

United Nations

# Report of the Committee on Conferences 

## General Assembly

Official Records • Forty-ninth Session
Supplement No. 32 (A/49/32/Rev.1)

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## NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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## I. CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

## A. Matters related to, and inter-sessional departures from, the approved calendar for 1994

## Introduction and overview

1. In its resolution $48 / 222$ A of 23 December 1993, the General Assembly approved the draft calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 1994-1995 as set forth in annex I to the report of the Committee on Conferences to the Assembly at its forty-eighth session $1 /$ and amended by subsequent decisions taken by the Assembly during that session.
2. At its organizational session (363rd meeting), on 8 April 1994, the Committee agreed that proposed changes to the calendar that did not have programme budget implications could be dealt with by the Secretariat in consultation with the Bureau of the Committee. The Committee was advised of a number of such changes during the course of 1994.
3. In addition, by written communication from the Secretary, the Committee was advised of requests for changes or additions to the approved calendar of conferences for 1994. The nature of the requests and the action taken by the Committee are described below.

## Organ

Informal consultations of the Secretary-General on outstanding issues relating to the deep seabed mining provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

Committee on the Rights of the Child and pre-sessional Working Group

Human Rights Committee

## Request

To provide conference facilities and services for an additional one-week meeting from 4 to 8 April, in reply to the request contained in paragraph 20 of General Assembly resolution 48/28

To convene a three-week special Request approved session, to be preceded by a one-week pre-sessional meeting of the Working Group, during the first half of 1994, as the Committee was facing an unexpectedly heavy workload

To extend its fifty-first Request approved

Action taken
Request approved session to four weeks, instead of the usual three, and schedule the meeting from 4 to 29 July, owing to the steady increase in the Committee's workload

Organ
Request
Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean

Meeting of the States
Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child

Intergovernmental
Committee for a
Framework Convention on Climate Change

North American NGO
Symposium on the Question of Palestine

Informal consultations of the Secretary-General on outstanding issues relating to the deep seabed mining provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

Governing Council of the United Nations
Environment Programme (UNEP)

Committee on Conferences
To convene a one-day meeting in
order to review the duration of
the meetings of the Committee
To convene the tenth session
from 22 August to 2 September,
in view of the workload
remaining before the first
Parties
Toronto, Canada, from 6 to
8 July, instead of New York in
June
To convene a further four-day
meeting from 31 May to 3 June,
and another meeting from 25 to
29 July, with a view to
consultations
To convene a one-day special
session on 18 June in New York
in order to fulfil the
procedural requirements of the
Global Environment Facility

```
To convene its session from
1 1 ~ t o ~ 1 5 ~ J u l y , ~ i n s t e a d ~ o f ~ f r o m
1 3 \text { to } 1 7 \text { June, as the report of}
the Secretary-General to the
Committee, which was requested
by the Assembly in resolution
48/82, would be submitted on
30 June
```

instead of from 22 to 31 August,
session of the Conference of the
To convene the Symposium at Request approved
continuing and accelerating the
To convene its 1994 substantive
session from 22 to 31 August,
instead of from 17 to 26 August,
owing to the particularly heavy
workload of the Fifth Committee,
in which several members of the
Committee on Conferences also
participated

Request approved

Request approved

Request approved

Request approved

Request approved

Request approved

## Conclusions and recommendations

4. The Committee emphasized the need for bodies, as far as possible, to reduce the amount of conference time they requested in view of the limited resources of the Office of Conference and Support Services.
5. It also drew attention to the exceptional nature of the departures from the approved calendar.
6. The Committee decided that requests for inter-sessional departures submitted to the Committee should, in future, be reviewed by the Bureau, in consultation with the Secretariat, for subsequent action.

## B. Adoption of the draft revised calendar of conferences and meetings for 1995

Introduction and overview
7. At its 366 th, 367 th and $373 r d$ meetings, on 22,23 and 26 August 1994, respectively, the Committee on Conferences reviewed three documents relating to the draft revised calendar of conferences and meetings for 1995: the draft revised calendar of conferences and meetings for 1995, the consolidated statement of scheduled special conferences for 1995 (A/C.5/49/2) and the letter dated 8 April 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences (A/AC.172/156).

## Discussion

8. Clarification was sought and received from the Secretariat regarding various items and aspects of the draft revised calendar of conferences and meetings for 1995.
9. It was noted that some bodies, such as the Group of Three established under the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid of the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission against Apartheid in Sports, were included in the calendar even though it would appear that their mandates had terminated in conformity with General Assembly resolution 48/258 of 23 June 1994. The Secretariat explained that, in the light of the legal status of those bodies (treaty bodies), it was incumbent upon them to terminate their mandates.
10. Clarification was also sought and received from the Secretariat regarding the need for and usefulness of the consolidated statement of scheduled special conferences for 1995 (A/C.5/49/2).
11. It was felt that the information on financial and human resources devoted to those conferences should be presented in greater detail so as to include, in addition to the costs of plenary conferences, all resources allocated to the different preparatory committees, working groups, expert groups and ad hoc secretariats. That information would be helpful in enabling delegations to take decisions on financial matters and to make economies.
12. Clarification was sought and received from the Secretariat regarding the policy for establishing official holidays at the various duty stations. The

Secretariat explained that the authority to designate official holidays at each duty station rested with the Secretary-General and that the procedure was guided by three considerations: their number should not exceed nine days per year; they should coincide with public holidays at each duty station that were also school holidays; and they should be staggered to fall roughly every two months.
13. An extensive debate took place in the Committee on that issue. A view was expressed that the competence of the Secretary-General with respect to the designation of official holidays was not in contradiction with the competence of Member States to whom it fell to approve, after possible modifications, rules relating to the conditions of service of United Nations officials, including the establishment of official holidays.
14. A view was also expressed that the Committee, as the advisory body to the General Assembly dealing with the calendar of conferences and meetings, was within its competence to recommend not to hold meetings on Id al-Fitr and Id al-Adha, referred to in the letter from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations (A/AC. 172/156), as many Member States would be unable to participate. It was also proposed that consideration should be given to including them as official holidays of the United Nations.
15. Other views were expressed that the appropriate forum to propose any change in official holidays would be the General Assembly at its forty-ninth or fifty-first sessions, during the year in which personnel issues and staff rules and regulations were reviewed. Therefore, it was felt that the Committee was not in a position to make recommendations to the General Assembly or its bodies with regard to the observance of holidays in the calendar that were not yet recognized as official.
16. It was noted that the chairmen of committees were usually responsive to the requests of the States members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) not to hold meetings on those two holidays when many delegations were unable to participate, and that they endeavoured to adjust the schedule of work of the Committee accordingly.
17. A proposal was made that the matter should be referred to the General Assembly under the agenda item entitled "Personnel questions".

## Conclusions and recommendations

18. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly that it should:
(a) Adopt the draft revised calendar of conferences and meetings for 1995;
(b) Authorize the Committee to make adjustments to the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1995 that might become necessary as a result of action and decisions taken by the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session;
(c) Invite the competent legislative organs to disband all bodies dealing with apartheid;
(d) Invite United Nations bodies to avoid holding meetings on 2 March and 9 May 1995, and also invite the Secretariat, when drafting the proposed calendar of conferences and meetings for 1996-1997, to take into account the same concerns expressed by some Member States.
19. The Committee requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session a consolidated statement relating to the number and costs of special conferences scheduled for 1995.
20. The Committee also requested the Secretariat to submit to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session, through the Committee on Conferences, a synoptic table by sector of meetings held during the bienniums 1992-1993 and 1994-1995 (using projections for the second half of 1995), including the notional cost of conference services provided, as well as a breakdown of meeting services and documentation costs.

## C. Improved utilization of conference-servicing resources

1. Meeting statistics of United Nations organs

## Introduction and overview

21. Since 1983, the Committee on Conferences has studied a series of reports showing the meeting statistics of a number of United Nations organs in New York, Geneva and Vienna. At its 348 th meeting, on 18 May 1993 , the Committee agreed to continue with the experimental methodology in use since 1991, and requested the Secretariat to expand the information presented to include analyses of trends perceived and capacity-utilization figures.
22. In view of its earlier decisions and the requests of the General Assembly contained in paragraph 7 of its resolution $48 / 222 \mathrm{~A}$, the Committee reviewed two reports at its $368 t h$ and 369 th meetings, on 23 and 24 August 1994, one compiled in accordance with the approved methodology (A/AC.172/157 and Corr.1) and one including analyses of trends and figures on the utilization of conference services.
23. Moreover, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution $48 / 222$ A, the Chairman of the Committee held consultations with the chairmen of organs whose utilization factor was lower than the established benchmark figure applicable for the last three sessions. At the same meetings, the Committee considered a report by the Secretariat on the results of those consultations.

