



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 31st MEETING

Chairman: Mr. FONTAINE-ORTIZ (Cuba)

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

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 111: PROGRAMME PLANNING (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 18: APPOINTMENTS TO FILL VACANCIES IN SUBSIDIARY ORGANS AND OTHER APPOINTMENTS:

- (d) CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE INVESTMENTS COMMITTEE
- (e) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL
- (i) APPOINTMENT OF ONE ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS STAFF PENSION COMMITTEE
- (a) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS
- (b) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTIONS
- (c) APPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF AUDITORS

*This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned within one week of the date of publication to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate fascicle for each Committee.

Distr. GENERAL
A/C.5/41/SR.31
4 December 1986
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

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

AGENDA ITEM 111: PROGRAMME PLANNING (continued) (A/37/6 Add.3; A/41/6 and Add.1, A/41/38 and Corr.2, A/41/226, A/41/318 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, A/41/670)

1. Mr. GAMA FIGUEIRA (Brazil) said that the mandate of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) should be reviewed in order to reflect any new responsibilities it might be assigned in the context of decisions or resolutions which the General Assembly might take on the recommendations of the Group of Experts. Its role vis-à-vis the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and its role as a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council would also have to be clearly defined. A matter for immediate consideration would be the number and length of the sessions which CPC would have to hold in order to carry out all the functions it had to perform, for the scheme set out in resolution 1984/61 C of the Economic and Social Council was no longer adequate.
2. CPC was right to adopt a broader view of its tasks as stated in paragraph 32 of its report (A/41/38). His delegation would, however, appreciate receiving information concerning the element of timeliness referred to in paragraph 32 (d), for it might result in very little progress being achieved in controversial or sensitive activities even if they were in line with the objectives and purposes of the Charter.
3. CPC had itself acknowledged that co-operation between it and ACABQ should be strengthened (para. 44). Such strengthening would be very useful for the reports requested from the Secretary-General on the redeployment of posts among departments (para. 35). When considering programme implementation, CPC could draw the attention of the Secretary-General to any shortcomings it might find and thus enable ACABQ to consider personnel management objectively. According to paragraph 38 of the report, CPC's mandate was to examine the totality of the Secretary-General's work programme. In the view of his delegation, that must be interpreted in the light of regulation 4.8 of the regulations and rules governing programme planning and the programme aspects of the budget, thus ACABQ's functions, as set forth in rule 153 and 157 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, would be fully respected. Furthermore, CPC should be able to examine the programme implications of draft resolutions while ACABQ continued to examine the administrative and budgetary implications of individual programmes and activities.
4. Turning to the recommendation contained in paragraph 66 of the report, his delegation expressed strong reservations with regard to the idea of empowering the Board of Auditors to carry out programme, administration and management audits, in addition to its financial functions, for that would necessitate engaging the services of consulting firms and would thus be in direct contradiction to the effort to reduce expenditure on consultants.
5. With regard to programme delivery, CPC had recalled that the outputs designated as having the highest priority should have an implementation rate close

(Mr. Gama Figueira, Brazil)

to 100 per cent, and the Group of Experts had concluded (A/41/49, para. 61) that it was important to rectify the deficiencies in the priority-setting mechanism. His delegation had therefore been surprised to see, from paragraph 39 of CPC's report, that CPC seemed to be content with the present far-from-satisfactory situation. It appeared from annexes I and II of document A/41/318 that the rate of programme delivery for the biennium 1984-1985 had been approximately 82 per cent, which was an improvement over the preceding biennium. However, the level of output delivery of 86 to 87 per cent for the highest priority programmes seemed quite low when compared with that of programmes whose priority was low. In any event, he wondered how accurate the percentages of 81 to 82 per cent really were when the contributions actually paid up in the same biennium covered only 77 per cent of the programmed expenditures and when the rate of vacant posts had remained high. CPC must therefore review the current priority-setting system and the General Assembly, for its part, should establish an effective mechanism for setting the level of the budget in order to make the United Nations more efficient and less subject to financial crisis.

6. Mr. VAHER (Canada) pointed out that many of the findings and recommendations in the report of CPC (A/41/38), were closely linked to the recommendations of the Group of High Level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations. So far as efficiency was concerned, his delegation was pleased to note that CPC had been able to curtail its twenty-sixth session by one week in accordance with General Assembly decision 40/472 while at the same time completing examination of its priority tasks relating to programme and co-ordination.

