



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 22nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. AMNEUS (Sweden)

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

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 122: PERSONNEL QUESTIONS (continued) (A/42/636; A/C.5/42/7 and 14)

1. Mr. SHERVANI (India) said that his delegation appreciated the efforts of the Office of Human Resources Management to improve the representation of unrepresented and underrepresented Member States in the Secretariat and to improve the representation of women at all levels. The Secretary-General should provide the General Assembly in future with information on the number of women from each Member State in post subject to geographical distribution covering the preceding five-year period. Information on the distribution of posts at the D-2 level and above, by region and nationality, should also be provided for the preceding five years.

2. Certain tables included in document A/42/636 might give the impression that some Member States, including India, were overrepresented in the Secretariat. If however a fair share of the posts related to the population factor was assigned to those States, it would be seen that many of them, including India, were not overrepresented. The report of the Secretary-General on the system of desirable ranges (A/C.5/42/7) indicated that, at the forty-first session, there had been general agreement on the appropriateness of incorporating a share of the population factor into the range of each Member State and on the methods of doing so. His delegation believed that, unless the population factor was incorporated into the desirable ranges, the representation of Member States in the Secretariat would continue to be inequitable and unrepresentative. The General Assembly had decided in 1962 to use the population factor as one among others in the calculation of desirable ranges in order to give proper expression to the universality of the United Nations. The application of the population factor would not cause any reduction in the representation of other States; it would however make the representation of several Member States more equitable and fair. Against that background his delegation hoped that the fifth Committee would be able to reach an agreement at the current session on the application of the population factor directly in the desirable ranges of all Member States. It agreed with the view expressed by several delegations that the population factor should not be used as a means of affording the Secretary-General the flexibility he required; that could be ensured in other more appropriate ways.

3. His delegation was concerned over the adverse impact of the recruitment freeze on both programme delivery and the geographical distribution of posts in the Secretariat. It hoped that the vacancy management and staff redeployment scheme initiated by the Secretary-General would redress any imbalances that might arise in that connection.

4. Mr. AFRIDI (Pakistan) expressed the confidence of his delegation that, under the guidance of the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources Management, personnel management policies would be followed that would inspire the development of an efficient and highly motivated staff. His delegation also shared the concerns which had been expressed by the Secretary-General at the violations of the privileges and immunities of United Nations staff members and fully supported the

(Mr. Afridi, Pakistan)

efforts of the Secretary-General to ensure scrupulous respect for such privileges and immunities.

5. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 41/206 C, the Secretary-General had presented a number of criteria for new ranges for the geographical distribution of staff in the Professional category and above and, in that connection, had proposed two base figures, namely, 2,700 and, taking into consideration the 15 per cent reduction over a three-year period beginning in 1986, 2,550. General Assembly resolution 41/206 C indicated the desirability of the base figure for the calculation of the ranges being related to the actual number of posts subject to geographical distribution. His delegation favoured the higher base figure of 2,700 after implementation of the 15 per cent reduction.

6. There was a need for a more balanced and objective weighting of the contribution, membership and population factors in the calculation of desirable ranges. The membership factor was intended to reflect the principle of sovereign equality. Increasing the weight given to that principle would serve to ensure a more equitable representation of all Member States, whether rich or poor.

7. His delegation believed that the population factor had not been applied to the extent intended, while too much importance had been attached to the contribution factor. Application of the population factor would have no adverse effect on Member States with small- or medium-sized populations; it would however serve to absorb the excess of so-called overrepresented States. In that connection, the proposal made by the Chinese delegation at the forty-first session to calculate the share of the population factor at a progressively reduced rate for countries with exceptionally large populations was very reasonable. The proposal would still preserve an adequate degree of flexibility for the Secretary-General. Any adjustment procedures adopted should not be at the expense of the population factor; the matter called for further study.

8. The freeze on recruitment imposed in March 1986 in response to the financial crisis should not be used to bring about the 15 per cent reduction in posts, as that would lead to serious distortions in geographical distribution; it must be regarded as a temporary measure only. In that connection, his delegation would welcome further details of the comprehensive plan devised by the Office of Human Resources Management to deal with the uneven distribution of vacancies resulting from the recruitment freeze.