## Discussion

24. It was noted that the core sample of bodies in document A/AC.172/157 and Corr. 1 had been expanded and that the overall and average utilization factors had increased considerably in 1993.
25. It was also felt that the emerging trend of late starts of meetings at times led to the need for additional meetings, which resulted in an increased workload for Conference Services.
26. It was also noted that Conference Services recognized that, while indicators for analysing capacity-utilization of interpretation services were available, no such indicators existed with regard to documentation-processing capacity, in particular, as there was no assessment of demand for documents to be processed.

## Conclusions and recommendations

27. The Committee welcomed the improved overall and average utilization factors for the core sample of bodies.
28. It requested the Secretariat to expand the core sample in the statistical analysis to include the Main Committees of the General Assembly and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.
29. It also requested the Secretariat to include in future reports figures on the capacity-utilization of conference services (for interpretation and documentation) in New York, Geneva and Vienna.
30. In addition, the Committee requested its Chairman to consult on its behalf with the chairmen of bodies that had consistently utilized less than the applicable benchmark figure ( 75 per cent for calendar years 1983 to 1993 and 80 per cent for calendar year 1994) of their allocated resources for the last three sessions, with a view to making appropriate recommendations in order to achieve the optimum utilization of conference-servicing resources.
31. The Committee reiterated its recommendation to the General Assembly that it should urge those bodies whose utilization factor was below the benchmark figure applicable for the last three sessions to review and consider reducing the level of conference-servicing resources requested.

## 2. Conference services at Vienna

Introduction and overview
32. At its 363rd meeting, on 8 April 1994, the Committee on Conferences decided to consider the question of conference services at Vienna. At its 366th meeting, on 22 August 1994, in the context of paragraph 14 of General Assembly resolution 48/222, the Committee considered a note by the Secretariat on the question.
33. At its 378 th meeting, on 22 November 1994, the Committee considered a report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates for conference services at Vienna (A/C.5/49/24).

## Discussion

34. The Secretariat confirmed the progress made in the establishment of unified United Nations conference services, which would become a reality as of 1 January 1995, the modalities of which had been the subject of a draft agreement. On the basis of that agreement, the Secretary-General would submit to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session the revised budget estimates under chapter 25 E (Conference and library services, Vienna) of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995. It was stipulated that the establishment of such unified conference services would not entail additional expenditures for Member States.

## Conclusions and recommendations

35. The Committee took note of the note by the Secretariat.
36. The Committee took note of the revised estimates for conference services at Vienna contained in document A/C.5/49/24.
37. In view of the need for the establishment of unified conference services at Vienna as soon as possible, expressed by the General Assembly in its resolution $48 / 218$, section I.C, of 23 December 1993, the Committee urged the Assembly to complete its consideration of the item by the end of 1994.

## 3. Legal basis and experience of all subsidiary bodies that meet away from their established headquarters

## Introduction and overview

38. In paragraph 20 of its resolution $48 / 222$ A, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to review the legal basis and experience of all subsidiary bodies that meet away from their established headquarters, thus constituting a departure from Assembly resolution 40/243, and to report thereon to the Assembly at its forty-ninth session through the Committee on Conferences.
39. At its 366 th meeting, on 22 August 1994, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the matter (A/49/212).

## Discussion

40. It was noted that certain subsidiary bodies that met away from their established headquarters had reported decided advantages in doing so, in particular the savings involved for the Organization. It was stated that, as the purpose of the established headquarters rule was to reduce expenditure, it would be useful to have data on the costs of meeting away.
41. The view was expressed that, as the provisions of General Assembly resolution $40 / 243$ of 18 December 1985 constituted a rule, exceptions in addition to those listed in section I, paragraph 4 (a) to (i) of that resolution should be kept to a minimum. The Assembly should assume a pragmatic position in its consideration of the matter, including the question of whether a waiver should continue to be granted to the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, which had not exercised their right to meet away since the resolution was adopted.
42. The view was also expressed that the rule should be strictly complied with and that no further exceptions should be granted. Moreover, bodies that had not exercised their right to meet away should no longer be entitled to do so.
43. The Secretariat provided clarification of various elements of the report.

## Conclusions and recommendations

44. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the quality of the report of the Secretary-General (A/49/212).
45. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly should:
(a) Discontinue the waiver of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, in the light of the transfer of that body to Vienna and the decision of that body to hold its meetings at Vienna in future;
(b) Reformulate the waiver granted to the Economic and Social Council, in the light of the measure adopted by the Assembly in paragraph 5 (c) of the annex to its resolution $45 / 264$ of 13 May 1991, whereby one substantive session of the Council of four to five weeks' duration took place in alternate years in New York and Geneva between May and July;
(c) Discontinue the waiver granted to the functional commissions of the Council, as they had not exercised their right to meet away since 1985.
46. The Committee further recommended that the General Assembly, in the light of the advice of the Office of Conference and Support Services, when considering exceptions under resolution $40 / 243$, should take into account the financial implications of the waiver, its effect on the work of the organs involved, as well as the volume of work at the headquarters of the organ involved and at Headquarters (New York). To that end, the Committee recommended that the Assembly should consult closely with the organs that requested waivers to resolution 40/243.

## D. Requests for exceptions to section I, paragraph 7, of General Assembly resolution 40/243

Introduction and overview
47. At its 365 th meeting, on 22 August 1994, the Committee on Conferences considered a note by the Secretariat containing requests from subsidiary bodies for exceptions to be made to section $I$, paragraph 7, of General Assembly resolution 40/243, which stipulated that no subsidiary organ of the Assembly might meet at United Nations Headquarters during a regular session of the Assembly unless explicitly authorized by the Assembly.
48. In accordance with the procedure established by the Committee, the requests included explanations as to (a) why the bodies wished to meet; (b) why they had not completed their work by the deadline of 1 September laid down in section $I$, paragraph 6, of Assembly resolution 40/243; (c) why it was necessary to meet during the Assembly session; and (d) how many meetings would be required. Statistical information was also provided on the number of meetings, if any, the bodies concerned had held during the forty-eighth session of the Assembly and the efficiency with which they had utilized the resources made available to them.

## Conclusions and recommendations

49. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly that it should explicitly authorize the following bodies to meet in New York during the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly, on the understanding that meetings would have to be accommodated as facilities and services became available so that the activities of the Assembly itself were not adversely affected: Committee on Relations with the Host Country; Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People; Advisory Committee on the United Nations

Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa; Preparatory Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations; Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA); Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); and Committee on Conferences.

# A. Provision of written meeting records to subsidiary organs of the General Assembly 

## Introduction and overview

50. In paragraph 16 of its resolution $47 / 202$ B of 22 December 1992, the General Assembly decided to undertake, at its forty-ninth session, a comprehensive review of, inter alia, the need for and usefulness and timely issuance of verbatim and summary records, on the basis of a report submitted by the Secretary-General through the Committee on Conferences and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. Subsequently, in paragraph 3 of its resolution $48 / 222$ B, the Assembly encouraged all bodies currently entitled to meeting records to review the need for such records, particularly verbatim records, and to communicate their recommendations to the Assembly at its forty-ninth session.
51. In the context of the review of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, the Committee on Conferences requested the Secretariat to consider the possibility of transferring to the Office of Conference and Support Services the staff specialized in the drafting of press releases, so that they could prepare summary records also, and to communicate the results of the study to the Committee and to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session.
52. At its 365 th, 367 th and 368 th meetings, held on 22 and 23 August 1994, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on this question (A/49/276 and Add. 1 and 2), as well as a note by the Secretariat on the same subject.

