



# United Nations

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Items 11, 32, 39 and 59 of the agenda

### CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

#### Report of the Joint Second and Third Committee and the Fifth Committee, meeting jointly

Rapporteur: Dr. Maria Z. N. WITTEVEEN (Netherlands)

1. The General Assembly, at its 224th meeting held on 22 September 1949, decided to refer the following items for consideration in joint meetings of the Joint Second and Third Committee and the Fifth Committee:
  - Item 11 - Report of the Economic and Social Council (Chapter V);
  - Item 32 - Action taken in pursuance of the agreements between the United Nations and the specialized agencies: report of the Economic and Social Council;
  - Item 39 - Budget estimates for the financial year 1950, (b) Reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, in so far as they relate to the specialized agencies;
  - Item 59 - Problem of the proliferation and overlapping of the programmes of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies: item proposed by Brazil.
2. Following upon the suggestion of the President of the General Assembly (A/C.2&3/L.1) that the chairmanship of the joint meetings should be decided upon by mutual arrangement between the Chairmen of the Second, Third and Fifth Committees, it was agreed by the three Chairmen concerned that the joint meetings would be presided over by the Chairman of the Second Committee, Mr. Hernán Santa Cruz (Chile).
3. The joint meetings were held on 5, 7 and 8 November 1949 (40th, 41st, 42nd and 43rd meetings of the Joint Second and Third Committee; 217th, 218th, 219th and 220th meetings of the Fifth Committee).
4. At their first meeting the Committees, on the proposal of the representative of Greece, supported by the representatives of Brazil and India, elected as Rapporteur Dr. Maria Z. N. Witteveen (Netherlands), Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee.

/s. With respect

5. With respect to the order of discussion, the Committees accepted the suggestion of the Chairman (A/C.2&3/L.5 - A/C.5/L.24) that, in view of the close relationship between the items under consideration and of the fact that much of the documentation was common to all of them, the Committees should first proceed to a general discussion on co-ordination, based on all the documents listed for these items, and should then discuss items 39, 32, 59 and 11 in that order, and consider the relevant draft resolutions.

6. In the course of the general discussion which took place at the meeting held on 5 November, several members voiced the opinion that, although considerable progress had already been made with regard to the administrative and budgetary aspects of the co-ordination of the activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, much remained to be done to establish effective policy and programme co-ordination of international organizations. It was felt that this was one of the most important problems confronting the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, which should not restrict themselves to preventing duplication and overlapping of the activities of these organizations, but should also promote those activities and the establishment of an order of priority for present and future tasks. It should, however, be borne in mind that the Governments themselves, as the initiators of the programmes of international organizations, should first co-ordinate their own policy in the United Nations and the various agencies. Member States, it was suggested, should refrain from proposing new projects other than those which they considered to be both urgent and indispensable and they should ensure that, within each organization, priority was accorded to the most essential projects. Concern was expressed at the constantly growing number of international activities, which entailed an increase in the number of meetings held and documents issued. It was pointed out that there were already signs that the resulting burdens, financial and otherwise, were becoming too heavy for Member States, and it was felt imperative that a more efficient organization of the activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies should be achieved and the financial burden upon Members reduced.

7. It was recognized that some progress in the field of policy and programme co-ordination had been made in the past year and, with respect to some concrete problems such as technical assistance, the fellowship programme and migration, it was pointed out that co-ordination had been achieved.

8. Several members stressed the importance of the work of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, which had resulted in increased personal contacts between the administrative heads of the various organizations. That Committee had greatly contributed to the progress as regards administrative and

budgetary co-ordination that could be noted, although even in those fields there was still much room for improvement.

9. Various representatives expressed their opinion on problems such as the standardization of budget reports, the desirability of all agencies meeting the date-line for submission of their budgets or budget estimates to the Secretary-General, a common panel of external auditors, comparability of the basis of scales of assessments, and the possibility of financing part of the expenses of the organizations by means of soft currencies. In connexion with the question of arrears in the collection of contributions, which in one instance had created a precarious financial situation, it was pointed out that budget estimates for implementing programmes should not be drawn up before the funds necessary for such implementation were assured; if necessary, programmes of expenditure should be periodically reviewed by the agencies with a view to their adjustment in the light of receipts.

10. Remarks were also made concerning the subject of possible improvements in the agreements between the United Nations and the specialized agencies and the question of the location of headquarters.

11. In the course of the general discussion, the representatives of Brazil, New Zealand, Australia and the United States of America introduced draft resolutions with respect to the various agenda items. Remarks made in connexion with these proposals are mentioned in the respective parts of the present report.

