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CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS: IMPROVED UTILIZATION
OF CONFERENCE-SERVICING RESOURCES: MEETING STATISTICS OF
UNITED NATIONS ORGANS

Report of the Secretary-General

1. Annex I to the present document contains statistical data on the planned and actual utilization of conference resources allocated to a core sample of bodies that met in 1995, compiled in accordance with the experimental methodology adopted as final by the Committee on Conferences at its 348th meeting, on 18 May 1993. The data include compliance and availability indices for assessing compliance with the deadlines for the submission of pre-session documentation and availability of such documentation for New York- and Vienna-based bodies, which were proposed by the Committee on Conferences at its substantive session of 1992. The data needed to compute the two indices for Geneva-based bodies will likely be available for sessions beginning in 1996.
2. Annex II contains an analysis of the statistics, including the overall and average utilization factors, and a breakdown in terms of percentages of the meetings ratio and planning accuracy factor of the bodies in the sample.
3. It should be noted that, pursuant to a request made by the Committee at its 382nd meeting, on 21 August 1995, the core sample has been expanded to include the Economic and Social Council and the Committee on Conferences.
4. In general, the bodies in the sample meet on a regular basis, and it may be assumed that their performance is a reflection of United Nations organs as a whole. Clearly, however, such measures as the utilization factor can depend on particulars that do not apply to all United Nations bodies.
5. In accordance with decisions of the Committee on Conferences, the time utilized for informal meetings or consultations held before the start or after



the adjournment of officially scheduled meetings is not included as time lost owing to late starting or early ending of meetings.

6. An explanation of column headings that appear in the annexes follows:
- A Number of meetings planned by a given organ at a scheduled session, not including any additional meetings;
 - B Number of additional meetings held during the session;
 - C Number of meetings cancelled during the session;
 - D Number of meetings actually held;
 - E Number of unrelated reassignments;
 - F Amount of time lost owing to late starting and early ending (hours/minutes);
 - MR Meeting ratio, calculated as meetings held as a percentage of meetings available to a given body (D as a percentage of A);
 - PAF Planning accuracy factor, calculated as meetings planned, minus additional meetings, minus cancellations, all as a percentage of meetings planned (A minus B minus C as a percentage of A);
 - UF Utilization factor, the percentage of available conference resources actually used by the organ in question. The utilization factor is based on the following calculation:

$$\frac{(A+B) - (C-E) - F/3}{(A+B)} = UF$$

In the foregoing calculation, the total number of hours lost as a result of late starting and early ending is converted into the equivalent of meetings lost by dividing the total by three, as the standard meeting time is three hours. The number of unrelated assignments is subtracted from the number of cancelled meetings. The difference between the two and the number of meetings lost are then subtracted from the sum of meetings planned and additional meetings held. The result is expressed as a percentage of the sum of meetings planned and additional meetings held;

- CI Compliance index, calculated as the percentage of pre-session documentation issued in accordance with the six-week rule;
- AI Availability index, calculated as the actual rate of delivery presented on a week-by-week basis.

7. Pursuant to a further request made by the Committee on Conferences at its 382nd meeting, the methodology for calculating utilization factors has been refined as follows:

/...

- (a) Minutes in column F have been rounded to the nearest five;
- (b) When computing UF:
 - (i) The total of late starting and early ending has been rounded up to the nearest hour if there were 30 minutes or more and rounded down to the nearest hour if there were 29 minutes or less;
 - (ii) The result of dividing total hours and minutes lost by three has been rounded up when the decimal was .5 or more and rounded down when it was .4 or less;
 - (iii) The percentage UF has been rounded up when the decimal was .5 or more and rounded down when it was .4 or less.

Annex I

A. New York, 1995

	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>MR</u>	<u>PAF</u>	<u>UF</u>
Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean 26-30 June	10	-	5	5	1	3.20/ 4.55	50	50	30
	<u>C1</u>							<u>A1</u>	
	100								
						<u>Issued by end of week:</u>			
				<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
				100					
Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters 19-23 June	10	-	2	8	1	3.15/ .05	80	80	80
	<u>C1</u>							<u>A1</u>	
	100								
						<u>Issued by end of week:</u>			
				<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
				100					
Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) 1 February-31 March	87	4	5	86	1	14.25/ 19.15	99	90	84
ACABQ 8 May-28 July	122	3	17	108	4	13.35/ 30.50	89	84	78
ACABQ 4 September-22 December	149	1	41	109	21	14.25/ 51.55	73	72	72
Commission on Human Rights - Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, forty fifth session 5-9 June	10	-	1	9	-	4.35/0	90	90	70