## Discussion

53. It was recalled that all decisions concerning a limitation or reduction in the provision of written meeting records must be taken by the General Assembly; the Secretary-General did not have the power to take decisions in the matter. The provision of verbatim records in the six official languages, at a notional cost of $\$ 16,600$ per record, was more costly than the provision of summary records, also in the six languages, the notional unit cost of which was $\$ 10,200$. Those costs included time devoted by permanent staff to drafting, translating and text-processing, and reproduction supplies. Nevertheless, the Secretariat noted that the replacement of verbatim records by summary records could raise serious problems. Verbatim records were provided by specialized teams, while summary records were provided by translator/précis-writers, whose duties also included translation. If the provision of verbatim records was reduced, the capacity of the translation services would have to be increased; the translation of summary records already represented 12 to 13 per cent of their total
translation workload. In fact, the summary record workload had already exceeded the capacity of the translation services, so that it had been necessary, in view of the rule on simultaneous distribution, to delay the issuance of summary records for up to six months or even longer. It would be difficult to increase the workload further without increasing the capacity of the translation services.
54. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the Executive Boards of UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF had decided to dispense with summary records.
55. The Committee agreed on the need for and desirability of verbatim and summary records for some bodies of a political or legal nature. Nevertheless, there was a need to review procedures and to streamline the provision of meeting records.
56. In order to encourage bodies entitled to meeting records to review their need for such records, the Committee recommended that the General Assembly should invite the bodies established by the Charter of the United Nations to review their entitlement to meeting records and, in the case of treaty bodies authorized to establish their own practice in the matter, appeal to them to review such a need.
57. The Committee decided to request the President of the General Assembly to send a letter to the chairmen of some bodies, requesting them to review their need for meeting records. In addition, it recommended that meeting records should be provided as follows:
(a) Bodies continuing to receive verbatim records:

Security Council
Military Staff Committee
General Assembly (plenary meetings)
Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (for hearings of witnesses)

United Nations Administrative Tribunal (when holding oral hearings)

Trusteeship Council
(b) Bodies for which summary records will be provided in lieu of verbatim records:

First Committee

Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Disarmament Commission
Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Conference on Disarmament
(c) Bodies for which summary records will be provided and which may be invited or requested to review their need:

General Committee and Main Committees of the General Assembly Subsidiary organs of the Security Council:

Committee of Experts, established by the Security Council at its 1st meeting, 1946 (to review its provisional rules of procedure and make recommendations in the matter)

Committee on the Admission of New Members, established by a decision taken by the Security Council at its 42nd meeting, 1946

Committee of Experts, established by the Security Council at its 1506th meeting (to study the question of "micro"-States and Territories)

Committee on Council Meetings Away from Headquarters, established by a decision taken by the Security Council at its 1625 th meeting

Security Council Commission established under resolution 446 (1979) (to examine the situation in the Arab territories occupied since 1967)

Ad Hoc Committee established under Security Council resolution 507 (1982) (to coordinate and mobilize resources for the Special Fund for the Republic of Seychelles)

Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) concerning the situation between Iraq and Kuwait

Governing Council of the United Nations Compensation Commission, established pursuant to Security Council resolution 687 (1991)

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 724 (1991) concerning Yugoslavia

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 748 (1992) concerning the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 841 (1993) concerning Haiti

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 864 (1993) concerning Angola

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 918 (1993) concerning Rwanda

Economic and Social Council (plenary meetings)
International Law Commission
International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial

Discrimination:
(a) Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
(b) Meetings of States parties

Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean
Commission on Human Rights and Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities

Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People

Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:
(a) Committee against Torture
(b) Meetings of States parties

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women: Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women Convention on the Rights of the Child:
(a) Committee on the Rights of the Child
(b) Meetings of States parties

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights:
(a) Human Rights Committee
(b) Meetings of States parties

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space - Legal Subcommittee

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
(d) Bodies for which meeting records will no longer be provided:

Committee on Applications for Review of Administrative Tribunal Judgements

Subsidiary organs of the General Assembly which meet on the occasion of international days of solidarity proclaimed by the General Assembly

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Executive Committee
58. The Committee expressed regret that the request of the General Assembly to establish time-limits had not been met. With a view to shortening summary records, the Committee recommended that the General Assembly should again request the chairmen of the relevant organs and subsidiary bodies of the

Assembly to propose to Member States, at the beginning of each session, the adoption of time-limits for speakers, as it had done in paragraph 11 of resolution 48/222 A.
59. The Committee stressed the importance of summary records for the work of delegations and recommended that the timeliness of their issuance should be improved. With regard to the drafting of press releases and the drafting of summary records, the Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Secretariat in favour of maintaining the current system, under which the two types of documents were provided by different staff, inasmuch as such documents had different objectives and the staff members concerned performed different duties.

> B. Implementation of the rules and regulations on control and limitation of documentation: compliance with the six-week rule for the issuance of pre-session documentation

## Introduction and overview

60. In paragraph 9 of its resolution $47 / 202$ B, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to review all of the factors involved in the timely issuance of pre-session documentation, including the quality and timeliness of submission to Conference Services, and to report thereon to the Assembly at its forty-ninth session through the Committee on Conferences.
61. At its 347 th and 350 th meetings, on 18 and 19 May 1993, the Committee considered an interim report on the matter, on the understanding that additional information would be submitted to it at its substantive session of 1994.
62. In addition, in paragraph 2 of its resolution $48 / 222$ B, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its fortyninth session, through the Committee, an analytical report on the factors that contributed to the late issuance and distribution of documentation, including the increase in the workload of Conference Services, the level of staffing, workload standards, the late submission of documents by departments and the effects of technological innovations in Conference Services.
63. At its 370 th and 371 st meetings, on 24 and 25 August 1994, the Committee considered a conference room paper, which was a provisional version of the report to be submitted in final form to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session and which supplemented the interim report of 1993 mentioned above.

## Discussion

64. It was recognized that the documentation crisis was a result, in part, of non-compliance with the six-week rule for the issuance of pre-session documentation. For several years, the demand for documents had exceeded the capacity of the various services, including at the research and drafting stage, so much so that the author departments themselves were having great difficulty in complying with the six-week rule. As a result in many cases Conference Services was having to give priority to documents that were submitted late, which in a way meant that departments that did comply with the 10 -week rule were being penalized. It was felt that the necessary human and technological resources would have to be increased in order to cope with the demand. In that connection, it was felt that it was not desirable to go ahead with the proposed elimination of 19 posts in Conference Services. Technological innovations had
made it possible to increase the productivity of Conference Services, but the quality of documents had not improved since, at the level of the translation services, work was increasingly self-revised (more than half of the output) whereas, previously, revision had been the main means of ensuring quality control.
65. According to the Secretariat, one solution might be to abandon the 10 -week and 6 -week rule and have a uniform 2 -week processing period instead, whatever the date of submission of documents to Conference Services. In that case, processing of other documents would not be interrupted, but it would in any event be necessary to continue making exceptions, for example, for the Security Council.
66. In order to encourage dialogue and cooperation between Member States, and particularly between the Committee on Conferences, the Office of Conference and Support Services and the substantive author departments, it was suggested that a tripartite working group be established to review questions of documentation and to try to seek practical solutions to the difficulties encountered. It was pointed out that there already were two special interdepartmental teams responsible for working on that situation and that it would be better to use existing structures, although exchanges of views could take place informally.

## Conclusions and recommendations

67. The Committee recommended that a constructive dialogue should take place between the Secretariat, Member States and all parties concerned on questions of documentation. The Committee also recommended that better coordination on documentation should be introduced, in particular, between the Office of Conference and Support Services and the substantive author departments.
68. The Committee was of the view that, given the considerable increase in documentation, which was due largely to the expanded activities of the Security Council, it was necessary to provide the Office of Conference and Support Services with the human, financial and material resources needed to cope with that increase, inter alia, by investing in new technological applications. In that regard, the Committee recommended, in particular, that the start-up programme of the optical disk system should be accelerated. The Committee stated that it was concerned about the proposals to reduce staff in the Office of Conference and Support Services, in particular, in translation. Given the increase in the workload in the Office, and the deterioration in the quality of the translation of documents submitted to Member States, as well as the late submission of documentation, the Committee recommended that the Secretariat should submit proposals with a view to ensuring the availability of adequate human and financial resources to the Office of Conference and Support Services to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session.
69. The Committee praised the initiatives taken by the Executive Board of UNDP and the Economic and Social Council to control and limit documentation. It recommended that the General Assembly should adopt the measures for limiting documentation for the Council and its subsidiary bodies as enumerated in document E/1994/L.41. It also recommended that other bodies should follow their example.
70. While recognizing that the strict application of the rule authorizing the Office of Conference and Support Services to reject for processing any document not submitted within the prescribed time-limits could result in disruption in
the functioning of the Organization, the Committee wished to recall that it was the responsibility of the Secretary-General to enforce administrative instruction ST/AI/189/Add. 23 on the timely submission and length of documents.
III. REVIEW OF THE PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993: SECTION 41J, CONFERENCE SERVICES

## Introduction and overview

71. In its resolution $39 / 238$ of 18 December 1984, the General Assembly approved the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, 2/ including the recommendation that relevant intergovernmental bodies should review the programme performance report.
72. At its 365 th and 366 th meetings, on 22 August 1994, the Committee on Conferences considered the report of the Secretary-General on programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1992-1993 (A/49/135 and Add.1) concerning section 41J (Office of Conference Services, New York).