9. In conclusion, his delegation had noted with satisfaction that, during the preceding year, the number of unrepresented countries in the Secretariat had been reduced by two and that there had been marked progress in improving the status of women in the Secretariat. The ratio of women holding posts subject to geographical distribution had risen to more than 25 per cent, while men had accounted for 28.6 per cent of all appointments. Much remained to be done, however, before the target of 30 per cent was reached.

The meeting was suspended at 10.35 a.m. and resumed at 11.05 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 115: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1988-1989 (continued)

Programme budget implications of the recommendations of the United Nations Council for Namibia in its report to the General Assembly (A/42/24 (Part III) and Corr.1) (A/C.5/42/26 and Add.1)

10. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that, in his statement contained in document A/C.5/42/26, the Secretary-General had addressed the programme budget implications of five draft resolutions recommended by the United Nations Council for Namibia. The text of the five draft resolutions as well as information regarding the activities envisaged for the implementation of those resolutions were contained in Part III, chapters I and II respectively, of the report of the Council for Namibia to the General Assembly (A/42/24). The Secretary-General's statement should also be read in conjunction with a separate statement contained in document A/AC.131/269, which the Secretary-General had submitted to the Council for Namibia.

11. The financial implications of the five draft resolutions, calculated on a full-cost basis, were estimated at \$6,300,300; \$661,000 of that amount represented conference-servicing requirements, calculated on a full-cost basis. As indicated in paragraph 15 and annex II to document A/C.5/42/26, the estimate covered servicing requirements for four five-day international and regional meetings in 1988, as well as four journalists encounters that would precede those meetings. The Advisory Committee had noted that, for reasons explained in paragraph 28 of his statement, the Secretary-General planned to meet the actual conference-servicing cost of those activities from the appropriation to be approved by the General Assembly at its current session under section 29 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989. The Advisory Committee had also noted that, as indicated by the Secretary-General in paragraph 16, the holding of meetings away from Headquarters would constitute an exception to General Assembly resolution 40/243. Furthermore, the preparation of verbatim transcripts of the proceedings would require authorization for an exception to be made to resolution 37/14 C.

12. The Secretary-General had estimated total non-conference-servicing requirements in 1988 at \$5,639,300, as summarized by budget section and by proposed activity in paragraph 25 of his statement (A/C.5/42/26). In paragraph 33 of document A/AC.131/269, the Secretary-General had stated that that estimate took into account economies arising from past expenditure experience over the previous three bienniums. The estimate of \$5,639,300 included an allocation of \$1.5 million to the United Nations Fund for Namibia and an allocation of \$500,000 to the Council's programme of co-operation with non-governmental organizations. The Advisory Committee had noted that, for the reasons given in paragraphs 3, 4, 25 and 27 of his statement, the Secretary-General planned to meet non-conference-servicing requirements of \$5,639,300 from the appropriation to be approved by the General Assembly at its current session under sections 3 and 27 of the programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989.

(Mr. Maelle)

13. The Advisory Committee had no objection to the Secretary-General's estimates as contained in his statement and elaborated in document A/AC.131/269, and accordingly recommended that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolutions contained in the report of the United Nations Council for Namibia, no additional appropriations over and above those already requested under sections 3, 27 and 29 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989 would be required to implement the Council's proposed programme of activities for 1988.

14. Mr. MUDHO (Kenya), Chairman of the Committee on Conferences, said that paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 35/10 A required that all proposals relating to the schedule of conferences and meetings made at a session of the General Assembly should be reviewed by the Committee on Conferences when the administrative implications of such resolutions were being considered. Similarly General Assembly resolution 37/14 C provided that, when subsidiary organs that were entitled to receive written meeting records for all or some of their meetings met away from established United Nations conference centres, they would not receive such written meeting records unless the General Assembly specifically authorized them.

15. The proposed programme of work of the United Nations Council for Namibia provided for the holding of meetings in North America, Europe and Japan and the provision of verbatim transcripts of the proceedings. The Committee on Conferences had reviewed those two issues and, in the light of the explanations given by the Secretariat and by a representative of the Council, had decided to recommend that the General Assembly should authorize exceptions to the relevant General Assembly resolution so that the Council for Namibia could hold the proposed meetings at the venues indicated and also receive the verbatim transcripts in question.