7. His delegation supported all the conclusions and recommendations dealing with the improvement of the work of CPC. It was particularly pleased at the proposals which addressed zero base budget reviews of budget sections where resources allocated were disproportionate to outputs, clearer correspondence between the programme budget and the medium-term plan, independence of the CPC secretariat, improved evaluation of programmes and efficiency of delivery, priority setting and greater co-ordination within the United Nations system, including improvement of cross-organizational programme analyses. The Main Committees should give greater attention to the findings of CPC and procedures, Secretariat services and documentation should all be improved.

8. His delegation, however, regretted that in many cases CPC's recommendations were not sufficiently clear and specific. When considering the report of the Group of Experts, several delegations had noted that CPC had a theoretical mandate that far exceeded its de facto role. Reconciliation of CPC's actual role and its mandate required clear guidelines and instructions.

9. With respect to programme questions, his delegation was pleased with the efforts to improve the usefulness of programme performance reports and to improve programme implementation rates, particularly those of several regional commissions, the Department of Public Information and certain outputs designated as having the highest priority. None the less, conclusions and recommendations resulting from

(Mr. Vaher, Canada)

in-depth evaluations were useful only if they resulted in action; clearly action did not always follow since there was sometimes a gap of five years between the time a recommendation was made and the time follow-up action was reviewed.

10. The proposed revisions to the medium-term plan reflected agreement among members of CPC; his delegation was of the view that the competent intergovernmental body should participate more in such revisions. The regulations and rules governing programme planning, the programme aspects of the budget, the monitoring of implementation and the methods of evaluation were clear on the role of those bodies in the original formulation of the plan, but they were vague when it came to the two revision cycles to which the plan was subject. It would be possible for example to provide for participation of the presidents of intergovernmental bodies at CPC meetings where the medium-term plan was to be considered. The Main Committees also had a responsibility to express their views on the matters within their jurisdiction.

AGENDA ITEM 18: APPOINTMENT TO FILL VACANCIES IN SUBSIDIARY ORGANS AND OTHER APPOINTMENTS

(d) CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE INVESTMENTS COMMITTEE
(A/41/104, A/C.5/41/4)

11. The CHAIRMAN recalled that, as the Secretary-General had indicated in document A/41/104, the General Assembly would have to confirm the appointment by the Secretary-General of persons to fill existing vacancies in the Investments Committee. In another note (A/C.5/41/4) the Secretary-General had indicated that, in accordance with the provisions of article 20 of the Regulations of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, after consultation with the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, he was submitting for confirmation the reappointment of Messrs. Montague, Ultramare and Omaboe, as members of the Investments Committee for a three-year term of office beginning on 1 January 1987.

12. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to recommend that the General Assembly confirm the appointment of those three candidates.

13. It was so decided.

(e) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL
(A/41/105; A/C.5/41/44)

14. The CHAIRMAN said that the General Assembly was required to appoint two persons to fill vacancies in the Administrative Tribunal for a term beginning on 1 January 1987. As indicated in document A/C.5/41/44, Mr. Ackerman (United States of America) and Mr. Kean (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) had been nominated by their respective Governments. Since the number of candidates

/...

(The Chairman)

corresponded to the number of vacancies, he suggested that the Fifth Committee should dispense with a ballot.

15. It was so decided.

16. Mr. MUDHO (Kenya) asked whether it was usual for the candidates to be nationals of the same countries as the members whose terms were expiring.

17. Mr. DUQUE (Secretary of the Committee) said that it was a pure coincidence. The vacancies had been announced several months earlier in document A/41/105, but no country, other than the two Member States in question, had nominated candidates.

18. Mr. MAJOLI (Italy) confirmed that it was for Member States to nominate candidates who had the support of the regional groups.

19. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Fifth Committee wished to recommend to the General Assembly that Mr. Ackerman and Mr. Kean should be appointed as members of the Administrative Tribunal for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1987.

