Namibia's peculiar situation, it would have been more realistic for the Advisory Committee to base its recommendations on the assumption that such programmes should remain as mandated unless the Namibian Government indicated otherwise. The representative of Namibia had, in fact, just reaffirmed his Government's wish to maintain some of the programmes. It therefore seemed

(Mr. Chabala, Zambia)

premature for the Advisory Committee to recommend the deletion of the estimate of \$241,800 for a seminar on programme planning for the national reconstruction and development of Namibia.

38. The Advisory Committee was right to recommend the speedy redeployment of staff members of the Office of the United Nations Commissioner for Namibia by the end of 1990, but his delegation would welcome an assurance from the Secretariat that the deadline could be met and information about how the redeployment was to be carried out.

39. In paragraph 9, the Advisory Committee recommended that the comprehensive national census for Namibia should be carried out by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and if possible financed from outside the regular budget. Since the project was so important, it should preferably be financed from the regular budget.

40. On the question of United Nations grants, ACABQ seemed to endorse the Secretary-General's statement that the necessary additional amounts would be financed solely from voluntary contributions. His delegation believed that training programmes were so crucial to the new Namibian nation that they should all be funded from a sure source, namely, the regular budget. The programme in question was a mandated one and there should be no element of uncertainty about its funding.

41. The Advisory Committee's recommendations in paragraphs 14 and 15 concerning the Transitional Unit for Namibia were well founded. The Unit must be able to provide administrative backstopping to the Trust Committee for the Fund for Namibia. However, the question of the actual number of staff of the Unit should be taken up in the informal consultations.

42. With regard to section 3B, the Advisory Committee recommended that the functions of the Unit for Special Emergency Programmes of the Department for Special Political Questions, Regional Co-operation, Decolonization and Trusteeship should be reviewed. His delegation had no problem with that recommendation, but in paragraph 17 the Advisory Committee recommended the abolition of certain posts, some of which the Secretary-General had recommended should be attached to the Unit. It would have been more logical to await the outcome of the review of the Unit's functions before recommending the abolition of any posts. It was also important to bear in mind the special political character of the Unit; its functions were not the same as those of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) or other emergency relief agencies, as ACABQ suggested in paragraph 16.

43. ACABQ had reacted unfavourably to the request made by the Secretary-General in paragraphs 69 to 78 of his report for new posts for the Centre against Apartheid (section 3D). In paragraph 19, for example, with reference to the scholarship programme implemented under the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa, it noted that there was no indication that the number of scholarships had increased. However, the Advisory Committee for that Programme had

(Mr. Chabala, Zambia)

concluded that, in view of the changes in South Africa, the emphasis would shift to the provision of training for as many South Africans as possible both inside and outside the country, as opposed to training for refugees and exiles. The Secretary-General's request was therefore based on an expected increase in needs, not on the current number of scholarships.

44. With regard to public information (section 27), the Advisory Committee's favourable recommendation concerning a United Nations information centre in Namibia was well founded. However, the Fifth Committee needed a response from the Secretariat to the point raised by the representative of Uganda at the 18th meeting concerning the situation with regard to the opening of information centres. It must be remembered that Namibia was a special case: it had inherited only a rudimentary infrastructure from the colonial régime, and the new Government could not be expected to provide certain facilities taken for granted in other countries. ACABQ stated, in paragraph 24, that it had difficulty recognizing the effectiveness of holding briefings in December 1990 or early 1991, over nine months after Namibia's independence. However, as the Secretary-General indicated in paragraph 80 (a) of his report, the purpose of the briefings was to promote public awareness of the needs of the new nation. His delegation could not therefore agree with the ACABQ comment.

45. In contrast, it was happy to endorse the Advisory Committee's recommendation for approval of an additional appropriation under section 13 for office automation at ECA, since the Commission's ability to fulfil its mandate was indeed greatly hampered by the technical backwardness of its facilities. The project would enhance the capacity of ECA for technical backstopping and substantive servicing, as well as its pivotal role in the Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development. The work of the African delegations at United Nations Headquarters would also be enhanced, for they often received the documents adopted at Addis Ababa late simply because of processing delays.

46. Mr. ETUKET (Uganda), referring to paragraph 44 of the report of CPC on the second part of its thirtieth session (A/45/16 (Part II)), said that his delegation regretted that the Fifth Committee had not been able to benefit from the input on the revised estimates that CPC had been expected to provide.