#### BUDGETS OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES FOR 1950 (ITEM 39)

12. The Committees considered this item at meetings held on 5 and 7 November, and had before them the following documents:

Information Annex IV to the United Nations Budget Estimates for the financial year 1950 (A/903/Add.1);

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: second and sixth reports of 1949 to the General Assembly (A/934, paragraphs 266-273, and A/1005);

Report of the Economic and Social Council (A/972, paragraph 397);

Draft resolution submitted by the United States of America (A/C.2&3/L.3 - A/C.5/L.22);

Draft resolution submitted by Australia (A/C.2&3/L.7 - A/C.5/L.25, subsequently amended by Belgium, and reproduced as A/C.2&3/L.7/Rev.1 - A/C.5/L.25/Rev.1);

Draft resolution submitted by Australia (A/C.2&3/L.8 - A/C.5/L.26).

13. The draft resolution of the United States of America was based upon the recommendations made by the Advisory Committee on the subject of administrative and budgetary co-ordination. In the course of the general discussion, the representative of the United States of America had already drawn

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attention to these matters and in particular to the importance of common standards of service - including the joint pension scheme - for personnel of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies, and of uniformity in budget reports. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions stated the views of that Committee on the subject and explained the recommendations it had submitted. He added that, in order to co-ordinate the work of the United Nations with that of the specialized agencies, an agreement should first be reached on desirable administrative and financial aims. In order to do so, Member States should make sure that their representatives followed the same policy on the same questions in the United Nations and in the specialized agencies. The Advisory Committee had for some years past set forth and defended the views expounded by the representative of Brazil in submitting during the general discussion the draft resolution proposed by his delegation (A/1012). The initiative taken by the Brazilian delegation was a valuable encouragement for the Advisory Committee.

14. A brief discussion then took place and the representative of the United States of America accepted an amendment suggested by the representative of Australia to the paragraph of the United States draft resolution which requested the Secretary-General and the heads of the specialized agencies to review arrangements for reserve and working capital funds in the agencies. The object of the amendment was to include in that study the purposes and conditions for the use of the various funds. The Committees, concurring in the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, then unanimously adopted the amended draft resolution.

15. In connexion with agenda item 39, several delegations had, during the general discussion, expressed their concern about the collection of contributions by specialized agencies. At the request of the representative of Norway, a special paper (A/C.2&3/L.10 - A/C.5/L.28) had been prepared by the Secretary-General which indicated that four specialized agencies showed arrears of more than 15 per cent on 1948 assessments at the end of that financial year. In one case these arrears were such as to lead the organization concerned to express doubts concerning its ability to repay the balance, due in July 1950, of a loan received from the United Nations. The representative of the agency concerned stated that his organization recognized that certain assessments might not be collected and gave the assurance that its officials were watching expenditures accordingly.

16. The representative of Australia presented a draft resolution (A/C.2&3/L.8 - A/C.5/L.26) recommending to the specialized agencies that they should keep their expenditure each year within the amount of funds reasonably expected to be received during that year, and that the programme of expenditure should be periodically reviewed during the year so that, if necessary, it could be

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adjusted to keep it within the total receipts. It was pointed out that application of the proposal might avoid the necessity of calling for additional contributions from countries which had already paid their share. Some delegations, while agreeing with the intention of the draft resolution, felt that its wording might have the effect of giving Member States an opportunity of exercising an indirect veto over an agency's programme and that it might encourage default in payments rather than improve the situation it was intended to remedy. This was also the opinion of the Advisory Committee which, as was stated by its Chairman, felt that the aim of the Australian proposal might be achieved without passing a resolution.

17. The representative of Australia accepted amendments to his proposal suggested by the representatives of the United States and the United Kingdom to ensure that sufficient flexibility would remain for the competent organs of the specialized agencies, and that receipts expected within a reasonable time after the close of a financial year could be taken into consideration. The draft resolution, thus amended, was adopted by 31 votes to 2, with 15 abstentions.

18. Referring to the divergencies between the contributions of Member States to the different specialized agencies, the representative of Australia expressed the opinion that the various scales should be on a comparable basis and suggested that the specialized agencies might consult the United Nations Committee on Contributions. In this connexion he submitted a draft resolution (A/C.2&3/L.7 - A/C.5/L.25) which was discussed extensively. The Chairman of the Committee on Contributions pointed to the legal questions raised by this proposal, the exact meaning and precise scope of which did not seem clear, and drew attention to the technical and other difficulties connected with its implementation. The representative of the Secretary-General indicated the Secretary-General's willingness to give the specialized agencies any assistance or information requested which he might be in a position to supply, such as information on national incomes similar to that given to the Committee on Contributions.