## Discussion

73. Regrets were expressed at the fact that the programme performance report did not provide a qualitative assessment of programme performance during the biennium (A/49/135, para. 38). Deep concern was expressed at the fact that total output/services (over 180 million words) provided by the translation services during the period 1992-1993 were substantially higher than the 147.5 million words which had been forecast in the programme budget.
74. The Secretariat explained that the figures on the volume of work done, in the form of output/services, did not give an accurate picture of the workload of Conference Services, in particular the translation services, since there was a need also to take into account the unsatisfied demand for such services. In that context, Conference Services had coped with the large increase in workload, stemming in particular from the Security Council and its subsidiary organs, by increasing productivity through technological innovations, but also by resorting to self-revision and by delaying the issue of certain documents, which had resulted in a regrettable decline in the quality of services provided, in particular, in documentation-processing and translation. In that context, the soundness of the Secretary-General's proposal to reduce staff in the Translation Division was questioned by delegations.

## Conclusions and recommendations

75. Bearing in mind the report of the Secretary-General (A/49/135 and Add.1), the Committee recommended to the General Assembly that it should pay the utmost attention to improvement in the quality of conference services, particularly documentation-processing.

## Introduction and overview

76. In section II, paragraph 42, of its resolution $48 / 228$ of 23 December 1993, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its forty-ninth session a comprehensive study on the organization, management and human resources requirements for the provision of adequate conference services as a basis for the consideration of his proposals for the regular budget for the biennium 1996-1997, and to provide Member States with previous studies on the matter that were carried out during the biennium 1992-1993.
77. At its 369th-373rd meetings, from 24 to 26 August 1994, the Committee on Conferences reviewed an interim report on the comprehensive study on the matter.
78. At its 378 th meeting, on 22 November 1994, the Committee reviewed the finalized report of the Secretary-General on the comprehensive study on conference services (A/C.5/49/34).

## Discussion

79. The view was expressed that the study was well structured and provided the main areas for inclusion in the final report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session. It would be useful if the information were supplemented by graphs.
80. The view was also expressed that the study as presented contained terminology that was not in keeping with other United Nations documents and lacked sufficient concrete conclusions and recommendations.
81. Clarification was sought and received from the Secretariat regarding various aspects of the study. In reply to queries regarding the trade-offs that might be necessary when seeking an optimal balance among quality, timeliness and cost-efficiency, the Secretariat noted that, while compromises were not a deliberate policy of Conference Services, they were a daily necessity.
82. In reply to a query concerning proposals for improvement, the representative of the Secretariat noted that the account manager function would not entail staffing implications. Rather than duplicating the work of the committee secretaries, account managers would complement their work, relying on committee secretaries for an assessment of the requirements of Member States and the schedule of provision of documents by author departments. In turn, account managers would provide information to committee secretaries concerning all aspects of conference-servicing for their bodies. That concept was related to a perceived need to strengthen the advance planning function of Conference Services, particularly in the documentation area. The account manager would track the development of a document from the initial request, and work with committee secretaries to resolve problems that might arise at any stage of document production.
83. In reply to a query concerning the performance improvement function, the representative of the Secretariat noted that the Secretariat was proposing to give a formal structure to the concern about performance improvement by establishing it as a distinct function, that is, by developing networks of staff members throughout Conference Services who would meet regularly to coordinate
improvement projects in their units and report to the Director of Conference Services.
84. In reply to a query concerning performance measurements, the representative of the Secretariat stated that, until now, performance measurements had been purely quantitative. Conference Services would like to develop performance indicators for internal and external reporting that would cover the criteria of timeliness, quality and cost-efficiency referred to in paragraph 6 of the interim report.
85. In reply to a query concerning cost accounting, the representative of the Secretariat stated that the effective management of conference services resources required an active knowledge of their costs. Consequently, Conference Services had proposed a detailed cost-accounting study so as not to rely on hypothetical costs for planning and managing of resources. Such a system would enable Conference Services to manage resources more effectively; to decide whether it was more cost-efficient to use temporary staff or contractual services; and to respond more quickly to delegations' queries concerning financial implications and actual costs of conference services.
86. With regard to the technological innovations programme in Conference Services, it was stated that the optical disk system on which United Nations documents were currently being stored should be expanded at an early date to provide access to all interested missions in New York and Geneva. The Committee was informed that the capacity of the optical disk system was being expanded under provisions contained in the programme budget for 1994-1995, and that missions wishing to have access to it would be assisted by the Secretariat.
87. In reply to a query concerning dynamic staffing practices that would allow staff to be redeployed where needed, the representative of the Secretariat indicated that in the past some consideration had been given to the possibility of making language staff more interchangeable, which would be studied again in the light of current recruitment and placement rules and practices.
88. In reply to a query concerning demand forecasting, the representative of the Secretariat explained that up to now meetings and documentation workload estimates had been based on output statistics, which reflected capacity rather than demand at a given time. In order to manage conference-services resources more effectively, estimates of real workload were necessary.
89. The delegation of Egypt made a detailed proposal regarding the improvement of the Arabic translation services (see annex II).
90. Clarification was sought and received from the Secretariat regarding various aspects of the finalized study.
91. The view was expressed that emphasis should be placed, and further information provided, on such aspects of the study as demand forecasting, benchmarking, performance indicators, cost analysis and staff training.
92. In reply to a query concerning the demand for services, the representative of the Secretariat noted the difficulty encountered in calculating real demand and that efforts were being made to address that problem.
93. In reply to a query concerning human resources requirements, the representative of the Secretariat noted that figures for such requirements had not been included in the study as 1994 was not a budget year.
94. The Committee noted with regret that the report had not been finalized and expected that the final report would be produced in time for due consideration by the Committee before submission to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session.
95. The Committee was of the view that the final report on the comprehensive study on conference services should:
(a) Incorporate terminology and definitions compatible with other United Nations documents;
(b) Have a structure that followed the request in the mandating resolution and clarify the data contained therein with graphic presentations;
(c) Recommend performance indicators that would include measurements of quality, timeliness, accountability and cost-efficiency of conference services and develop a cost-accounting system that would provide better information on the real costs of conference-servicing. In that regard, the Committee wished to recall that it had already recommended that some of those measures should be taken and that recommendations along those lines had been approved by the General Assembly in its resolution $48 / 222$ A. It expressed its deep concern that the Secretariat had not met that request;
(d) Contain specific proposals to address documentation problems in order to achieve significant improvement in terms of quality, timeliness of submission and cost-efficiency;
(e) Contain a detailed analysis of staff and other resource requirements for the provision of adequate conference services, including their training, especially for translators;
(f) Consider dynamic staffing practices, such as cross-training and hiring of personnel with broader skills, that would facilitate redeployment;
(g) Propose improved indicators to estimate real demand for conference services.
96. The Committee was not convinced of the need to hire external consultants for the further stages of the study, as the Secretariat had sufficient in-house expertise to deal with the matter. The Committee also wished to emphasize that the use of adequate internal expertise would be more cost-efficient. Therefore, the Committee recommended that further stages of the study should be carried out through the use of internal expertise.
97. The Committee stressed the equal importance of quality, timeliness and cost-efficiency and appreciated that the Secretariat recognized that an optimum level should be achieved in all three areas.
98. The Committee trusted that the Secretariat, in consultation with interested delegations, would follow up on the proposal made by the delegation of Egypt regarding the improvement of the Arabic translation services. The Committee decided to keep the matter under review.
99. The Committee on Conferences supported the general orientation of the report on the comprehensive study on conference services contained in document

A/C.5/49/34.
100. The Committee welcomed the efforts made by the Secretary-General to improve conference services and urged him to continue exploring the ways and means of providing conference services in a manner that fully responded to the needs of intergovernmental and expert bodies, while ensuring the criteria of quality and timeliness.
101. The Committee was of the view that the study was a basis for presenting proposals for the 1996-1997 budget. In making those proposals, account should be taken, inter alia, of the need for more transparent performance indicators, better cost information on meetings and documentation and a detailed analysis of real demand for conference services.