16. Mr. FONTAINE-ORTIZ (Cuba) said that the Fifth Committee was moving towards the adoption of a draft resolution on the pattern of conferences (A/C.5/42/L.4, draft resolution C) which would request United Nations bodies and the Secretary-General to ensure respect for equal treatment of the official languages of the United Nations. In paragraph 4, the Secretary-General would be requested to take the necessary measures to ensure the provision of conference services to the United Nations with adequate personnel, with due respect for the equal treatment of all official languages. In annex II to document A/C.5/42/26 no provision had been made for languages other than English and French except in the case of post-session documentation. His delegation accordingly sought clarification from the Secretariat as to why services would be provided in only two of the official languages and whether a decision to that effect had been taken by the Council for Namibia on its own initiative or on the proposal of the Secretary-General.

17. Ms. CHISHOLM (United States of America) regretted that the statement of the programme budget implications of the costly and ambitious work programme of the Council for Namibia had again been presented at the last possible moment, thereby reducing the Fifth Committee's review of it to a mere formality. Her delegation had expressed its objections in detail at previous sessions to many of the

(Ms. Chisholm, United States)

activities undertaken in connection with the agenda item. For example, it opposed the Council's traditional practice of holding meetings away from Headquarters without the additional costs being defrayed by host Governments. Furthermore, it saw no reason for authorizing an exception to General Assembly resolution 37/14 C or for approving the provision of verbatim transcripts of the proposed meetings. It questioned the effectiveness of many of the information activities outlined in paragraph 21 of the statement of programme budget implications, and it opposed the provision of a block grant of \$500,000 to finance unspecified activities which were subject to the approval of a national liberation movement, not of Member States. Regarding the allocation of \$1.5 million from the regular budget to the United Nations Fund for Namibia, her delegation was opposed in principle to the provision of subsidies to voluntary programmes which apparently failed to enjoy the full confidence of donor Governments.

18. Provision had been made in the proposed programme budget for 1988-1989 for political activities of a perennial nature, which covered the work of the Council for Namibia, and no additional appropriation had been requested. According to paragraph 20 of the introduction to the proposed programme budget, \$7.2 million had been included under section 3 for activities related to Namibia which had previously been financed through budget add-ons. The cost of those activities for 1988 was approximately \$5.3 million. On the basis of past experience, it would appear likely that the balance would not be sufficient to cover activities that might be approved by the Council for 1989. Her delegation would appreciate an explanation from the Secretariat regarding the allocation of resources for 1988, and its assessment of the adequacy of the balance of the appropriation requested under section 3 to finance ongoing activities and any additional programmes that might be approved for 1989.

19. Since no additional appropriation had been requested, her delegation would not request a vote on the programme budget implications of the draft resolutions. It reserved its position, however, regarding the overall United Nations programme on Namibia and would express its views in greater detail when the Committee took up sections 3 and 27 of the proposed programme budget.

20. Mr. TOMMO MONTHE (Cameroon) said that the Council's practice of holding meetings away from Headquarters was a means of promoting greater awareness of the Namibian question in all regions. The Council would have liked to hold some of the proposed seminars and meetings at Headquarters, but, owing to a number of factors, including reductions in appropriations for information activities and the high cost of leasing the facilities of the Voice of America, events held at Headquarters were not as widely publicized as those held elsewhere; that was why the Council found it useful to hold meetings away from Headquarters.

21. His delegation understood the Secretary-General's wish not to request any additional appropriations for the time being for the Council's programme of work. Should additional resources become necessary, however, they should be provided since Namibia was the special responsibility of the United Nations. If all Member

(Mr. Tommo Monthe, Cameroon)

States had shown the necessary political will, the question of Namibia would have been long since settled and it would no longer be necessary to appropriate funds for the Council for Namibia in the budget.

22. In its report, the Council recalled the decision of the General Assembly at its forty-first session to approve the recommendation to upgrade the post of Secretary of the Council from D-1 to D-2. The Secretary-General noted in paragraph 19 of his statement that staff requirements were virtually unchanged and that he was therefore not requesting any additional resources for the Council's secretariat at the current stage. He noted in paragraph 20 that a review of the structure and requirements of the Council secretariat was currently under way. His delegation would like to know, therefore, whether the Secretary-General was bearing in mind the Assembly decision to reclassify the post of the Secretary of the Council and whether he would, if necessary, make provision for it in the revised estimates. His delegation would like the point to be made clear before a decision was taken on the matter.

