

UNITED NATIONS  
**General Assembly**  
FORTY-NINTH SESSION  
*Official Records*

FIFTH COMMITTEE  
36th meeting  
held on  
Wednesday, 21 December 1994  
at 3 p.m.  
New York

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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 36th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. TEIRLINCK (Belgium)  
later: Ms. PEÑA (Mexico)  
(Vice-Chairman)

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

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Distr. GENERAL  
A/C.5/49/SR.36  
31 January 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. Ms. HOLLAND (United Kingdom), speaking on a point of order, expressed her delegation's strong reservations about the way the Secretariat was handling a number of items relating to the financing of peace-keeping operations. The Fifth Committee was being asked to take a decision on the financing of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) on the basis of a document which had been received only that morning and which contained no justification for the amounts involved. Such a procedure was perhaps acceptable when the Fifth Committee was required to give emergency commitment authority for the short-term extension of operations, but not for assessments on Member States amounting to some \$50 million. The same held true for the United Nations Mission in Haiti and the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) in respect of which the figures given in the Secretary-General's report differed substantially from those in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (on the basis of which the Secretariat had introduced the item the previous week). Her delegation therefore insisted on an explanation from the Secretariat of the figures on the peace-keeping operations in Mozambique, Haiti and Somalia during the current meeting.

2. Mr. TAKASU (Controller), said in response that he would indeed provide an explanation of the requirements for those three operations during the current meeting, for action the following day.

AGENDA ITEM 107: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995 (continued)

First performance report (A/49/7/Add.8; A/C.5/49/43)

3. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) introduced the Secretary-General's first performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 in document A/C.5/49/43, providing an account of the technical adjustments necessitated by variations in the rates of inflation and exchange and in standards assumed in calculating the initial appropriations. It also contained some financial implications of the decisions of policy-making organs, as well as unforeseen or extraordinary expenses.

4. As shown in paragraph 7 of the report, the increase of \$28 million in net requirements resulted from the combination of a \$21 million decrease in expenditures and a \$49 million decrease in income (both due in large part to less-favourable exchange rates for the United States dollar than anticipated). On the other hand, inflation and standard costs had also been lower than anticipated.

5. Decisions of policy-making organs (such as the General Assembly's approval of the functional decentralization of the Department for Development Support and Management Services), and commitments of \$5.5 million entered into in respect of unforeseen and extraordinary expenses (including \$4.7 million for the

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maintenance of peace and security) would increase the revised net requirements by \$28 million to \$2,130 million.

6. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Fifth Committee should adopt the following draft decision:

"The General Assembly,

"(a) Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/49/43);

"(b) Approves a net decrease of \$21,036,900 in the appropriations approved for the biennium 1994-1995, and a net decrease of \$49,085,100 in the estimates of income for the biennium 1994-1995, to be apportioned among expenditure and income sections as indicated in the report of the Secretary-General."

7. The draft decision was adopted.

Revised estimates under section 21, Human rights (continued) (A/49/7 Add.6 and Corr.1; A/C.5/49/53)

8. Mr.KELLY (Ireland) said that a consensus had been reached in informal negotiations on the following draft decision on the revised estimates under section 21:

"The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and the views of Member States expressed in the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session,

Reaffirming the important role of the Advisory Committee in the budgetary process,

Reiterating the importance of following strictly the normal procedures of budgetary approval,

1. Decides to appropriate, on an exceptional basis, an amount of \$4,473,000 under section 21, Human rights, of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, on the understanding that the posts requested by the Secretary-General in his report for the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Centre for Human Rights and the United Nations human rights presence in Cambodia are approved on a temporary basis and that all these posts shall be subject to a detailed review by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and by the General Assembly at the earliest opportunity at the resumed forty-ninth session;

2. Decides to appropriate an amount of \$1,022,900 under section 28, Staff assessment, to be offset by an increase in the same amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment;

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3. Requests the Secretary-General to provide justification for the establishment of the posts on a permanent basis and an explanation with regard to the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee to the General Assembly for consideration during its resumed forty-ninth session."

9. Mr. CHU Guangyou (China) said that although his delegation had joined the consensus on the draft decision under consideration, it wished to underscore the need to adhere to the normal procedures for the budgetary process. Since the Secretariat had been late in submitting the relevant documents, neither the Advisory Committee nor Member States had had sufficient time to give the matter due consideration. That situation should be viewed as an exception and must be avoided in the future.

10. The draft decision was adopted.

11. Mrs. GOICOCHEA (Cuba), supported by Mr. CHUINKAM (Cameroon), said that her delegation had strong reservations about the procedure just followed. There was no technical basis for the Committee's decision to approve the appropriations and she feared that an unfortunate precedent had been set. Such selective treatment was inappropriate and Cuba had gone along with the consensus only because the posts were temporary and the issue would be considered again at the resumed session.

Revised estimates under sections 3 and 8 (Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development) (continued) (A/C.5/49/L.23)

12. Mrs. EMERSON (Portugal) said that general agreement had been reached on draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.23 during the informal consultations and hoped that it would be adopted by consensus.

13. Draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.23 was adopted.

14. Mr. MAZEMO (Zimbabwe) said that his delegation had joined the consensus on the draft decision in spite of the fact that its adoption did not involve any immediate delivery of programmes. He regretted that it had taken so long to reach agreement on the redeployment of resources for activities benefiting Africa and hoped that issues relating to Africa's critical economic situation, recovery and development would be looked at more sympathetically in the future.

15. Mr. MONGELLA (United Republic of Tanzania) said that his delegation had joined the consensus on draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.23 on the understanding that the proposals to be submitted by the Secretary-General, as requested in paragraph 3, would identify programme activities that addressed, in a comprehensive manner, the critical economic situation in Africa. The Secretary-General should propose programme activities focusing on ways to ensure the efficient and effective implementation of the new agenda for the development of Africa. The report to be submitted should identify current human and financial resources available within the Secretariat and should contribute significantly to the consideration of that aspect of the question in the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) and ACABQ and at the next session of the General Assembly.

Revised estimates under sections 3A, 3C, 4, 8, 15, 24 and 28 and income section 1 (continued) (A/49/7/Add.4; A/C.5/49/44)

16. Mr. DJACTA (Algeria) said that, in the informal consultations which he had chaired, agreement had been reached on the text of the following draft decision:

"The General Assembly,

1. Approves the continuation of six temporary posts for the servicing of the Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) concerning the situation between Iraq and Kuwait, with the related costs to be met from resources currently appropriated under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995;

2. Decides to accept the redeployment of \$576,600 from section 3 to section 8, Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 for activities related to the international convention to combat desertification as proposed by the Secretary-General in his report, subject to review and adjustment by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the General Assembly."

17. The draft decision was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 155: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1990-1991 (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.17

18. Draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.17 was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 104: FINANCIAL REPORTS AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, AND REPORTS OF THE BOARD OF AUDITORS (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.14

19. Mr. ACAKPO-SATCHIVI (Secretary) drew the Committee's attention to several corrections in the text of the draft resolution.

20. Mr. BARIMANI (Islamic Republic of Iran) (Vice-Chairman), introduced draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.14, drawing particular attention to operative paragraphs 3, 6, 7 and 11 of draft resolution A, operative paragraphs 2 and 4 of draft resolution B, the third preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 2, 3, 3 (a), 3 (c), 3 (d), 3 (e) and 3 (f) of draft resolution C, operative paragraph 3 of part D, and operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution E. He then proposed that the draft should be adopted without a vote.

21. Draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.14 was adopted.

22. Mr. GOKHALE (India), said that his delegation believed that the draft resolution just adopted was a substantive resolution. Many delegations had expressed serious concerns on some of the observations made in the report of the Board of Auditors, and his delegation therefore saw the draft resolution as a

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serious effort by the Committee to bring those concerns directly to the attention of the Secretary-General, and to provide guidance on the kind of corrective action that the General Assembly expected would be taken in 1995. In that regard, he wished to draw the Secretary-General's attention to important observations regarding the handling of cash and non-expendable property, the report requested on procurement, and guidance provided with regard to accounting standards. His delegation looked forward to receiving the Secretary-General's report on procurement activities no later than 30 April 1995.

AGENDA ITEM 113: HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.16

23. Mr. SHARP (Australia) introduced draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.16, drawing particular attention to operative paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of section I, operative paragraph 7 of section II, operative paragraphs 1 and 2 of section III, and operative paragraph 2 of section IV. He urged adoption of the draft without a vote.

24. Mrs. EMERSON (Portugal) expressed her hope that the Secretary-General, when including the implementation of the Strategic Plan for the recruitment of women as a specific indicator in the performance appraisal of all managers, would also make the number of staff recruited as a result of competitive examinations a performance indicator. Such examinations only had meaning if there was effective coordination between programme managers and the Examinations and Tests Section, and it was desirable to ensure that successful candidates were actually recruited. She also asked the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources whether he had taken the necessary steps to conform to his legal mandate regarding the release of staff for staff activities.

25. Draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.16 was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 146: FINANCING OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE PROSECUTION OF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW COMMITTED IN THE TERRITORY OF THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA SINCE 1991 (continued)  
(A/49/790; A/C.5/49/42)

26. Ms. ROTHEISER (Austria) said that in the informal consultations she had conducted on the item there had been general support for the Advisory Committee's recommendations, which could be reflected in a draft decision. It was to be hoped that the Committee would resume consideration of the issue before 28 February 1995.

27. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should adopt the following draft decision:

"The General Assembly

Authorizes the Secretary-General to enter into commitment in an additional amount of \$7 million to allow the Tribunal to continue its activities through 31 March 1995, without prejudice to the decisions that

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the Assembly might take with regard to the budgetary and administrative matters and to the mode of financing;

Decides to resume consideration of this issue before 28 February 1995."