## A. Membership

102. In its resolution $43 / 222$ B, the General Assembly decided to retain the Committee on Conferences as a permanent subsidiary organ. Pursuant to that resolution, the Committee in 1994 was composed of the following Member States: Austria, Chile, Egypt, Fiji, France, Gabon, Grenada, Honduras, Hungary, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Senegal, Turkey and United States of America.

## B. Officers

103. The Committee elected the following officers to serve in 1994:

Chairman: Ms. Maria Rotheiser (Austria)
Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Fernando Varela (Chile)
Mr. Csaba Sz. Nagy (Hungary)
Mr. Noor Muhammad Jadmani (Pakistan)

Rapporteur: Mr. El Hassane Zahid (Morocco)
104. At its organizational session for 1994 (363rd meeting), on 8 April 1994, the Committee agreed in principle that the Chairman would undertake informal consultations with a view to determining the composition of the Committee's Bureau in 1995.

## C. Organization of work

105. At its $363 r d$ meeting, on 8 April 1994, the Committee agreed to meet as required to take up matters related to the calendar of conferences and its implementation, in particular the consideration of inter-sessional departures from the approved calendar. At the same meeting, the Committee requested the Secretariat to submit a draft biennial agenda for 1995-1996 at the organizational session to be held early in 1995. The Committee convened its resumed organizational session (364th meeting) on 31 May 1994, its substantive session from 22 to 31 August 1994 ( 365 th-377th meetings) and its resumed substantive session on 22 November 1994 (378th meeting).
106. The Committee expressed regret at the delayed submission of some of its documents, which were often presented in provisional form. The Committee noted that it was experiencing the same difficulties as the Organization as a whole with regard to documentation.

## D. Programme of work

107. At its organizational session for 1993, on 2 March 1993, the Committee had requested the Secretariat to submit to it, at its organizational session for 1994, a draft biennial agenda for 1994-1995, which was subsequently issued in document A/AC.172/154 and adopted by the Committee.
108. The Director of Conference Services and the Assistant Secretary-General,

Conference and Support Services, respectively, addressed the Committee at the opening of its organizational and substantive sessions.

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    VI. WORK OF THE COMMITTEE DURING THE FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION
    OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, FROM 21 SEPTEMBER TO
    23 DECEMBER 1993
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109. No meetings were held by the Committee on Conferences during the
forty-eighth session of the General Assembly. However, the Committee was seized
with the following request:
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    Committee Request Action taken
    Committee on the Exercise To convene meetings, Recommended to the General
of the Inalienable Rights seminars and Assembly that it grant an
of the Palestinian People symposia in various exception to section $I$,
regions paragraph 4, of resolution
40/243, thereby authorizing
the Committee to meet away
from its established
headquarters

## Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 32 (A/48/32/Rev.2).

2/ Ibid., Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/39/38).

Revised draft calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations and of the principal organs of the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, 1995

## Explanatory notes



```
WIPO World Intellectual Property Organization
WMO World Meteorological Organization
In the column headed "Membership"
G Governments
E
    Experts
ST
    Secretariat or secretariats
In the column headed "Servicing"
I Interpretation
T Translation
PV Verbatim records
SR Summary records
```

A. Revised draft calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations, 1995




|  | Organ | Dates (1995) | Location | Membership | Serv | ing | a/ | Periodicity |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 20. | Preparatory Meeting for the Twelfth <br> United Nations North <br> American NGO <br> Symposium on the <br> Question of <br> Palestine [General <br> Assembly resolution <br> 48/158] | $\begin{gathered} \text { January/ } \\ \text { February } \\ \text { (2 days) } \end{gathered}$ | New York | 12 E | $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{I} \\ (E F) \end{gathered}$ | T | - |  |
| 21. | Conference on Disarmament, first part [General Assembly resolutions 1722 (XVI), S-10/2 and $34 / 83 \mathrm{~L}]$ | 30 January- <br> 7 April | Geneva | 40 G | I <br> (ACEFRS) | T | PV | One session in three parts per year |
| 22. | UNICEF - Executive <br> Board, first regular <br> session [General <br> Assembly resolutions <br> 57 (I) and 48/162] | 1-6 February | New York | 36 G | I <br> (ACEFRS) | T | - |  |
| 23. | UNCTAD - Symposium on Land-locked and Transit Developing Countries [General Assembly resolution 48/169] | 6-8 February | Geneva | To be determined | $\begin{gathered} I \\ (E F) \end{gathered}$ | T | - |  |
| 24. | Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development, special session [Economic and Social Council decision 1994/305] | 6-17 February | New York | 45 G | I <br> (ACEFRS) | T | - |  |



|  | Organ | Dates (1995) | Location |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { Member- } \\ \text { ship } \end{gathered}$ | Serv | ing | a/ | Periodicity |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 30. | Fifth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child [General <br> Assembly resolution 44/25] | 21 February | New |  |  | I <br> (ACEFRS) |  | SR | One session every two years |
| 31. | Population <br> Commission, twentyeighth session [Economic and Social Council resolutions 150 (VII) and 1147 (XLI)] | 21 February- <br> 2 March | New | York | 27 G | I <br> (ACEFRS) | T | - | One session every two years |
| 32. | Economic and Social Council - Working Group on the review of the arrangements for consultations with nongovernmental organizations, second session [Economic and Social Council resolution 1994/28] | $21-24$ <br> February | New | York | 191 G | I <br> (ACEFRS) | T | - |  |
| 33. | Investments Committee [General Assembly resolution 248 (III)] | 27 February | New | York | 9 E | - | - | - | Four meetings per year |


|  | Organ | Dates (1995) | Location | $\begin{gathered} \text { Member- } \\ \text { ship } \end{gathered}$ | Serv | ing |  | Periodicity |
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| 34. | Commission on Sustainable <br> Development - <br> Inter-sessional <br> Ad Hoc Working Group on Sectoral Issues [Economic and Social Council decision 1994/305] | $\begin{aligned} & 27 \text { February- } \\ & 3 \text { March } \end{aligned}$ | New York | 53 G | I <br> (ACEFRS) | T | - |  |
| 35. | Statistical <br> Commission, twentyeighth session <br> [Economic and Social Council resolutions <br> 8 (I), 8 (II) and <br> 1566 (L) ] | 27 February- <br> 3 March | New York |  | I <br> (ACEFRS) | T | - | One session every two years |
| 36. | ```United Nations Commission on International Trade Law - Working Group on Electronic Data Interchange, twenty-ninth session [General Assembly resolution 2928 (XXVII)]``` | 27 February- <br> 10 March | New York | $36 \mathrm{G}$ | I <br> (ACEFRS) | T | - | Two <br> sessions <br> per year |
| 37. | ```International Seabed Authority - Assembly, first session, second part [General Assembly resolution 48/263]``` | 27 February- <br> 17 March | Kingston | 160 G | I <br> (ACEFRS) | T | - |  |

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|  | Organ | Dates (1995) | Location | $\begin{gathered} \text { Member- } \\ \text { ship } \end{gathered}$ | Serv | ing | a/ | Periodicity |
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| 38. | ```Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, forty-sixth session [General Assembly resolution 2106 A (XX)]``` | 27 February- <br> 17 March | Geneva | $18 \mathrm{E}$ | I <br> (CEFRS) |  | SR | Two <br> sessions <br> per year |
| 39. | Committee for the United Nations Population Award [General Assembly resolution 36/201] | February <br> (2 days) | New York | 10 G | I <br> (EFS) | T | - | One session per year |
| 40. | Commission on Sustainable Development organizational meeting [Economic and Social Council decision 1994/301] | February <br> (1 day) | New York | 53 G | I <br> (ACEFRS) | T | - |  |
| 41. | Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, organizational session [General Assembly resolution 1654 (XVI)] | $\begin{aligned} & \text { February } \\ & (1-2 \\ & \text { meetings) } \end{aligned}$ | New York | 24 G | I <br> (ACEFRS) |  | PV |  |