23. In conclusion, he thanked the United States delegation for not pressing for a vote. That was quite a departure from the position taken by that delegation in previous years. He hoped that the United States would continue in that approach and would assist the Council for Namibia to find a speedy solution to the problem of Namibia.

24. Mr. LAWSON (Sierra Leone) said that his delegation had no specific difficulty with the proposed programme of activities of the Council for Namibia although it felt that, given the current situation in Namibia, the programme could have been much more aggressive. The modesty of the amount requested reflected the current financial crisis rather than to the importance of the programme. His delegation therefore endorsed the recommendation of the Advisory Committee. It also welcomed the positive attitude of the United States delegation in not requesting a vote on the programme budget implications.

25. Mr. MAKTARI (Yemen) said that the request of the Council for Namibia for verbatim transcripts was not in keeping with the provisions of the Charter regarding the official languages of the Organization. It was illogical and impractical to give priority to one particular language, and the Secretariat seemed to exaggerate the possible saving. The Committee on Conferences had stated its view that the provision of such transcripts in one language was of limited utility.

26. Mr. MUDHO (Kenya) said that his delegation shared the view that the Committee was put at a disadvantage when it received lengthy documents at short notice. It had, however, no difficulty in principle with the programme budget implications of the Council for Namibia's recommendations. The Council's proposals were very modest, indeed the minimum that could be expected. It was deplorable that it should be necessary to have a Council for Namibia at all. He emphasized that meetings which the Council was obliged to hold away from Headquarters were necessary to increase public awareness around the world of the important task with which the Council was entrusted.

(Mr. Mudho, Kenya)

27. The request for verbatim transcripts in one language only reflected the Council's awareness of the Organization's financial constraints. The transcripts would, of course, be unofficial records. He hoped, therefore, that the Committee would be able to approve the proposals before it unanimously.

28. The reclassification of the post of Secretary of the Council came within the prerogative of the Secretary-General. A review of the structure and requirements of the Council secretariat was currently under way as part of the general reorganization undertaken in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 41/213. The reclassification of the post of Secretary, however, had been the subject of a specific decision by the General Assembly and should not be linked to any general reorganization of the Secretariat. He looked forward to hearing the Secretary-General's plans regarding the implementation of the decision.

29. Mr. DUVAL (Programme Budget Division) said that the decision on the working languages of the meetings planned by the Council for Namibia for 1988 had been reached after consultations between the Council, its secretariat and the Department of Conference Services, taking into account the expected participation in the meetings. In the case of post-session documentation, the widest possible dissemination had been envisaged. It had therefore been decided to issue it in the six official languages.

30. References had been made to the draft resolution on equal treatment of official languages of United Nations bodies which had emerged from the informal consultations on agenda item 120 (Pattern of conferences); the Secretary-General would be submitting a statement on the financial implications of that draft resolution shortly, and it would be premature to enter into a point by point analysis of the matter at the current stage.

31. In reply to the question asked by the representative of the United States concerning the possibility of a shortfall in 1989, given the level of resources expected to be disbursed in 1988, he drew attention to the table in paragraph 25 of document A/C.5/42/26, which gave the estimated cost of the 1988 programme as compared with the 1988 portion of estimates in the 1988-1989 proposed programme budget. If a comparable level of activity was assumed for 1989, the appropriations already requested in the proposed programme budget should be adequate.

32. As to the reclassification of the post of Secretary of the Council, he said that the Secretary-General, in line with the general policy he had adopted, had refrained from recommending the reclassification of any post in the proposed programme budget. In pursuance of General Assembly resolution 41/213, the Secretary-General had set in motion a review of the structure and staffing of units involved with the question of Namibia, including the secretariat of the Council for Namibia. That study was now under way and the conclusions would be put before the General Assembly at its forty-third session.

33. Mr. LADJOUZI (Algeria) said that the representative of the Programme Budget Division appeared to have indicated that French and English had been chosen as the official and working languages for the activities referred to in annex II of document A/C.5/42/26, with the addition of Spanish for activities occurring in Europe. His delegation wished to know what body had taken the decision on such a choice and where that decision had been recorded. Regardless of whether it was the Council for Namibia or the Secretariat which was responsible for the decision, an explanation for such unequal treatment of the Organization's six official languages must be given. Mention had also been made in passing of draft resolution C, as contained in document A/C.5/42/L.4. It seemed to his delegation that the very existence of that draft resolution indicated the existence of a problem with respect to the treatment of official languages.