20. It was so decided.

(i) APPOINTMENT OF ONE ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS STAFF PENSION COMMITTEE (A/41/245; A/C.5/41/46)

21. The CHAIRMAN said that, in document A/C.5/41/46, the Secretary-General had informed the General Assembly that Mr. Holborn (Federal Republic of Germany) had resigned as alternate member of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee. The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany had nominated Mr. Kalbitzer as an alternate member for the unexpired portion of the term, which ran until 31 December 1988. Since there was only one candidate, he suggested that the Fifth Committee should dispense with a ballot.

22. It was so decided.

23. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Fifth Committee wished to recommend to the General Assembly that Mr. Kalbitzer should be appointed as alternate member of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee for a two-year term beginning on 1 January 1987.

24. It was so decided.

(a) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS (A/41/101 and Add.2; A/C.5/41/41)

25. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Fifth Committee should first take a decision on the candidates who had received the endorsement of their regional groups, and then proceed to a secret ballot in those cases in which the number of candidates exceeded the number of vacancies.

26. It was so decided.

27. The CHAIRMAN said that the Secretary-General indicated in document A/41/101 that the General Assembly was required to appoint six persons to fill vacancies in the membership of the Advisory Committee for terms beginning on 31 December 1986. Further, since Mr. Holborn had resigned from the membership of the Advisory Committee (A/41/101/Add.2), the General Assembly would also be required to appoint a person to fill the unexpired portion of his term of office, until 31 December 1987.

28. In document A/C.5/41/41, the Secretary-General gave the names of seven candidates nominated by their respective Governments for the six vacancies that would arise on 1 January 1987, together with the name of a replacement for Mr. Holborn. The Group of Asian States supported the following candidates: Mr. Ma Longde (China), Mr. Roy (India) and Mr. Takasu (Japan). The Group of Latin American and Caribbean States supported the candidature of Mr. Figueira (Brazil) and the Group of Western European and other States that of Mr. Kalbitzer (Federal Republic of Germany) to complete Mr. Holborn's term of office.

29. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Fifth Committee wished to recommend to the General Assembly that Mr. Figueira, Mr. Ma Longde, Mr. Roy and Mr. Takasu should be appointed as members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for a three-year term of office beginning on 1 January 1987, and that Mr. Kalbitzer should be so appointed for a one-year term beginning on 1 February 1987.

30. It was so decided.

31. The CHAIRMAN said that three candidates had been nominated for the two other vacancies: Mr. Brochard (France), Mr. Murray (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) and Ms. Mustoner (Finland). Since the number of candidates exceeded the number of vacancies the Committee was required to vote by secret ballot.

32. At the invitation of the Chairman, the representatives of the German Democratic Republic, Guatemala, Saudi Arabia and Sierra Leone acted as tellers.

33. A vote was taken by secret ballot.

<u>Number of ballot papers:</u>	153
<u>Invalid ballots:</u>	0
<u>Number of valid ballots:</u>	153
<u>Abstentions:</u>	0
<u>Number of members voting:</u>	153
<u>Required majority:</u>	77

Number of votes obtained:

Mr. Brochard:	75
Mr. Murray:	75
Ms. Mustonen:	129

34. Ms. Mustonen (Finland) having obtained the required majority, the Committee decided to recommend her appointment as a member of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1987.

35. The CHAIRMAN, noting that two candidates had received an equal number of votes, invited the Committee to vote on the candidates for the second vacancy on ACABQ.

36. At the invitation of the Chairman, the representatives of the German Democratic Republic, Guatemala, Saudi Arabia and Sierra Leone acted as tellers.

37. A vote was taken by secret ballot.

<u>Number of ballot papers:</u>	154
<u>Invalid ballots:</u>	1
<u>Number of valid ballots:</u>	153
<u>Abstentions:</u>	10
<u>Number of members voting:</u>	143
<u>Required majority:</u>	72
<u>Number of votes obtained:</u>	
Mr. Murray:	70
Mr. Brochard:	73

38. Mr. Brochard (France) having obtained the required majority, the Committee decided to recommend his appointment as a member of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1987.

(b) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTIONS (A/41/102 and Add.1 and 2; A/C.5/41/42)

39. The CHAIRMAN said that, in accordance with rules 158 and 159 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the terms of office of six members of the

(The Chairman)

Committee on Contributions would expire on 31 December 1986. Further, as indicated in documents A/41/102/Add.1 and Add.2, Mr. Castillo Ayale (Mexico) and Mr. Chistyakov (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) had resigned from membership of the Committee. Accordingly, it was necessary to appoint replacements for the unexpired portions of their terms of office, which ran until 31 December 1987.

