



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 65th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. EL-HOUDERI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

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

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Distr. GENERAL
A/C.5/35/SR.65
13 May 1981

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

The meeting was called to order at 11.35 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 91: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1980-1981 (continued)

Administrative and financial implications of the recommendations contained in document A/35/803 concerning agenda item 20 (A/35/L.60/Rev.1; A/C.5/35/121 and Add.1)

1. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the revised draft decision in document A/35/L.60/Rev.1 would have the General Assembly approve the reconvening of the tenth session of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea at Geneva from 3 to 29 August 1981, with a possible one week extension; the convening of the Drafting Committee of the Conference at Geneva from 29 June to 31 July 1981; and the provision of facilities for informal consultations from 29 to 31 July 1981, in particular for the announced consultations of the Group of 77. The Secretary-General estimated that the cost of those meetings, excluding conference servicing costs, would be \$329,400, or \$365,700 if it was decided to extend the resumed session by one week. A breakdown of those figures was given in paragraph 2 of document A/C.5/35/121. As indicated in paragraph 4 of that document, no additional appropriations would be required at the current stage. Should additional resources be required, authority would be given in the context of the performance report for the biennium 1980-1981.

2. The conference servicing costs of the scheduled meetings, calculated on a full-cost basis, were estimated at \$2,403,200, or \$2,742,600 if the session was to be extended by one week. The Secretary-General indicated in paragraph 4 of document A/C.5/35/121/Add.1 that the conference servicing costs would be considered by the Advisory Committee in the context of a consolidated statement of conference servicing costs to be presented at its spring session. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommended that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt the draft decision in document A/35/L.60/Rev.1, no additional appropriation would be required at the current stage for the biennium 1980-1981.

3. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, having regard to the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt the draft decision contained in document A/35/L.60/Rev.1, the additional costs that would arise under sections 2C and 27A of the programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981, as indicated in document A/C.5/35/121, could be met from the resources available under those sections; that no additional appropriations would be required at the current stage; and that, should that not prove to be the case, the Secretary-General would exercise his authority to seek additional resources through existing procedures. The Fifth Committee should also inform the General Assembly that the related conference servicing costs, as detailed in document A/C.5/35/121/Add.1, would be considered in the context of the consolidated statement to be considered by the Advisory Committee on the over-all level of conference resources required in the light of the pattern of conferences for the year 1981 as approved by the General Assembly.

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4. Mr. KOROMA (Sierra Leone) asked whether the Chairman's suggestion meant that the Committee would be authorizing the Secretary-General to request additional resources for the resumed session should the amounts indicated in document A/C.5/35/121 prove to be inadequate.

5. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Secretary-General was not indicating at the current stage the exact amount of conference servicing costs that would be incurred in respect of scheduled meetings at the resumed session. The exact amount of those costs would be determined by the Advisory Committee on the basis of figures submitted to it by the Secretary-General and in the light of the overall resources available for approved meetings in 1981. It would be recalled that at its sixty-second meeting, the Fifth Committee had appropriated an amount for conference servicing in 1981 equal to the level approved at the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly on the understanding that additional resources for 1981 would be considered by the Advisory Committee at its spring session in 1981.

6. Mr. KOROMA (Sierra Leone) said that his delegation had serious misgivings about the estimated costs of the resumed session. It would be even more dubious of the proposed decision if the actual costs exceeded the figures submitted by the Secretary-General in document A/C.5/35/121. His delegation hoped that the Advisory Committee would scrutinize closely the need for any extension of the resumed session.

7. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt his earlier suggestion.

8. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.