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COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION
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Agenda item 8

DRAFT REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION

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Addendum

Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

1. At its 9th and 10th meetings, on 22 May 1995, the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) considered agenda item 3, entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations". The Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the item (A/49/633). In accordance with General Assembly decision 47/454 of 23 December 1992, the Committee was requested to express its views on the role and coverage of the subsidiary bodies responsible for coordination, administrative questions and budgetary matters, including the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), the Board of Auditors, the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) and CPC, with a view to improving the effectiveness of their oversight and coordination mechanisms.

Discussion

2. During the discussion, concerns were expressed that CPC needed to consider how to apply its mandate, as set out in Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX) of 13 May 1976, more effectively and efficiently in view of contemporary requirements and taking into account the relevant rules and regulations.

3. Delegations noted that in order for CPC to fulfil its mandate in a satisfactory manner, it required complete, timely and relevant documentation. They expressed concern that those needs had not always been met in the past. On

the other hand, delegations stressed the need for CPC to give clear indications as to its documentation requirements, in terms of both substance and time-frames.

4. Delegations noted, for example, that the report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) (E/1995/21), while providing valuable information on ACC proceedings, did not focus sufficiently on the coordination issues that were of primary concern to CPC. They also noted that CPC had previously drawn attention to that problem, in paragraph 159 of its report on the first part of the thirty-second session, 1/ where it stated:

"... The report was considered too descriptive in nature. A more analytical and forward-looking report was required in order to facilitate the tasks and responsibilities regarding coordination of the respective organizations which were members of ACC. The Committee emphasized that the purpose of the report was to serve as an instrument to enable both Member States and ACC to identify and overcome problems in system-wide coordination."

5. Delegations stressed the importance of joint meetings between CPC and ACC as a unique forum for in-depth and concrete exchanges of views on coordination issues. They therefore emphasized the need for such meetings to concentrate on the coordination aspects of the subjects discussed at them.

6. Some delegations offered possible roles for CPC to consider in response to new emerging needs. In this context, the following proposals were made:

(a) To develop criteria for evaluating results against prescribed parameters;

(b) To state comparative advantages of agencies in addressing programme activities;

(c) To provide a sense of what had been accomplished versus what was expected;

(d) To consider zero-based analysis (value for money) and establishing realistic performance measures.

7. Several other delegations indicated that in any possible role played by CPC in examining new emerging needs, special consideration should be given to the following:

(a) Follow-up of the established rules and regulations;

(b) Consideration of activities whose objectives have not been met and identification of the obstacles that have been met in pursuance of those objectives;

(c) Review of possible duplication or overlapping of activities within the United Nations system;

/...

(d) In any revision of the implementation of programmes, special emphasis should be given to the achievements made as compared with the difficulties encountered in achieving them, identifying their economic, political or financial aspects.

8. Some delegations referred to other bodies responsible for oversight and control as mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General and commented on how to improve coordination with ACABQ, JIU and the Board of Auditors, while taking care to avoid duplication of work. In that regard some delegations supported a term of office of six years for the members of the Board of Auditors.

Conclusions

9. The Committee considered that since it was the main subsidiary organ of the Economic and Social Council, it should be informed of the views and decisions of that body regarding reports that it had submitted in accordance with its mandate. The need for an adequate follow-up by the Council and its respective intergovernmental bodies was stressed.

10. The Committee recognized the need to pay more in-depth attention to its coordinating role, which should be based on substantive issues. To that end, the Committee considered that it required a more detailed insight into the efforts of ACC and other relevant departments of the United Nations in that respect.

11. The Committee considered that there should be careful preparation of joint CPC/ACC meetings. The structure and content of the joint meetings should, therefore, be determined in advance. The Committee also expressed the need to encourage dialogue through in-depth discussions, as opposed to orally delivered prepared statements.

12. The Committee stressed the need for the Secretariat to provide it regularly with complete and relevant documentation, including the decisions and resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on its reports and the memoranda on the implementation of resolutions, prepared by the Secretariat, after each session of the Assembly and the Council in accordance with paragraph 2 (a) (iii) of the annex to Council resolution 2008 (LX) on the terms of reference of the Committee.

13. The Committee agreed to review regularly its working methods and procedures.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/47/16), part one.