40. In document A/C.5/41/42, the Secretary-General had communicated the names of eight candidates nominated by their respective Governments to fill the six vacancies with effect from 1 January 1987, and to complete the terms of office of the two members who had resigned. The African Group, the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States and the Group of Eastern European States were supporting the candidates from their respective regions, the number of candidates being equal to the vacancies corresponding to those groups.

41. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Assembly that Mr. Bagbeni (Zaire) and Mr. Sirry (Egypt) should be appointed as members of the Committee on Contributions for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1987, and that Mr. Kovalev (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) and Mr. Marin Bosch (Mexico) should be so appointed to complete the unexpired terms of office.

42. It was so decided.

43. The CHAIRMAN said that, as indicated in document A/C.5/41/42, there were three candidates for the two posts corresponding to the Group of Western European and other States, namely, Mr. Fernández Maroto (Spain), Mr. Joseph (Australia) and Mr. Rallis (Greece). The Committee was required to elect two of the three candidates.

44. At the invitation of the Chairman, the representatives of Japan, Oman, Rwanda and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic acted as tellers.

45. A vote was taken by secret ballot.

<u>Number of ballot papers:</u>	155
<u>Invalid ballots:</u>	0
<u>Number of valid ballots:</u>	155
<u>Abstentions:</u>	0
<u>Number of members voting:</u>	155
<u>Required majority:</u>	78

Number of votes obtained:

Mr. Fernández Maroto:	80
Mr. Joseph:	101
Mr. Rallis:	108

46. Mr. Rallis (Greece) and Mr. Joseph (Australia) having obtained the required majority, the Committee decided to recommend their appointment as members of the Committee on Contributions for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1987.

47. The CHAIRMAN said that there were three candidates from the Latin American States for the two posts corresponding to the Group: Mr. Bivero García (Venezuela), Mr. Molteni (Argentina) and Mr. Saboia (Brazil). The Committee would thus vote by secret ballot.

48. At the invitation of the Chairman, the representatives of Japan, Oman, Rwanda and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic acted as tellers.

49. A vote was taken by secret ballot.

<u>Number of ballot papers:</u>	148
<u>Invalid ballots:</u>	1
<u>Number of valid ballots:</u>	147
<u>Abstentions:</u>	1
<u>Number of members voting:</u>	146
<u>Required majority:</u>	74
<u>Number of votes obtained:</u>	
Mr. Bivero García:	108
Mr. Molteni:	94
Mr. Saboia:	87

50. Mr. Bivero García (Venezuela) and Mr. Molteni (Argentina) having obtained the required majority, the Committee decided to recommend their appointment as members of the Committee on Contributions for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1987.

(c) APPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF AUDITORS (A/41/103; A/C.5/41/43)

51. The CHAIRMAN said that the term of office of the Chairman of the Commission of Audit of the Philippines would expire on 30 June 1987 and that it would be

/...

(The Chairman)

necessary to appoint in his stead the Auditor-General (or an official holding the equivalent title) of a Member State. As indicated in document A/C.5/41/43, the Comptroller and Auditor-General of Bangladesh, the Auditor-General of Pakistan and the Chairman of the Commission of Audit of the Philippines had been nominated by their respective Governments.

52. Mr. SUKAYRI (Jordan), speaking on behalf of the Group of Asian States, said that the candidacy of the Auditor-General of Pakistan had been withdrawn.

53. At the invitation of the Chairman, the representatives of Algeria, Hungary, Ireland and Panama acted as tellers.

54. A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers: 154

Invalid ballots: 1

Number of valid ballots: 153

Abstentions: 1

Number of members voting: 152

Required majority: 77

Number of votes obtained:

The Comptroller and Auditor-General of Bangladesh: 71

The Chairman of the Commission of Audit of the
Philippines: 81

55. The Chairman of the Commission of Audit of the Philippines having obtained the required majority, the Committee decided to recommend his appointment as a member of the Board of Auditors for a three-year term beginning on 1 July 1987.

The meeting rose at 1.30 p.m.