34. With regard to the question of budget methodology, it was difficult to understand why the budget implications of any activity should be submitted if the programme budget had not yet been adopted. The budget implications of a particular activity could be evaluated only after the adoption of the programme budget in question. The activities of the Council for Namibia, given their perennial character, should have been included in the initial stages of the programme budget, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 41/213.

35. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the methodology adopted at the current session was a direct result of the need to implement resolution 41/213. The General Assembly had decided that the Secretary-General's initial estimates should include the funds required to implement the programme of activities, which had hitherto been approved on an annual basis. The programme would continue to be approved each year, but the funds would already have been included in the initial estimates. In specific terms, the full cost of implementing the Council for Namibia's programme of activities in 1988 was estimated at \$6.3 million, and that amount was included in the proposed programme budget under sections 3, 27 and 29. The said amount would be considered initially by the Fifth Committee and then be approved by the General Assembly on the basis of the Committee's recommendation. An alternative procedure whereby the provisions made under sections 3, 27 and 29 would be reduced and then restored in the form of an additional appropriation requested for the purpose of implementing the Council for Namibia's programme of activities would contravene the provisions of resolution 41/213. The procedure actually adopted was therefore quite in order.

36. Mr. FONTAINE-ORTIZ (Cuba) said that his delegation remained unsatisfied with the answer provided to its question. Paragraph 3 of document A/C.5/42/26 indicated that the Secretary-General's initial estimates included the total estimated cost of the activities of the Council, in which case allowance should have been made for the provision of conference services in all official languages. The decision to use only some of those languages had apparently been taken as a result of consultations between the Department of Conference Services and the Council for Namibia. His delegation, like that of Algeria, still wished to know in what document that decision had been recorded. It was unacceptable to use the financial crisis as an excuse for discrimination against certain official languages.

(Mr. Fontaine-Ortiz, Cuba)

37. Draft resolution C, as contained in document A/C.5/42/L.4, was simply a reiteration of the basic principles enshrined in the Charter and the Organization's rules of procedure, relating to equal treatment of all official languages. Those principles were not subject to discussion. In view of the extreme importance of the question of Namibia, his delegation had no difficulty whatsoever in accepting the programme budget implications currently under consideration but wished to register its concern over the possibility that discrimination against certain official languages might be repeated, as well as its determination to object to such discrimination whenever and wherever it occurred in the future:

38. Mr. MOUSSAKI (Congo) said that the complaints about so-called excessive appropriations for the Council for Namibia should be seen in the light of the Security Council's recent decision to approve efforts to hasten the implementation of resolution 435 (1978). He congratulated the delegation of the United States on the wise and courageous position it had adopted during the current meeting and hoped that its position would be maintained.

39. Mr. KABIA (Secretary of the United Nations Council for Namibia) said that the Council's secretariat had, following a decision by the Council to arrange for regional and international activities, undertaken consultations with the Department of Conference Services with a view to determining the extent to which those activities could be implemented in view of the need to exercise financial restraint. Those consultations had given rise to the conference-servicing arrangements reflected in annex II to document A/C.5/42/26. Following consideration of the Secretary-General's statement in document A/AC.131/269, the Council had approved the Secretariat's choice of language services and had therefore, by implication, taken the decision to proceed with the arrangements reflected in annex II.

40. Mr. MAKTARI (Yemen) said that his question with respect to the contradiction between paragraphs 8 and 14 of document A/C.5/42/26/Add.1 remained unanswered. His delegation could not understand why verbatim transcripts should be provided in one language only if the Committee on Conferences believed that such an arrangement was of little utility. It could not accept the argument that the financial crisis provided grounds for discrimination between official languages.

41. Mr. DUVAL (Programme Budget Division), apologizing for his failure to reply to the specific question raised by the representative of Yemen, said that all proposals relating to the choice of languages for documentation and meeting services had been brought to the attention of the Council and approved when the Council adopted its report.

42. Mr. TETTAMANTI (Argentina) said that his delegation, while prepared to accept the programme budget implications under consideration, understood the third and fourth sentences of paragraph 28 of document A/C.5/42/26 to imply that the activities of the Council for Namibia in 1988-1989 would be based on the pattern over the past five years, implying a use of all official languages. Annex II to document A/C.5/42/26 should perhaps be revised in order to reflect the established practice of using all official languages, given that budgetary provision for full language services had apparently already been made.