	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>MR</u>	<u>PAF</u>	<u>UF</u>	
Committee on Information 1-12 May	18	-	6	12	3	7.10/ 7.05	67	67	56	
	<u>C1</u>					<u>A1</u>				
	0									
						<u>Issued by end of week:</u>				
					<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
						33		33		33
Committee for Programme and Coordination, thirty-fifth session 15 May-9 June	38	4	2	40	1	14.50/ 5.25	105	84	81	
	<u>C1</u>					<u>A1</u>				
	33									
						<u>Issued by end of week:</u>				
					<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
					17	17	17	-		17
Economic and Social Council, organizational session 7-10 February	8	-	-	8	-	4.55/ 0	100	100	75	
	<u>C1</u>					<u>A1</u>				
	0									
						<u>Issued by end of week:</u>				
					<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
								100%		
Economic and Social Council, resumed organizational session 4-5 May and 1 and 6 June	4	3	2	5	1	3.35/ 1.20	125	0	57	
	<u>C1</u>					<u>A1</u>				
	0									
						<u>Issued by end of week:</u>				
					<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
										100%

	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>MR</u>	<u>PAF</u>	<u>UF</u>
General Assembly, resumed forty-ninth session, Fifth Committee 21 February-31 March	54	4	23	35	12	20/ 16.05	65	50	60
General Assembly, resumed forty-ninth session, Fifth Committee 12 June-14 July	47	7	14	40	5	23.40/ 23.20	85	55	54
General Assembly, fiftieth session, plenary	152	2	42	112	26	36.30/ 28	74	71	75
General Assembly, fiftieth session, First Committee	37	2	3	36	2	21/ 17.05	97	86	64
General Assembly, fiftieth session, Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)	42	7	19	30	11	12.40/ 13.10	71	38	65
General Assembly, fiftieth session, Second Committee	79	4	8	75	7	33.25/ 34.40	95	85	71
General Assembly, fiftieth session, Third Committee	71	2	12	61	9	27.15/ 15.50	86	80	77
General Assembly, fiftieth session, Fifth Committee	106	26	11	121	7	43.45/ 35.25	114	65	77
General Assembly, fiftieth session, Sixth Committee	61	10	8	63	4	27.50/ 23.10	103	70	70
Human Rights Committee, fifty-third session 20 March-7 April	30	-	1	29	1	9.25/ 1.25	97	97	87

	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>MR</u>	<u>PAF</u>	<u>UF</u>
Human Rights Committee, Working Group on Communications 13-17 March	10	-	-	10	-	2.55/ 5.25	100	100	70
International Civil Service Commission 24 July-11 August	30	3	3	30	2	8.20/ .15	100	80	88
	<u>C1</u>					<u>A1</u>			
	7								
						<u>Issued by end of week:</u>			
				<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
				4	4	4	4	4	25
Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization 27 February-10 March	20	-	2	18	-	12.10/ 9.40	90	90	55
	<u>C1</u>					<u>A1</u>			
	100								
						<u>Issued by end of week:</u>			
				<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations 10 April-5 May	38	1	11	28	3	11.30/ 18.15	74	68	54
	<u>C1</u>					<u>A1</u>			
	100								
						<u>Issued by end of week:</u>			
				<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>

	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>MR</u>	<u>PAF</u>	<u>UF</u>
Statistical Commission 27 February-3 March	10	-	2	8	-	.15/ 2.20	80	80	70
	<u>C1</u>					<u>A1</u>			
	16								
						<u>Issued by end of week:</u>			
				<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
				4	4	20	16	28	12
United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) - Working Group on International Contract Practices, twenty-third session 9-20 January	18	-	1	17	1	4.40/ .10	94	94	89
	<u>C1</u>					<u>A1</u>			
	100								
						<u>Issued by end of week:</u>			
				<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
				0	0	0	0	0	0
UNCITRAL - Working Group on Electronic Data Interchange, twenty-ninth session 27 February-10 March	18	1	7	12	4	4.45/ 4.05	67	56	68
	<u>C1</u>					<u>A1</u>			
	36								
						<u>Issued by end of week:</u>			
				<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
				0	11	14	14	18	7