|  | Organ | Dates (1995) | Location | $\begin{gathered} \text { Member- } \\ \text { ship } \end{gathered}$ | Ser | in |  | Periodicity |
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| 47. | Intergovernmental <br> Working Group of <br> Experts on <br> International <br> Standards of <br> Accounting and <br> Reporting, <br> thirteenth session <br> [Economic and Social <br> Council resolution $1982 / 67]$ | 13-17 March | Geneva | 34 G | I <br> (ACEFRS) | T |  | One session <br> per year |
| 48. | ICSC, forty-first session [General Assembly resolution 3357 (XXIX)] | 13-31 March | New York | 15 E | I (EFRS) | T | - | Two <br> sessions <br> per year |
| 49. | Commission on Narcotic Drugs, thirty-eighth session [Economic and Social Council resolutions 9 (I) and 1991/39] | 14-23 March | Vienna | 53 G | I <br> (ACEFRS) | T | - | One session per year |
| 50. | Commission on the Status of Women, thirty-ninth session [Economic and Social Council resolutions 11 (II), 1147 (XLI) and 1987/21] | 15 March4 April | New York | 45 G | I <br> (ACEFRS) | T | - | One session per year |
| 51. | Committee of the Whole of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs [Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/39] | 16-21 March | Vienna | 53 G | I <br> (ACEFRS) | T | - | One session per year |



|  | Organ | Dates (1995) | Location | Membership | Serv | ing | a/ | Periodicity |
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| 57. | Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space - Legal Subcommittee, thirty-fourth session [General Assembly resolution 1472 (XIV)] | $\begin{aligned} & 27 \text { March- } \\ & 13 \text { April } \end{aligned}$ | Vienna | $53 G$ | I (ACEFRS) | T | SR | One session <br> per year |
| 58. | Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change [General Assembly resolution 48/189] | $\begin{aligned} & 28 \text { March- } \\ & 7 \text { April } \end{aligned}$ | Berlin | To be determined | I (ACEFRS) | T | - |  |
| 59. | Preparatory Meeting for the Twelfth <br> United Nations <br> International NGO <br> Meeting on the <br> Question of <br> Palestine [General <br> Assembly resolution 48/158] | $\begin{aligned} & \text { March } \\ & (2 \text { days }) \end{aligned}$ | Geneva | 26 E |  | T | - |  |
| 60. | United Nations Staff Pension Committee [General Assembly resolution 248 (III)] | $\begin{gathered} \text { March/April } \\ \text { (1 meeting) } \end{gathered}$ | New York | 12 E | - | - | - | Three <br> sessions of one meeting each per year |
| 61. | ESCAP, fifty-first session [Economic and Social Council resolutions 37 (IV), 69 (V) and 723 B (XXVIII)] | March/April | Bangkok | 48 G | I (CEFR) | T | - | One session <br> per year |








|  | Organ | Dates (1995) | Location | $\begin{gathered} \text { Member- } \\ \text { ship } \end{gathered}$ | Serv | ing | a/ | Periodicity |
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| 87. | UNCTAD - Ad Hoc <br> Working Group on Trading <br> Opportunities, first session [Trade and Development Board decision <br> 398 (XXXVIII) and General Assembly resolution 47/183] | 1-5 May | Geneva | b/ | I <br> (ACEFRS) | T | - |  |
| 88. | Committee on Information, seventeenth session [General Assembly resolution 33/115 C] | 1-12 May | New York | 83 G | I <br> (ACEFRS) | T | - | One session per year |
| 89. | Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, twelfth session [Economic and Social Council resolutions 1982/33 and 1985/17] | 1-19 May | Geneva | 18 E | I <br> (ACEFRS ) | T | SR | One session per year |
| 90. | International Law Commission, fortyseventh session <br> [General Assembly resolution 174 (II)] | 1 May-21 July | Geneva | 34 E | I <br> (ACEFRS) | T | SR | One session per year |
| 91. | United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, twenty-eighth session [General Assembly resolution 2205 (XXI)] | 2-26 May | Vienna | 36 G | I <br> (ACEFRS) | T | SR | One session per year |




|  | Organ | Dates (1995) | Location | $\begin{gathered} \text { Member- } \\ \text { ship } \end{gathered}$ | Serv | ing |  | Periodicity |
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| $105 .$ | UNCTAD - Standing Committee on Developing Services Sectors: Fostering Competitive Services Sectors in Developing Countries, third session [Trade and Development Board decision <br> 398 (XXXVIII) and General Assembly resolution 47/183] | 29 May-2 June | Geneva | b/ | I <br> (ACEFRS) | T | - |  |
| $106 .$ | Conference on Disarmament, second part [General <br> Assembly resolutions 1722 (XVI), S-10/2 and $34 / 83 \mathrm{~L}]$ | 29 May-7 July | Geneva | 40 G | I <br> (ACEFRS) | T | PV | One session in three parts per year |
| $107$ | Committee for Programme and Coordination, thirty-fifth session [Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX) and General Assembly resolution 31/93] | May/June <br> (4 weeks) | New York | 34 G | I <br> (ACEFRS) | T | - | One session per year |
| $108$ | United Nations Joint Staff Pension <br> Board - Committee of Actuaries [General <br> Assembly resolution 1561 (XV), article XXIX] | May/June <br> (1 week) | New York | 5 E | I <br> (ER) | T | - | One session per year |


| Organ | Dates | (1995) | Location | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Member- } \\ & \text { ship } \end{aligned}$ | Ser | ing | a/ | Periodicity |
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| 113. UNCTAD - Standing Committee on Poverty Alleviation, third session [Trade and Development Board decision <br> 398 (XXXVIII) and General Assembly resolution 47/183] | 12-16 | June | Geneva | b/ | I <br> (ACEFRS) |  | - |  |
| 114. Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, thirtyeighth session [General Assembly resolution 1472 A (XIV)] | 12-23 | June | Vienna | 53 G | I <br> (ACEFRS) | T | PV | One session per year |
| 115. Committee on Contributions, fifty-fifth session [General Assembly resolution 173 (II)] | 12-30 | June | New York | 18 E | I <br> (ACEFRS ) | T | - | One session per year |
| 116. Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters [General Assembly resolution $37 / 99 \mathrm{~K}]$ | 19-23 | June | New York | 25 E | I <br> (ACEFRS ) | T | - | One session per year |
| 117. UNCTAD - Standing Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries, third session [Trade and Development Board decision 398 (XXXVIII) and General Assembly resolution 47/183] | 19-23 | June | Geneva | b/ | I <br> (ACEFRS) | T | - |  |






| Organ | Dates (1995) | Location | $\begin{gathered} \text { Member- } \\ \text { ship } \end{gathered}$ | Serv | ing | a/ | Periodicity |
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| 134. Commission on Human Rights - <br> Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, fortyseventh session [Economic and Social Council resolution 9 (II)] | 31 July- <br> 25 August | Geneva | 26 E | I <br> (ACEFRS) |  |  | One session per year |
| 135. Conference on Disarmament, third part [General Assembly resolutions 1722 (XVI), S-10/2 and $34 / 83 \mathrm{~L}]$ | 31 July- <br> 22 September | Geneva | 40 G | I <br> (ACEFRS) | T | PV | One session <br> in three <br> parts <br> per year |
| 136. Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples [General Assembly resolution 1654 (XVI) ] | July/August (20 meetings) | New York | 25 G | I <br> (ACEFRS) | T | $\text { PV C } /$ | Two <br> sessions <br> per year |
| 137. Commission on Human Rights - Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on Southern Africa [Economic and Social Council decision 1993/257] | 7-8 August | Geneva | 6 E | $\begin{gathered} I \\ (E F S) \end{gathered}$ | T | - |  |



| Organ | Dates (1995) | Location | $\begin{gathered} \text { Member- } \\ \text { ship } \end{gathered}$ | Servicing a/ |  |  | Periodicity |
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| 142. Twelfth United <br> Nations <br> International NGO <br> Meeting on the <br> Question of <br> Palestine [General <br> Assembly resolution <br> 48/158] | August <br> (3 days) | Geneva or Vienna |  | $\begin{gathered} I \\ (E F) \end{gathered}$ | T | - |  |
| 143. United Nations European Regional NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine [General Assembly resolution 48/158] | August <br> (2 days) | Geneva or Vienna |  | $\begin{gathered} I \\ (E F) \end{gathered}$ | T | - |  |
| 144. Fourth World <br> Conference on Women: <br> Action for Equality, <br> Development and <br> Peace [Economic and <br> Social Council <br> resolution 1990/12 <br> and decision <br> 1992/272] | $\begin{aligned} & 4-15 \\ & \text { September* } \end{aligned}$ | Beijing | 191 G | I <br> (ACEFRS) | T | - |  |
| 145. Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions [General Assembly resolution 173 (II)] | 5 SeptemberDecember | New York | 16 E | I <br> (ACEFRS) | T | - | Two <br> sessions <br> per year |


