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Agenda item 108

PROGRAMME PLANNING

Report of the Fifth Committee

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1991, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its forty-sixth session the item entitled:

"Programme planning:

"(a) Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination;

"(b) Reports of the Secretary-General"

and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered agenda item 108 in conjunction with item 107 (Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993) at its 5th, 9th to 17th, 19th to 23rd, 25th, 27th, 29th, 41st, 47th and 53rd meetings on 10, 15, 17, 18, 21, 23, 25 and 28 to 31 October, 1, 4 to 8, 11 and 25 November and 9 and 16 December respectively. Comments made in the course of discussion of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/46/SR.5, 9 to 17, 19 to 23, 25, 27, 29, 41, 47 and 53).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Fifth Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its thirty-first session (A/46/16); 1/

(b) Programme budget implications arising from the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (A/46/16/Add.1); 2/

(c) Report of the Economic and Social Council (A/46/3); 3/

(d) Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993; 4/

(e) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993; 5/

(f) Medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997: Reformulated Programme 21. Public administration and finance (A/46/330 and Corr.1);

(g) Report of the Secretary-General on the methodology for monitoring and reporting the programme performance of the United Nations (A/46/173);

(h) Report of the Secretary-General on the review of the procedures for the provision of statements of programme budget implications and for the use and operation of the contingency fund (A/46/170).

II. CONSIDERATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION ON THE PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

Section 1. Overall policy-making, direction and coordination

4. At its 17th meeting, on 30 October, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 1 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraphs 56 to 60 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (A/46/16).

1/ To be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/46/16).

2/ To be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 16A (A/46/16/Add.1).

3/ To be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/46/3/Rev.1).

4/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/46/6/Rev.1).

5/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/46/7).

Section 2. Good offices and peace making; peace-keeping; research and the collection of information

5. At its 41st meeting, on 25 November, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 2 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraphs 77 to 79 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (A/46/16).

Section 3. Political and Security Council affairs

6. At its 17th meeting, on 30 October, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 3 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraphs 85 and 86 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (A/46/16).

Section 4. Political and General Assembly affairs and Secretariat services

7. At its 17th meeting, on 30 October, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 4 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraphs 94 to 97 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (A/46/16).

Section 5. Disarmament

8. At its 19th meeting, on 31 October, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 5 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraph 107 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (A/46/16).

Section 6. Special political questions; regional cooperation; trusteeship and decolonization

9. At its 47th meeting, on 25 November, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 6 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraphs 115 to 118 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (A/46/16).

Section 7. Elimination of apartheid

10. At its 20th meeting, on 1 November, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 7 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraph 123 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (A/46/16).

Section 8. International Court of Justice

11. At its 20th meeting, on 1 November, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 8 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraphs 127 and 128 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (A/46/16).

Section 9. Legal activities

12. At its 20th meeting, on 1 November, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 9 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraph 136 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (A/46/16).

Section 10. Law of the sea and ocean affairs

13. At its 20th meeting, on 1 November, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 10 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraph 145 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (A/46/16).

Section 11A. Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation

14. At its 21st meeting, on 4 November, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 11A of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraphs 155 to 186 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (A/46/16).

Section 11B. World Food Council

15. At its 21st meeting, on 4 November, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 11B of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraphs 190 to 192 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (A/46/16).

Section 11C. United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

16. At its 21st meeting, on 4 November, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 11C of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraphs 200 to 202 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (A/46/16).

Section 11D. Regional Commissions New York Office

17. At its 21st meeting, on 4 November, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 11D of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraph 207 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (A/46/16).

Section 12. Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation

18. At its 21st meeting, on 4 November, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 12 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraphs 216 and 217 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (A/46/16).

Section 13. Department of International Economic and Social Affairs

19. At its 21st meeting, on 4 November, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 13 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraphs 229 to 231 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (A/46/16).

Section 14. Department of Technical Cooperation for Development

20. At its 22nd meeting, on 5 November, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 14 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraph 238 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (A/46/16).

Section 15. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

21. At its 22nd meeting, on 5 November, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 15 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraphs 247 to 248 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (A/46/16).

Section 16. International Trade Centre

22. At its 22nd meeting, on 5 November, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 16 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraphs 253 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (A/46/16).

Section 17. United Nations Environment Programme

23. At its 22nd meeting, on 5 November, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 17 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraphs 260 to 265 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (A/46/16).

Section 18. Centre for Science and Technology for Development

24. At its 23rd meeting, on 6 November, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 18 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraph 270 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (A/46/16).

Section 19. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements

25. At its 23rd meeting, on 6 November, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 19 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraphs 276 to 277 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (A/46/16).

Section 20. United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations

26. At its 23rd meeting, on 6 November, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 20 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraph 285 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (A/46/16).

Section 21. Social development and humanitarian affairs

27. At its 23rd meeting, on 6 November, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 21 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraphs 294 and 295 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (A/46/16).

Section 22. International drug control

28. At its 25th meeting, on 7 November, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 22 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraphs 301 and 302 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (A/46/16).

Section 23. Economic Commission for Africa

29. At its 25th meeting, on 7 November, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 23 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraphs 310 to 314 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (A/46/16).

Section 24. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

30. At its 27th meeting, on 8 November, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 24 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraphs 323 to 326 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (A/46/16).

Section 25. Economic Commission for Europe

31. At its 27th meeting, on 8 November, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 25 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraph 334 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (A/46/16).