19. Several members shared the opinion of the Australian delegation that the scales of assessments for the specialized agencies should be drawn up, as far as possible, on the basis of principles similar to those on which the United Nations scale is based. Other delegations were not convinced that the same principles should apply in all international organizations and recalled the reasons for different bases for the scales of the various agencies. Furthermore, on account of differing membership, scales would not be comparable even if based on the same criteria. One delegation doubted whether the proposal was in keeping with the relationship between the United Nations and the specialized /agencies as

agencies as defined by the Charter and by the agreements with the agencies. Another member felt that the question whether the Committee on Contributions could make recommendations to any body other than the United Nations was open to doubt.

20. The Australian representative revised his proposal in the light of an amendment suggested by the representative of Belgium recognizing that in so far as the scales of agencies are based on principles similar to those on which the United Nations scale is based, the same data should be utilized by the appropriate bodies for the assessment of contributions. The first paragraph of the original text was replaced by another introducing the concept that the relationship between the scales of the United Nations and the specialized agencies should be closer.

21. On being put to the vote, the first two paragraphs of the amended Australian draft resolution were adopted by 37 votes to 1, with 11 abstentions. It was agreed, by 32 votes to 3 with 15 abstentions, that the United Nations Committee on Contributions should be authorized to recommend or advise on scales of contributions if so requested by a specialized agency and that the Secretary-General should be requested to inform the agencies that the Committee on Contributions is available to perform that task. The draft resolution as a whole was adopted by 34 votes to 2, with 15 abstentions.

22. It was recalled that the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had been unable to obtain the budget estimates of one of the agencies in time for review on behalf of the General Assembly, and regret was voiced that not all agencies had complied with the request of the General Assembly to submit their budgets or budget estimates to the Secretary-General before 1 July. The representative of the organization in question explained some of the difficulties resulting from the reorganization of that agency and assured the Committees that it would make every effort to co-operate with the United Nations in this matter.

23. In connexion with the recommendation concerning the joint system of audit, a number of delegations noted with satisfaction the progress made in this field by the United Nations and the majority of the specialized agencies. Several members and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee stressed the importance of co-operation in this matter, pointing out the arguments in favour of governmental auditors and of the joint panel of auditors.\* It was, therefore, to be regretted that one of the organizations, for reasons which were explained to the Committees by its representative, had decided not to participate in the joint system but to continue employing a commercial firm to audit its accounts. The hope was expressed that the organization would reconsider the matter in the near future.

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\* See A/1076.

ACTION TAKEN IN PURSUANCE OF THE AGREEMENTS  
BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES (ITEM 32)

24. The Committees examined this item at a meeting held on 7 November, and had before them the following documents:

Report of the Economic and Social Council (A/972);

Note by the Secretary-General (A/995, E/1317);

Report of the Secretary-General (A/1029);

Draft resolution submitted by New Zealand (A/C.2&3/L.4 - A/C.5/L.23) and a Polish amendment thereto A/C.2&3/L.9 - A/C.5/L.27).

25. A brief discussion took place on the draft resolution submitted by the representative of New Zealand concerning the question of a revision of agreements between the United Nations and the specialized agencies. Although there was general agreement that no measures need be taken at the present session of the General Assembly for revision of the agreements, there was divergence of opinion as to the desirability of requesting the Economic and Social Council to submit a separate report on this subject to the next regular session of the Assembly. After the representative of New Zealand had accepted two drafting changes suggested by the representative of the United States, the proposal was put to the vote in two parts, the first part consisting of the entire resolution except for the last phrase of the last paragraph. This part was adopted unanimously. The second part, consisting of the words "...and requests the Economic and Social Council to submit a report on this subject to the next session of the General Assembly...." was adopted by 22 votes to 10, with 18 abstentions.

26. Before voting on the New Zealand proposal, the Committees discussed the amendment by Poland expressing "the desirability of the headquarters of the specialized agencies being situated in Europe", to be inserted in the last phrase of the proposal after the word "subject". The purpose of this amendment was to remove a tendency which, in the opinion of the Polish delegation, was apparent both from the Secretary-General's report (E/1317) and from that of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/1005). Although the Secretary-General had stated in his report under the heading "Quarters and Regional Offices" that the Negotiating Committee had realized the advantage of centralization, it would appear, however, from the Secretary-General's comments that the centralization he had in mind was that which would take place at the United Nations Headquarters. Some members felt that the amendment as such was out of order: if the principle involved were to be discussed, it should be the subject of a separate debate. The Chairman ruled that it was well within the scope of item 32 under discussion by the Committee.