43. Mr. LADJOUZI (Algeria) requested that the report of the Fifth Committee should reflect the statement made by the Secretary of the Council for Namibia.

44. Mr. DUVAL (Programme Budget Division), replying to the question raised by the representative of Argentina, said that the 1988-1989 estimates had been determined on the basis of the pattern of conference-servicing requirements over the past five years. It had been the uniform practice of the Secretariat, with respect to regional activities to provide services only in the languages needed for the region in question. That practice appeared to have been followed consistently in the past by the Council for Namibia.

45. Mr. FONTAINE-ORTIZ (Cuba) supported the Algerian proposal to reflect the statement by the Secretary of the Council in the Committee's report to the Assembly. The Committee was responsible for ensuring that all administrative and budgetary procedures were observed. It seemed fairly clear that procedures concerning the proper use of working languages had not been followed.

46. Mr. ORTEGA (Mexico) also expressed concern at the way in which the conference-servicing requirements had been determined and supported the Algerian proposal.

47. Mrs. RODRIGUEZ (Venezuela) endorsed the concerns expressed by previous speakers.

48. Mr. GOMEZ (Assistant Secretary-General, Controller), replying to a question asked by the representative of Argentina, pointed out that the use of languages in the various organs was governed by each organ's rules of procedure. That was not to say that all official or working languages must be used at all times and in all forums. If the Council had followed its rules of procedure and practice and the Secretary-General's estimates were based on those rules of procedure and practice then the Committee must be satisfied that those estimates had been prepared on a full-cost basis. However, if the number of languages the Council required was to be changed there was no way he could guarantee that there would not be financial implications.

49. Mr. MUDHO (Kenya) said that if the conference-servicing requirements outlined in annex II reflected the practice of the Council that practice should be changed. The decision to make such a change must be made by the proper bodies.

50. The CHAIRMAN proposed that, on the basis of the statement of programme budget implications submitted by the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee's recommendations, the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolutions A, B, C, D and E (A/42/24 (Part III) and Corr.1), no modification in the programme of work for 1988-1989 as proposed in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989 would be required and no additional appropriations over and above those already requested under sections 3, 27 and 29 of the proposed programme budget would be required to accommodate the 1988 programme of activities of the Council for Namibia. He also proposed that the Committee should draw the report of the Committee on Conferences to the General

(The Chairman)

Assembly's attention and also draw the attention of the General Assembly and the Council for Namibia to the statement made by the Secretary of the Council during the Committee's consideration of the item.

51. It was so decided.

52. Mr. MURRAY (United Kingdom) said that, while his delegation had gone along with the decision, it felt that careful attention must be given to the expenditure proposals set out in document A/C.5/42/26 and Add.1. Those proposals were extravagant and their end product was hard to identify. In particular, his delegation had reservations regarding the extensive travel and meetings planned and the proposal in paragraph 4 of draft resolution C. His delegation reiterated its dissatisfaction at the late circulation of the statement on the programme budget implications. The tradition of having the Committee consider expenditures relating to Namibia in haste should be ended. Finally, noting that the Council's decisions had been adopted on 14 and 15 October while the relevant statement by the Secretary-General (A/AC.131/269) was dated 28 October, he said that it was not clear how that sequence of events could be reconciled with regulation 4.9 of the regulations and rules governing programme planning.

53. Mr. LADJOUZI (Algeria) expressed satisfaction at the adoption of the decision by consensus and expressed the hope that Governments would demonstrate the political will necessary to speed up the decolonization of Namibia. His delegation regretted the discrimination between languages and hoped that such discrimination would cease.

54. Mr. DEVREUX (Belgium) expressed concern at the late circulation of statement of programme budget implications. He also expressed concern at the procedure the Council had followed. It had discussed the financial implications of its programme of work on 14 and 15 October on the basis of fragmentary information submitted informally to it and had taken a decision before the statement by the Secretary-General (A/AC.131/269) had been circulated. His delegation had been surprised to hear that the report of the Council had been sent informally to the Secretary-General on 15 October. While his delegation had joined in the consensus, it did not believe that the procedure followed was conducive to calm consideration of what was a difficult issue.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.