| Organ | Dates (1995) | Location | Membership | Serv | ing | a/ | Periodicity |
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| 146. UNCTAD - Trade and Development Board, forty-second session, first part [General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX) and UNCTAD resolution 114 (V) ] | 11-22 <br> September | Geneva | b/ | I (ACEFRS) | T | - | One session in two <br> parts <br> per year |
| 147. Investments <br> Committee [General <br> Assembly resolution 248 (III)] | 18 September | New York | 9 E | - | - | - | Four meetings per year |
| 148. Commission on Human <br> Rights - Working <br> Group on Enforced or Involuntary | $18-22$ <br> September | Geneva | 5 E | $\begin{gathered} I \\ (\text { AEFS }) \end{gathered}$ | T | - |  |
| Disappearances, forty-sixth session <br> [Economic and Social Council decision 1992/227] |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 149. UNICEF - Executive <br> Board, third regular <br> session [General <br> Assembly resolutions <br> 57 (I) and 48/162] | $\begin{aligned} & 18-22 \\ & \text { September* } \end{aligned}$ | New York | 36 G | I (ACEFRS ) | T | - |  |
| 150. General Assembly, <br> fiftieth session <br> [Charter] | 19 SeptemberDecember | New York | 184 G | I (ACEFRS) |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { PV / SR } \\ \text { e/ } \end{gathered}$ |  |




[^1]| Organ | Dates (1995) | Location | $\begin{gathered} \text { Member- } \\ \text { ship } \end{gathered}$ | Ser | ing | a/ | Periodicity |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 155. Scientific and Technical Committee on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, seventh session [General Assembly resolution 44/236] | September <br> (1 week) | Geneva |  | I <br> (ACEFRS) | T | - | One session <br> per year |
| 156. UNRWA - Advisory Commission [General Assembly resolution 302 (IV)] | September <br> (1 day) | Vienna | 10 G | I (AEF) | T | - | One session per year |
| 157. Commission on Human Rights - Working Group on the Right to Development [Economic and Social Council decision 1993/260] | September/ <br> October <br> (2 weeks) | Geneva | 15 E | I <br> (ACEFRS) | T | - |  |
| 158. United Nations Staff Pension Committee [General Assembly resolution 248 (III)] | September/ <br> October <br> (1 meeting) | New York | 12 E | - | - | - | Three sessions of one meeting each per year |
| 159. United Nations <br> Commission on <br> International Trade <br> Law - Working Group <br> on Electronic Data <br> Interchange, <br> thirtieth session <br> [General Assembly <br> resolution <br> 2928 (XXVII)] | Third quarter (2 weeks) | Vienna | 36 G | I <br> (ACEFRS) | T | - | Two <br> sessions per year |



|  | Organ | Dates (1995) | Location | $\begin{gathered} \text { Member- } \\ \text { ship } \end{gathered}$ | Ser | ing | a/ | Periodicity |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $172 .$ | ```UNHCR - Executive Committee, forty- sixth session [General Assembly resolution 1166 (XII)]``` | October <br> (1 week) | Geneva | 47 G | I <br> (ACEFS ) |  | SR | One session per year |
| $173 .$ | Administrative <br> Committee on Coordination, second regular session [Economic and Social Council resolution 13 (III)] | October (3 days) | New York | 27 ST | $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{I} \\ (\mathrm{EF}) \end{gathered}$ | T | - | Two <br> sessions <br> per year |
| $174$ | Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination [Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX) and General Assembly resolution 31/93] | October (3 days) | New York | $\begin{array}{r} 34 \mathrm{G} \\ 27 \mathrm{ST} \end{array}$ | I <br> (ACEFRS) | T | - | One session per year |
| $175 .$ | Advisory Committee on the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law, thirtieth session [General Assembly resolution 2099 (XX)] | October <br> (2 days) | New York | 13 G | I <br> (ACEFRS) | T | - | One session per year |





| Organ | Dates (1995) | Location | $\begin{gathered} \text { Member- } \\ \text { ship } \end{gathered}$ | Serv | ing | a/ | Periodicity |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 202. Commission on <br> Narcotic Drugs - <br> Meeting of Heads of <br> National Drug Law <br> Enforcement <br> Agencies, Latin <br> America and <br> Caribbean Region <br> [Economic and Social <br> Council resolutions <br> 1987/34 and 1988/15] | Fourth quarter <br> (1 week) | Santiago | 42 G | I (EFS) | T |  | One session per year |
| 203. Commission on Narcotic Drugs Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East <br> [Economic and Social Council resolution 1776 (LIV)] | Fourth quarter | A capital in the region | 20 G | $\begin{gathered} \text { I } \\ (\mathrm{AE}) \end{gathered}$ | T | - | One session per year |
| 204. Security Council [Charter] | As required | New York | 15 G | I <br> (ACEFRS) | T | PV | As required |
| 205. Security Council <br> Committee of Experts [decision taken by the Security Council at its 1st meeting, $1946]$ | As required | New York | 15 G | I <br> (ACEFRS) | T | SR | As required |
| 206. Security Council Committee of Experts established by the Security Council at its 1506 th meeting | As required | New York | $15 \mathrm{G}$ | I <br> (ACEFRS ) | T | SR | As required |


| Organ | Dates (1995) | Location | $\begin{gathered} \text { Member- } \\ \text { ship } \end{gathered}$ | Ser | ing | a/ | Periodicity |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 207. Security Council Committee on the Admission of New Members [decision taken by the Security Council at its 42nd meeting, $1946]$ | As required | New York | $15 \mathrm{G}$ | I <br> (ACEFRS) |  | SR | As required |
| 208. Security Council Committee on Council Meetings Away from Headquarters [decision taken by the Security Council at its 1625th meeting] | As required | New York |  | I <br> (ACEFRS) |  | SR | As required |
| 209. Security Council Commission established under Security Council resolution 446 (1979) | As required | New York | 3 G | I <br> (ACEFRS) | T | SR | As required |
| 210. Security Council Ad Hoc Committee established under Security Council resolution 507 (1982) | As required | New York | 4 G | I <br> (ACEFRS) | T | SR | As required |
| 211. Security Council <br> Committee <br> established by <br> resolution <br> 661 (1990) <br> concerning the <br> situation between <br> Iraq and Kuwait | As required | New York | 15 G | I <br> (ACEFRS) | T | SR | As required |


| Organ | Dates (1995) | Location | $\begin{gathered} \text { Member- } \\ \text { ship } \end{gathered}$ | Serv | ing | a/ | Periodicity |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 212. Security Council <br> Committee <br> established pursuant <br> to resolution <br> 724 (1991) <br> concerning <br> Yugoslavia | As required | New York | 15 G | I <br> (ACEFRS) | T | SR | As required |
| 213. Security Council <br> Committee <br> established pursuant <br> to resolution <br> 748 (1992) <br> concerning the <br> Libyan Arab <br> Jamahiriya | As required | New York | 15 G | I <br> (ACEFRS) | T | SR | As required |
| 214. Security Council <br> Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia | As required | New York | 15 G | I <br> (ACEFRS) | T | SR | As required |
| 215. Security Council Ad Hoc Commission established under Security Council resolution 794 (1992) | As required | New York | 15 G | I <br> (ACEFRS) | T | SR | As required |
| 216. Security Council <br> Committee established pursuant to resolution 864 (1993) concerning Angola | As required | New York | 15 G | I <br> (ACEFRS) | T | SR | As required |






| Organ | Dates (1995) | Location | $\begin{gathered} \text { Member- } \\ \text { ship } \end{gathered}$ | Serv | ing | a/ | Periodicity |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 237. First Meeting of the States Parties to the International Convention on the Protection of Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families [General Assembly resolution 45/158] | To be determined (1 day) | New York | To be determined | I <br> (ACEFRS) |  | SR | One session every two years after the Convention enters into force |
| 238. Meeting of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea [General Assembly resolution 37/66] | To be determined | New York |  | I <br> (ACEFRS) | T | - |  |
| 239. Consultative <br> Committee on the <br> United Nations <br> Development Fund for <br> Women, thirty-fifth <br> session [General <br> Assembly resolutions 31/133 and 39/125] | To be determined | New York | 5 G | - | - | - | Two <br> sessions <br> per year |
| 240. Consultative <br> Committee on the <br> United Nations <br> Development Fund for <br> Women, thirty-sixth <br> session [General <br> Assembly resolutions $31 / 133$ and 39/125] | To be determined | New York | 5 G | - | - | - | Two <br> sessions <br> per year |