27. On the substance of the Polish amendment, there were three main points of view: (a) that there should be centralization, but centralization in Europe; (b) that there should be geographical dispersal of the headquarters of the specialized agencies; (c) that the headquarters of some of the specialized agencies should be at the permanent seat of the United Nations in New York in accordance with the principle endorsed by the Economic and Social Council at its ninth session (resolution 259(IX), Annex, Chapter IV, paragraph 7), while others should be centralized at Geneva. Several members stressed that the specialized agencies should be free to make their own choice.

28. The representative of the Secretary-General explained that the Secretary-General had felt bound to point out at the ninth session of the Economic and Social Council that, while there might be special or other overriding considerations determining the choice of headquarters of specialized agencies, it would present very substantial advantages, from the point of view both of overall administrative efficiency and economy, and of satisfactory co-ordination of work programmes, if some of the agencies could be located at the seat of the United Nations. The Council had approved that conclusion. On grounds of economy, the Secretary-General was in favour of concentration and that consideration applied to centralization either in Geneva or in New York. As to the specific point of the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization, the agreement between that agency and the United Nations stipulated that the permanent headquarters of that organization would be situated at the permanent seat of the United Nations provided that certain conditions, particularly in respect of the facilities which could be offered at that seat, were fulfilled. It was for this reason that the Secretary-General had made an offer to the Food and Agriculture Organization, which, it was hoped, would meet those conditions.

29. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee explained that that Committee, basing itself exclusively on budgetary and administrative considerations, had expressed the view, when it examined the budget estimates of the Food and Agriculture Organization, that the location of the headquarters of that organization at the United Nations site would have important long-run advantages. The Advisory Committee had never taken any decision of principle on the matter of the location of headquarters; it had only expressed itself in favour of centralization because such a decision would reduce general expenditure and ensure better co-ordination.



30. Before the Polish amendment was put to the vote, the representative of Poland expressed the hope that, whatever the fate of the amendment, the Secretary-General would bear in mind the views expressed during the debate it had occasioned and would publish a report showing the need to centralize the specialized agencies for the sake of economy and co-ordination. The amendment of Poland was rejected by 32 votes to 6, with 3 abstentions.

31. After the rejection of the Polish amendment and the adoption of the two parts of the New Zealand proposal as described in paragraph 25 above, the draft resolution was put to the vote as a whole and unanimously adopted.

#### PROBLEM OF THE PROLIFERATION AND OVERLAPPING OF THE

#### PROGRAMMES OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES (ITEM 59)

32. The Committees considered this item at its meetings held on 7 and 8 November, and had before them the following documents:

Request for the inclusion of the item: Note by the Secretary-General (A/947);

Draft resolution submitted by Brazil (A/1012 and a United Kingdom amendment thereto (A/C.2&3/L.2), which were subsequently replaced by a joint draft resolution presented by the two delegations (A/C.2&3/L.11-A/C.5/L.29).

33. The general discussion on the agenda items before the Committees had been opened by the representative of Brazil who presented the draft resolution of his delegation concerning the problem of the proliferation and overlapping of the programmes of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. That proposal was intended to ensure the orderly and efficient development of the activities of the international organizations while reducing the financial burden placed upon Member States.

34. In the course of the general discussion, several representatives had expressed their satisfaction at the initiative taken by the Brazilian delegation. When the matter was considered in detail, many members stated their agreement with the analysis of the problem made in the draft resolution and with the objectives which the Brazilian delegation had in view. Some representatives, however, were of the opinion that the amendment submitted by the delegation of the United Kingdom also had great merits and provided an even better method for remedying the situation, while other members expressed the hope that the texts could be combined.

35. Certain delegations emphasized that if any measures were to be effective in curbing the process of proliferation of activities, a full and detailed study of all the facts must be available to Member States. Other members stressed that the major responsibility must be with the Member States which

actually took the decisions in the organs of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, and they further pointed out that the studies proposed in the Brazilian draft resolution, as it stood, would impose a heavy burden of extra work on the United Nations and on the specialized agencies, and that the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination was already at work on the problem of priorities, on which the Economic and Social Council had requested a report.

