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ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY CO-ORDINATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS WITH
THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Oleg PASHKEVICH (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic)

1. The Fifth Committee considered the subject of administrative and budgetary co-ordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency at its 1536th, 1537th, 1540th, 1541st, 1544th and 1545th meetings, held from 27 November to 7 December 1972.
2. For its consideration of this item, the Committee had before it the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/8874) dealing with general co-ordination matters and with the budgets of the specialized agencies for 1973, and a report of the Secretary-General on the study of the methods of financing by the International Atomic Energy Agency of certain meetings and conferences of the Agency held away from headquarters (A/C.5/1482).
3. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions presented the report of the Advisory Committee (A/8874) to the Committee at its 1536th meeting. At the 1541st meeting, the Assistant Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs commented on some of the observations made by the Advisory Committee in its report, and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee responded to various questions raised by delegations during the discussion of this item.
4. One of the issues which was of some concern to delegations taking part in the discussion of this item was the question of budgetary presentation of overhead costs. In paragraphs 30 to 32 of its report (A/8874), the Advisory Committee, commenting on the incomparability of budget levels and budgetary presentation among the organizations in the United Nations system, observed that the most striking

example was provided by the differences in the approach of the organizations to the budgetary treatment of the overhead costs for executing projects financed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Some delegations observed that this question was also of concern to countries participating in UNDP projects and concurred in the view expressed by the Advisory Committee that the necessary interagency consultative machinery for arriving at a common approach to this problem already existed.

5. One delegation, commenting on the question of the lack of co-ordination in budgetary practices throughout the United Nations system with regard to dealing with variations in exchange rates and inflation, stated that, although the suggestions for a solution to the problem outlined by the Advisory Committee (A/8874, para. 29) would be acceptable, they were, in its view, subject to some serious reservations.

6. Another delegation suggested that a co-ordinating body, patterned after the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, be set up in each of the regions serviced by the United Nations regional economic commissions. The body would consist of representatives of specialized agencies and would be under the chairmanship of the executive secretary of the relevant regional economic commission. Other delegations supported the suggestion and, in response to a question raised by one delegation, the representative of the Secretary-General informed the Committee that should such bodies be established, there would be no appreciable financial implication involved for the United Nations if their meetings were to be held at the headquarters of the regional economic commissions.

7. Some delegations suggested that more time and consideration than had been given in the past to the very important and complex subject of co-ordination be allotted to it at future sessions of the Fifth Committee, particularly in the alternate years when the Committee would not be required to consider a new biennial programme budget.

8. At the 1544th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, commenting on the report of the Secretary-General on the study of the methods of financing by the International Atomic Energy Agency of certain meetings and conferences of the Agency held away from headquarters, stated that the Advisory Committee considered that, on balance, the Secretary-General's proposal (A/C.5/1482, para. 14) that

the information set out in the report be referred to the Joint Inspection Unit for its use in its review of the pattern of conferences was a reasonable one, and the Committee was prepared to endorse it.

9. The various other comments made by delegations in the course of discussion are reflected in the summary records of the relevant meetings of the Committee.

DECISIONS OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

10. At its 1541st meeting, the Committee decided, without objection to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft resolution appearing in paragraph 11 below.

11. The Committee also decided, at its 1545th meeting, to recommend to the General Assembly that it approve the suggestion of the Secretary-General, contained in paragraph 14 of his report (A/C.5/1482), that the information set out in that report be referred to the Joint Inspection Unit for its use in its review of the pattern of conferences.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

12. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Administrative and budgetary co-ordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency

The General Assembly

1. Takes note of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on administrative and budgetary co-ordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency: ^{1/}

2. Requests the Secretary-General to refer the report, as well as the comments made in the Fifth Committee on this subject, to the executive heads of the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency, through the consultative machinery of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, and to the members of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination for their information and comments, and also to the members of the Board of Auditors and the Joint Inspection Unit for their information.