28. The draft decision was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 132: ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY ASPECTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS (continued)

(a) FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS (continued) (A/C.5/49/L.25)

29. Mrs. EMERSON (Portugal) introduced draft decision A/C.5/49/L.25 concerning the support account for peace-keeping operations. She stressed how important it was that the Advisory Committee should report by 15 March 1995, despite the pressures it was under. She hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

30. Mr. CHUINKAM (Cameroon) said that his delegation could support the draft decision under consideration provided that the Secretariat submitted to the Advisory Committee the organizational chart of the Department of Peace-keeping Operations, including the Field Administration and Logistics Division, and that the Secretary-General provided the Advisory Committee with a detailed and comprehensive explanation of the resources required by the Secretariat in order to ensure effective support for peace-keeping operations.

31. Draft decision A/C.5/49/L.25 was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 116: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING FORCES IN THE MIDDLE EAST (continued)

(a) UNITED NATIONS DISENGAGEMENT OBSERVER FORCE (continued)

(b) UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON (continued) (A/C.5/49/L.26 and L.27)

Draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.26

32. Mr. BLUKIS (Latvia) introduced draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.26, drawing particular attention to the provisions of paragraphs 3, 5, 6, 7, 11 and 14.

33. Draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.26 was adopted.

Draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.27

34. Mr. BLUKIS (Latvia) introduced draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.27, drawing particular attention to the provisions of paragraphs 5, 6, 7, 10 and 14.

35. Draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.27 was adopted.

36. Mr. BARIMANI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that had there been a vote on draft resolutions A/C.5/49/L.26 and L.27 his delegation would have abstained.

AGENDA ITEM 123: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OPERATION IN SOMALIA II  
(continued) (A/C.5/49/L.24)

37. Mr. BARIMANI (Islamic Republic of Iran), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.24, drawing particular attention to paragraphs 1, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12 and 13.

38. Draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.24 was adopted.

39. Mr. AHMED (Pakistan), noting that the conclusion of the Operation was imminent, urged that the apportionment of assessments should be carried out with all possible speed and that all reimbursements should be made promptly and in full.

40. Mr. GOKHALE (India) endorsed the comments of the representative of Pakistan. The Secretariat should take action as soon as possible on all contingent-owned equipment.

The meeting was suspended at 4.30 p.m and resumed at 5.50 p.m.

41. Ms. Peña (Mexico), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 124: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OPERATION IN MOZAMBIQUE  
(continued) (A/49/649; A/C.5/49/L.18)

42. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) said that in accordance with Security Council resolution 957 (1994), all military and civilian personnel serving with the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) were expected to be withdrawn from that country on or before 31 January 1995. In order to finance the final phase of the Operation, the General Assembly, in resolution 48/240 B, had authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments of up to \$25 million with the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee, for the liquidation of the Operation in the period 16 November 1994 to 31 January 1995. Accordingly, the Secretary-General had requested and obtained the Advisory Committee's concurrence to enter into such commitments. The report of the Secretary-General on the financing of ONUMOZ (A/49/649) contained the financial performance report for the period from 1 November 1993 to 30 April 1994 and the revised cost estimate for the period from 16 November 1994 to 31 January 1995. The revised cost estimate for the final phase was \$50.4 million, which was slightly less than what had been anticipated in May 1994.

43. General Assembly resolution 48/240 B also requested the Secretary-General to submit a report, in the context of the revised cost estimates related to the liquidation of ONUMOZ, on the disposal of assets and liabilities. ONUMOZ was still in the process of determining which of its assets should be redeployed to other peace-keeping operations, which should be disposed of within the mission area and which should be recommended for disposal. Because of the extensive coordination involved and consultations with Governments and United Nations bodies, it had not yet been possible to issue a report on disposable assets for

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consideration at the current time. That information would be included in the report to be issued after the appropriate review had been carried out. Pending consideration of his report by the Advisory Committee and the Fifth Committee, the Secretary-General, as indicated in draft decision A/C.5/49/L.18, would be authorized, on an exceptional basis, to enter into commitments up to the amount of \$50.4 million for the maintenance of ONUMOZ for the period from 16 November 1994 to 31 January 1995. Outstanding contributions by Member States to ONUMOZ currently stood at \$88.2 million.

44. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee would take action on the draft decision at its next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 128: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN HAITI (continued)  
(A/C.5/49/L.12)

45. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) recalled that the Secretary-General had reported to the General Assembly in October 1994 on the financing of the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) (A/49/318 and Add.1 and Corr.1). In view of the decision of the Security Council to strengthen the advance team in Haiti, the Secretary-General had requested for the period from 1 August to 31 December 1994 an increased commitment authority in the amount of \$1,347,000 gross and for the period from 1 December 1994 to 28 February 1995 an amount of \$9,509,300 gross.

46. Mr. SCOTTI (France) said that he was disappointed by the late and incomplete submission to the Committee of the relevant documentation, some of which had not been translated from English into the other official languages. In the circumstances, the Committee needed to exercise extreme caution in considering the Secretary-General's proposals for additional funding.

47. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) pointed out that the commitment previously sought by the Secretary-General was now insufficient, since the staff of the Mission was to be increased by 500 persons with the possibility of further expansion. He therefore sought the understanding of members of the Committee on the matter.

48. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee resume its consideration of the matter the following day.

49. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 6.45 p.m.