36. One representative called attention to the arrears in contributions to the various specialized agencies, which indicated that the agencies imposed too heavy obligations on Member States. He felt that priorities must be established not only in the programme of a given specialized agency, but also among the specialized agencies, and that this task must be performed at a central point, i.e., by the United Nations through the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. He suggested that a report on the methods employed by Governments to co-ordinate their policies in the international organizations would be of value.

37. The representative of the Secretary-General stated that following upon resolution 259(IX) of the Economic and Social Council, the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination was studying the question of priorities, as were the competent organs of the specialized agencies. Although the Secretary-General and the executive heads of the specialized agencies, were ready to assist fully in achieving the purposes of the Brazilian draft resolution, it was doubtful whether the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination could make any far-reaching proposals in reply to the considerations of the first operative paragraph of that draft resolution; responsibility for deciding on specific measures to be taken in individual cases lay with the specialized agencies themselves. As to the second operative paragraph, it would be possible for the United Nations to give information on the cost and duration of some, but not all, projects in the Catalogue of Economic and Social Projects. Some of the specialized agencies, however, did not make up their budgets on a project basis and might therefore find difficulty in supplying the information requested.

38. Following the first part of the discussion, the delegations of Brazil and the United Kingdom submitted a joint draft resolution combining the essential features of both the original proposal and the amendment.

39. The representative of the United Kingdom pointed out that his delegation's acceptance of paragraph 5 of the joint draft resolution in no way detracted from its view that the responsibility for priorities in the work of the specialized agencies rested primarily and essentially with the

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executive bodies and conferences of the specialized agencies. In its opinion the most that the Economic and Social Council could do in this respect was to indicate a limited number of fields of activity which, in its view, were of top priority and a less limited number of fields of activity with low priority.

40. The representative of Brazil, explaining the details of the new proposal, stated that in his opinion the Economic and Social Council in reviewing the Catalogue would have a four-fold task, viz, to review the projects of the agencies, including their own determination of the priorities made through their governing bodies, to determine categories of priorities applying to groups of projects, to indicate marginal projects or marginal fields of activity in which resources could be saved and to indicate, if possible, special fields or special projects to which preferential treatment should be given. The text of paragraph 5 made it clear that the function of the Economic and Social Council would be to review the Catalogue in terms of priorities rather than to discuss and evaluate each individual project.

41. Two delegations considered a most important task of the Council to be the establishment of over-all priorities to which the United Nations and the specialized agencies would be asked to adapt their programmes. Another delegation stressed the importance of reviewing projects at an early stage and interpreted the words "as may be available" in paragraph 4 of the joint draft resolution to mean the collation of information already available, and as not involving a large amount of additional work.

42. The joint draft resolution, with certain drafting changes, was adopted unanimously.

#### REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (CHAPTER V)

##### (ITEM 11)

43. The Committees considered this item at the meeting held on 8 November and had before them the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/972).

44. The Committee considered that points requiring action had already been adequately covered by the resolutions already adopted concerning budgetary and administrative co-ordination. It was therefore decided formally to recommend that the General Assembly should take note of chapter V of the report, its decision to form part of a general resolution on the report of the Economic and Social Council as a whole.

45. As a result of the discussions, the Joint Second and Third Committee and the Fifth Committee recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

I

ACTION TAKEN IN PURSUANCE OF THE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE  
UNITED NATIONS AND THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES: REPORT  
OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

The General Assembly,

Noting the report on action taken in pursuance of the agreements between the United Nations and the specialized agencies, transmitted to it by the Economic and Social Council in response to the instruction given by the General Assembly in its resolution 50 (I);

Noting the recommendation made by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 259 (IX) C;

Decides to take no measures at this session for revision of the agreements with the specialized agencies and requests the Economic and Social Council to submit a report on this subject to the next session of the General Assembly.

II

PROBLEM OF THE PROLIFERATION AND OVERLAPPING OF THE PROGRAMMES  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

The General Assembly,

Considering that the proliferation of activities and the multiplicity of projects and programmes may impair the effectiveness of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, impeding the necessary concentration on projects and programmes of primary importance,

Considering, further, that the resulting excessive number of sessions and meetings, as well as the creation of subsidiary organs, is placing a severe burden on the technical and personnel resources of Member States, rendering difficult an adequate participation and representation of their Governments in international work,

Noting with concern that the majority of Member States are encountering increasing difficulties in meeting the contributions and other indirect expenses incidental to their membership in the various international organizations,

Bearing in mind that the co-ordination of the increasing activities of the international organizations already constitutes a very complex problem, which would be further aggravated by a too rapid growth of those activities,