| Organ | Dates (1995) | Location | $\begin{gathered} \text { Member- } \\ \text { ship } \end{gathered}$ | Ser | in | a/ | Periodicity |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 252. United Nations European Regional Seminar on the Question of Palestine [General Assembly resolution 48/158] | To be determined | To be determined |  | $\begin{gathered} I \\ (E F) \end{gathered}$ | T | - |  |
| 253. Meeting between representatives of the Secretariat of the United Nations and of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States [General Assembly resolution 45/82] | To be determined | To be determined | $27 \text { ST }$ | I (AEF) | T | - | One session per year |
| 254. World Food Council, nineteenth <br> ministerial session [General Assembly resolution 3348 (XXIX)] | To be determined | To be determined | 36 G | I <br> (ACEFRS) | T | - | One session per year |
| 255. ESCWA - eighteenth <br> session [Economic <br> and Social Council <br> resolutions <br> 181 (LV), <br> 2089 (XIII) and <br> 1994/26] | To be determined | Amman | 13 G | I (AEF) | T | - | One session every two years |
| 256. ESCWA - Technical <br> Committee [Economic <br> and Social Council <br> resolution 1994/26] | To be determined | Amman | 13 G | $\begin{gathered} I \\ (A E F) \end{gathered}$ | T | - | One session every two years |

B. List of bodies whose mandates are to be presented for renewal


# C. Draft revised calendar of conferences and meetings of the principal organs of the specialized agencies, <br> the International Atomic Energy Agency and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade for 1995 

|  | Organ | Dates (1995) | Location |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1. ICAO - Council, one hundred and forty-fourth session |  |  |  |
|  | Committee phase | 16 January3 February | Montreal |
|  | Council phase | ```20 February- 24 March``` | Montreal |
| 2. | WHO - Executive Board, ninety-fourth session | January | Geneva |
|  | ILO - Governing Body and its committees, two hundred and sixty-second session | $\begin{aligned} & 13 \text { February- } \\ & 2 \text { March } \end{aligned}$ | Geneva |
| 4. | UNIDO - Programme and Budget Committee, eleventh session | 24-28 April | Vienna |
| 5. | ICAO - Council, one hundred and forty-fifth session |  | Montreal |
|  | Committee phase | 24 April- <br> 12 May | Montreal |
|  | Council phase | 29 May30 June | Montreal |
| 6. | ILO - Governing Body and its committees, two hundred and sixty-third session | 25 May-3 June | Geneva |
| 7. | WMO - Congress, twelfth session | 30 May-21 June | Geneva |
| 8. | IAEA - Board of Governors - <br> Administrative and Budgetary Committee | May <br> (1 day) | Vienna |
| 9. | WHO - Executive Board, ninety-fifth session | May | Geneva |
| 10. | WHO - World Health Assembly, forty-eighth session | May | Geneva |
| 11. | UNESCO - Executive Board, one hundred and forty-sixth session | May | Paris |
| 12. | ILO - General Conference, eighty-second session | 6-23 June | Geneva |
|  | -88- |  |  |


|  | Organ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Dates } \\ & (1995) \end{aligned}$ | Location |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | FAO - Council, one hundred and seventh session | 12-23 June | Rome |
|  | UNIDO - Industrial Development Board, fourteenth session | 19-23 June | Vienna |
| 15. | WMO - Executive Council, fortyseventh session | 22-24 June | Geneva |
| 16. | ITU - Council | June <br> (2 weeks) | Geneva |
| 17. | IAEA - Board of Governors | June <br> (1 day) | Vienna |
| 18. | IAEA - Board of Governors | 12 September | Vienna |
| 19. | IAEA - General Conference | 18-22 September | Vienna |
| 20. | IAEA - Board of Governors | 25 September | Vienna |
| 21. | WIPO - Governing bodies | 25 September4 October | Geneva |
| 22. | ICAO - Assembly, triennial session | September/ October | Montreal* |
| 23. | IMF/World Bank - Annual meetings of the Boards of Governors | 10-12 October | Washington, D.C. |
| 24. | ICAO - Council, one hundred and forty-sixth session |  |  |
|  | Committee phase | 23 October- <br> 3 November | Montreal |
|  | Council phase | 13 November- <br> 15 December | Montreal |
| 25. | UNESCO - Executive Board, one hundred and forty-seventh session | October | Paris |
| 26. | UNESCO, General Conference, twenty-eighth session | October/November | Paris |
| 27. | ILO - Governing Body and its committees, two hundred and sixty-fourth session | 2-16 November | Geneva |

[^2]| Organ | Dates (1995) | Location |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 28. FAO - Council, one hundred and eighth session | 7-9 November | Rome |
| 29. FAO - Conference, twenty-eighth session | 11-30 November | Rome |
| 30. IMO - Assembly | November <br> (2 weeks) | London |
| 31. IAEA - Board of Governors - Technical Assistance and Cooperation Committee | November <br> (1 day) | Vienna |
| 32. FAO - Council, one hundred and ninth session | 1 December | Rome |
| 33. UNIDO - General Conference, sixth session | 4-8 December | Vienna |
| 34. IAEA - Board of Governors | December (1 day) | Vienna |
| 35. GATT - Contracting Parties, fiftieth session | December | Geneva |

## Proposal of the delegation of Egypt

1. The purpose of the proposals submitted by the delegation of Egypt is, on the one hand, to eliminate the deficiencies which adversely affect the quality of Arabic translation and, on the other to make use of the capacity available in the Arabic Translation Service by enabling all highly qualified personnel to demonstrate their creativity and to assume a more active and more useful role for the benefit of all users of Arabic documentation.
2. The proposed plan consists of two phases: in the first we would pinpoint the deficiencies, and put an end to the practice of translating literally into Arabic from foreign languages, which has caused us many problems, and in the second we would "Arabize" United Nations documentation in order to make it really useful not only to representatives of Arab Governments, but also to all those who are interested in the United Nations (universities, institutions and non-governmental organizations, etc.).
3. Phase I would start with the opening of the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly and continue until the end of 1995, so as to coincide with the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations.
4. The aim would be to enhance the quality of service provided to users of documentation by making the following improvements:
(a) Abolishing what is called self-revision, which has proved ineffective;
(b) Abolishing the practice of dividing documents among several
translators, so as to avoid inconsistency. Where this is not possible, the translation should be revised by one reviser so as to ensure consistency of terms and meanings;
(c) No document should be issued before ensuring that the same terminology has been used throughout the document;
(d) Abandoning the idea that it was necessary to stay close to the original text and trying instead to render the essence of the text while preserving the spirit of the Arabic language (as French translators do);
(e) Desisting from the attempt to find a single Arabic equivalent for each foreign word, and using circumlocutions instead while respecting Arabic style as much as possible;
(f) Reviewing all terms alien to the Arabic language that are currently used at the United Nations but that are not found in dictionaries;
(g) Putting an end to the practice of building sentences in Arabic based on the structure of the original text, which makes the Arabic clumsy, complicated and unintelligible, and using nominal clauses whenever possible.
5. In short, the aim is to stop translating literally into Arabic from other languages, and to do what French translators do, namely, translate the meaning of the original text and make the French text consistent with the spirit and structure of the French language.
6. The timing of phase II would depend on what can be accomplished in 1995. The purpose of this phase is to carry out a process of "Arabization" of United Nations documents so as to make them useful to all Arab countries and to users at all levels (official and private), and so that the reader does not recognize them as translations. These documents will then be a source of enrichment for Arab culture and will communicate the message of the United Nations clearly to all Arab societies. The details of phase II can be studied towards the end of phase I, in other words, at the Committee's substantive session of 1995.
7. Lastly, the success of the proposed plan will depend on the constructive cooperation of all relevant members of the Arabic Translation Service and their willingness to respond quickly to this challenge, namely the general promotion and enhancement of Arabic within the United Nations.

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[^0]:    * Originally issued in mimeographed form as documents A/49/32 of 7 September 1994 and incorporating documents A/49/32/Add.1-3 of 14 October, 23 November and 25 November 1994, respectively.

[^1]:    

[^2]:    * Unless an invitation is received from a Contracting State and the Council accepts it.