47. In its resolution 44/243 A, the General Assembly had dissolved the United Nations Council for Namibia and approved the continued implementation of a limited programme of activities for the biennium 1990-1991. He noted that in paragraph 3 of its third report (A/45/7/Add.2), the Advisory Committee stated that the revised estimates were based on the assumption that a major component of the related activities would be completed by the end of 1990. Referring to the proposed seminar on programme planning for the national reconstruction and development of Namibia, he said that his delegation appreciated the difficult situation which the Government of Namibia was currently facing in the light of its new nationhood; perhaps the Advisory Committee could have taken that into account and have waited for a response from the Namibian Government as to whether it wished the seminar to be held or not. He hoped that the recommendation that the estimate of \$241,800 for

(Mr. Etuket, Uganda)

the seminar should be deleted would be pre-empted if the Government decided that it did indeed wish to hold the seminar. Paragraphs 5 to 7 of the report of the Advisory Committee, on the redeployment of staff of the Office of the United Nations Commissioner for Namibia should be considered in conjunction with paragraphs 18 to 21, on staffing of the Centre against Apartheid; General Assembly resolutions 44/201 B, and 44/243, also dealt with redeployment. His delegation would appreciate it if the Secretariat would provide as to whether there was a clear timetable for the redeployment mentioned in paragraph 5 of the report of the Advisory Committee (A/45/7/Add.2); whether such a schedule, if it existed, took into account General Assembly resolutions 44/201 and 44/243 and paragraph 44 of the report of CPC (A/45/16 (Part II)) concerning the priority to be accorded, inter alia, to the Centre against Apartheid and ECA; and whether it could give some assurance that the redeployment would be carried out before the end of 1990, especially in the light of the need to avoid a deterioration of staff morale.

48. He wished to draw attention to paragraph 69 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/45/2), which stressed the fact that the process of change that appeared to have started in South Africa made the work of the Centre against Apartheid more complex and demanding than in the past, and paragraph 71, which stressed the need to strengthen the Centre against Apartheid. Those observations of the Secretary-General should be taken very seriously. His delegation realized that the issue was very sensitive politically; it was still too early to tell whether the developments inside South Africa were truly irreversible. It was all the more important, therefore, to strengthen the Centre and enable it to monitor and assess developments in South Africa objectively.

49. Noting that the independent evaluation of the scholarship programme under the United Nations Education and Training Programme for Southern Africa, had shown that there was a need for more related staff (A/C.5/45/2, para. 72), he said that his delegation endorsed the proposal, as well as the proposal concerning the staffing of the Centre against Apartheid mentioned in paragraph 18 of the report of the Advisory Committee (A/45/7/Add.2). The Fifth Committee should not take a decision on the matter until further in-depth informal consultations had been held. With regard to the preparation of a comprehensive national census for Namibia, mentioned in paragraph 8 of the report of the Advisory Committee, he said that his delegation supported the statement made by the representative of Namibia on that question, as well as the observations made by the representative of Zambia. The Secretary-General should continue his efforts to mobilize resources in order that UNFPA might be ready to carry out the census when the Government of Namibia requested it. The Secretary-General should ensure that adequate resources were provided for that purpose, even if that meant taking resources from the regular budget.

50. With regard to the question of United Nations grants, he said that his delegation wished to stress the humanitarian nature of the request to support those students who were currently struggling with their studies with a view to assisting the Government of Namibia in its future efforts for development. His delegation endorsed the comments that had been made in that regard by the representatives of

(Mr. Etuket, Uganda)

Venezuela and Zambia. It would not be appropriate to establish a linkage between the humanitarian support for Namibian students and the question of the liquidation of the residual obligations of the Institute for Namibia.

51. His delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's proposal to establish the Transitional Unit for Namibia, which should be able to accomplish the orderly implementation of all programmes and activities currently financed from the Fund for Namibia. In that regard, he noted the observations in paragraphs 53 to 57 of the report of the Secretary-General, but felt that the Secretariat should provide more comprehensive information on the workload of the proposed unit.

52. With regard to section 27, he said that his delegation was particularly interested in the setting up of an information centre in Windhoek. He wished to reiterate his request for more detailed information from the Secretariat; specifically, he would appreciate it if the Department of Public Information would indicate exactly what was being requested from the Government of Namibia in order for the information centre to be opened. His delegation also wanted to know what the Secretariat, for its part, would be providing to facilitate the establishment of the Centre. In resolution 44/50, the General Assembly had been very explicit in directing that an information centre should be established in Namibia, and it would therefore be unfortunate if there was an attempt to introduce certain conditions in order to inhibit its speedy opening. He would appreciate it if the Secretariat would provide comprehensive information, possibly in the form of a conference room paper, on previous practice regarding the establishment of information centres, in particular, he would like to know what had been the contributions of the host Government in each case and whether such a contribution had been a condition for the opening of the centre or merely a voluntary contribution on the part of the Government. Such information would be helpful not only in the case of the information centre in Namibia, but also in future situations.

53. With regard to section 13, he said that his delegation endorsed the recommendations of the Advisory Committee set forth in paragraphs 26 to 29 of its report. The question of ECA was one on which the General Assembly had approved many mandates; it seemed that the problem was how fast and to what extent those mandates were implemented.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.