Considering the desirability of concentrating the limited technical, administrative and financial resources of Member States for the effective implementation of projects already approved or under consideration, which cover a wide variety of fields, and of limiting new initiatives, in so far as possible, to those which are of an urgent nature or deemed necessary to achieve the objectives of plans already initiated,

Resolves therefore

1. To urge Member States to refrain from initiating new projects other than those which are urgently required and which can be effectively carried out;

2. To draw the attention of the competent organs of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies to the recommendations contained in the annex to resolution 259 (IX) of the Economic and Social Council with special attention to paragraph 2 relating to a greater concentration of effort and available resources;

3. To request the Secretary-General, through the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, to assist the Economic and Social Council in the discharge of its responsibility in this regard by putting before it any relevant recommendations;

/4. To request

4. To request the Secretary-General to supplement the Catalogue of Economic and Social Projects with such information on costs and duration of projects described therein as may be available;

5. To request the Economic and Social Council to review the Catalogue referred to above in terms of categories of priorities and to report thereon to the fifth regular session of the General Assembly;

6. To commend the Economic and Social Council for the initial action it has taken looking toward the termination, absorption and integration of certain inter-governmental organizations and the establishment of relationships between other such organizations and the United Nations or the specialized agencies, and to urge the Members of the United Nations concerned to take such action as may be necessary to give effect to the recommendations of the Council; and further

7. To request the Council to pursue its work on this matter with a view to simplifying the structure of the inter-governmental organizations and reducing the over-all cost of participation therein.

III

BUDGETS OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES FOR 1950

A

The General Assembly,

Having reviewed the sixth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the budgets of the specialized agencies for 1950 (A/1005);

Requests the several specialized agencies and the several organs of the United Nations to give continued attention to the relative urgency and productivity of each of their projects, with a view to obtaining the best results from the budget expenditures of the United Nations, ILO, UNESCO, FAO, ICAO, WHO, IRO, ITU and UPU;

Requests the specialized agencies and the United Nations to give continuing attention to a reduction in the total number of meetings and to strive towards a balanced over-all meeting calendar to facilitate programme and budgetary co-ordination;

Draws the attention of Member States of the United Nations and the specialized agencies to the necessity for prompt payment of contributions to assure the adequate financing of budgets approved by them;

Requests the Secretary-General and the heads of the specialized agencies to review the arrangements of the agencies as to their reserve funds, including the adequacy of the existing funds and simplicity of arrangements, and the purposes and conditions for the use of these funds; and to study methods for maximum utilization of soft currencies for the financing of expenditures;

Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and the heads of the specialized agencies to intensify their efforts to achieve a common form of budget, giving particular attention to common definitions of administrative and operational expenses, to the quality of budget justification and to methods for showing estimates of reimbursement for services rendered;

Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and the heads of the specialized agencies to continue further their studies of the organization of administrative and financial services and the standards of conference services, in order to achieve a maximum of economy and efficiency;

Urges the specialized agencies not already participating in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Scheme to take the necessary steps to this end; and to adhere to the joint system of external audit approved by a majority of specialized agencies through the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination;

Requests

Requests the specialized agencies to supply the Secretary-General of the United Nations with appropriate information concerning total assessments under the 1950 budgets by 1 December 1949 in order that complete information may be sent to all Governments by the beginning of the new fiscal year.

B

The General Assembly,

Believing that there is room for closer relationship between the assessments of Member States in the contributions both of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies;

Recognizes that, to the extent that the contributions of Members of the specialized agencies are assessed in accordance with principles similar to those on which the contributions of Members of the United Nations are based, it is desirable that the same data should be utilized for the assessment of those contributions;

Authorizes the Committee on Contributions to recommend or advise on the scale of contributions for a specialized agency if requested by that agency to do so; and

Requests the Secretary-General to inform each agency that the Committee is available to perform this service.

C

The General Assembly,

Having examined the administrative budgets of the specialized agencies in accordance with Article 17 (3) of the Charter,

Notes with concern that, since some contributions are in arrears, the expenditure of certain agencies considerably exceeds the funds reasonably expected to be received during the year,

Recommends to each specialized agency that it keep its expenditure each year from its regular budget within the amount of funds reasonably expected to be received in respect of that year, and that the programme of expenditure be reviewed periodically during the year so that, if necessary, it can be adjusted to keep it, as far as possible, within the limits of the anticipated annual receipts; and

Requests that this recommendation be brought to the attention of the next meeting of the governing body and of the Assembly of each specialized agency.