Section 26. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

32. At its 27th meeting, on 8 November, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 26 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraphs 338 and 339 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (A/46/16).

Section 27. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

33. At its 27th meeting, on 8 November, the Committee took note of the conclusions regarding section 27 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraph 342 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (A/46/16).

Section 28. Human rights

34. At its 27th meeting, on 8 November, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 28 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraph 350 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (A/46/16).

**Section 29A. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner
for Refugees**

35. At its 29th meeting, on 11 November, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 29A of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraph 354 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (A/46/16).

**Section 29B. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for
Palestine Refugees in the Near East**

36. At its 29th meeting, on 11 November, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 29B of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraphs 359 and 360 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (A/46/16).

Section 30. Disaster relief operations

37. At its 29th meeting, on 11 November, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 30 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraphs 366 to 369 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (A/46/16).

Section 31. Department of Public Information

38. At its 29th meeting, on 11 November, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 31 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraphs 387 to 391 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (A/46/16).

III. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.5/46/L.8

39. At the 53rd meeting, on 16 December, M. El Hassane Zahid (Morocco) introduced draft resolution A/C.5/46/L.8, which had been elaborated following informal consultations.

40. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/46/L.8 without a vote (see para. 41).

IV. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

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

Programme planning

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 37/234 of 21 December 1982, 41/213 of 19 December 1986, 42/211 of 21 December 1987, 43/219 of 21 December 1988, 44/194 and 44/200 B of 21 December 1989 and 45/253 of 21 December 1990, and taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/67 of 26 July 1991,

Having considered the oral report of the Chairman of the Fifth Committee on the review of the reformulated programme 21 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 6/ by the Second Committee, 7/

Having considered the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its thirty-first session 8/ and the relevant parts of the report of the Economic and Social Council for 1991, 9/

Having considered also the relevant parts of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, 10/

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the methodology for monitoring and reporting the programme performance of the United Nations 11/ and on the review of the procedures for the provision of statements of programme budget implications and for the use and operation of the contingency fund, 12/

Taking into account the comments and observations made in the Fifth Committee concerning programme planning, 13/

6/ A/46/330 and Corr.1.

7/ A/C.5/46/SR.12 and 29 and A/C.2/46/SR.32.

8/ A/46/16 and Add.1.

9/ A/46/3.

10/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/46/7).

11/ A/46/173.

12/ A/46/170.

13/ A/C.5/46/SR.5 to 47.

I

MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997

Approves programme 21, Public administration and finance, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 as reformulated by the Secretary-General; 6/

II

CONSULTATIONS WITH INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES DURING THE PLANNING, PROGRAMMING AND BUDGETING PROCESS

1. Notes with concern that, for most sections of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, programmes of work had not been reviewed by intergovernmental bodies;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to institutionalize the consultative process with Member States on the medium-term plan, or its revisions, and the programmes of work to be included in the proposed programme budgets and to use, when necessary, ad hoc mechanisms to ensure that relevant intergovernmental bodies undertake their review in a timely manner;

3. Invites the functional, sectoral, regional and central reviewing bodies to improve the quality of their review of the relevant planning and programme documents submitted to them;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the quality of the proposals submitted to those bodies as well as their timeliness and the procedure of their submission be improved so as to facilitate the review mentioned in paragraph 3 above;

III

PRIORITIES

1. Stresses the importance of priority-setting as an integral part of the planning, programming and budgeting process;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to make every effort with a view to ensuring that all relevant entities and bodies set and apply priorities 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;

3. Also requests the Secretary-General to keep under review the regulations and rules on priorities, in particular those at the level of activities and outputs, during the implementation of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 and the use of the contingency fund;

IV

STATEMENTS OF PROGRAMME BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

1. Reiterates the need to implement fully the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 44/200 B;
2. Invites the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures to enhance general awareness of the budgetary process in the Organization and, in this connection, to inform special conferences convened under United Nations auspices of the budgetary implications of their draft resolutions, recommendations and decisions;
3. Requests the Secretary-General to improve the programmatic content of the statements of programme budget implications and to propose in such statements or revised estimates alternative solutions for carrying out new activities, as required by resolutions 41/213 and 42/211;
4. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its forty-eighth session, through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Committee for Programme and Coordination, at its thirty-third session, a report on the review of the procedures for the provision of statements of programme budget implications and for the use and operation of the contingency fund, taking into account in particular the above-mentioned requests;

V

PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE MONITORING

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the methodology for monitoring and reporting the programme performance of the United Nations; 11/
2. Endorses the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-first session 8/ and of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the above-mentioned report; 10/

VI

COORDINATION

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Administrative Committee on Coordination for the improvement it made to its annual overview report for 1990, in particular through the new report on programmes and resources of the United Nations system; 14/

2. Reaffirms the importance of coordination in the United Nations system and the central role of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, under the leadership of the Secretary-General, in ensuring greater complementarity and compatibility of the activities and programmes of the United Nations system;

3. Endorses the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, at its thirty-first session, on the annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1990;

4. Requests the Administrative Committee on Coordination to pursue its efforts to improve its annual reports, taking into account the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-first session;

VII

PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION

Requests the Committee for Programme and Coordination to review its programme of work in the light of Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/67 and to make suggestions on the timing and duration of its sessions;

VIII

OTHER CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Approves those other conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-first session which have not otherwise been approved by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.