B. Geneva, 1995

	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>MR</u>	<u>PAF</u>	<u>UF</u>
Commission on Human Rights, fifty-first session 30 January-10 March	73	-	1	72	-	0/ 18.25	99	99	90
Committee against Torture, fourteenth session 24 April-5 May	20	-	1	19	-	0/3.40	95	95	90
Committee against Torture, fifteenth session 13-24 November	20	-	2	18	-	0/2.40	90	90	85
Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, twelfth session 1-19 May	30	-	1	29	-	0/.05	97	97	97
Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, thirteenth session 20 November-8 December	30	-	1	29	-	0/.15	97	97	97
Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, forty-sixth session 27 January-17 March	30	1	1	30	-	0/1.55	100	93	94
Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, forty-seventh session 31 July-18 August	30	2	2	30	-	0/.40	100	87	94
Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods 10-20 July	8	-	-	8	-	0/2.55	100	100	88

	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>MR</u>	<u>PAF</u>	<u>UF</u>
Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods 4-15 December	20	-	-	20	-	0/1.50	100	100	95
Committee on the Rights of the Child, eighth session 9-27 January	30	-	6	24	-	0/3.00	80	80	77
Committee on the Rights of the Child, ninth session 22 May-9 June	26	-	2	24	-	0/.50	92	92	92
Committee on the Rights of the Child, tenth session 30 October-17 November	30	-	4	26	-	0/2.35	87	87	83
Economic and Social Council, substantive session 26 June-28 July	100	-	23	77	-	0/ 41.15	77	77	63
Human Rights Committee, fifty-fourth session 10-28 July	30	-	1	29	-	0/1.15	97	97	97
Human Rights Committee, fifty-fifth session 16 September-3 October	30	-	1	29	-	0/.05	97	97	97
International Law Commission, forty-seventh session 2 May-21 July	92	-	6	86	-	0/7.25	93	93	91
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees - Executive Committee, forty-sixth session 16-20 October	11	1	3	9	-	0/1.35	82	64	67

	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>MR</u>	<u>PAF</u>	<u>UF</u>
Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories 22-24 March	6	-	1	5	-	0/1.35	83	83	67
Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories 14-18 August	10	-	3	7	-	0/.40	70	70	70
Commission on Human Rights - Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities - Working Group on Indigenous Populations 24-26 July	10	1	-	11	-	0/1.40	110	90	91
UNCTAD - Trade and Development Board, forty-first session, second part 20-31 March	60	-	29	31	-	0/ 11.30	52	52	45
UNCTAD - Trade and Development Board, forty-second session, first part 11-20 September	48	-	34	14	-	0/ 10.50	29	29	21
UNCTAD - Trade and Development Board, special session 11-15 December	20	-	9	11	-	0/1.10	55	55	55

	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>MR</u>	<u>PAF</u>	<u>UF</u>	
Commission on Narcotic Drugs, reconvened, thirty-eighth session 13-14 December	3	-	-	3	-	.40/ 1.15	100	100	67	
	<u>C1</u>						<u>A1</u>			
	33									
						<u>Issued by end of week:</u>				
					<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
					0	0	0	4	13	50
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, thirty-second session 6-17 February	20	-	-	18*	-	3.35/ 3.10	90	100	90	
	<u>C1</u>						<u>A1</u>			
	24									
						<u>Issued by end of week:</u>				
					<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
					5	10	24	10	15	12
* Owing to early ending of the session.										
COPUOS - Legal Subcommittee, thirty-fourth session 27 March-13 April	20	-	-	19*	-	5.20/ 5.50	95	100	80	
	<u>C1</u>						<u>A1</u>			
	87									
						<u>Issued by end of week:</u>				
					<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
					0	2	2	1	3	5
* Owing to early ending of the session.										
COPUOS, thirty-eighth session 12-23 June	17	-	-	16*	-	2.45/ 5.35	94	100	82	
	<u>C1</u>						<u>A1</u>			
	86									
						<u>Issued by end of week:</u>				
					<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
					3	2	1	1	5	3
* Owing to early ending of the session.										

	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>MR</u>	<u>PAF</u>	<u>UF</u>
International Narcotics Control Board, fifty-eighth session 8-19 May	20	-	-	20	-	2.20/ 4.50	100	100	90
	<u>C1</u>						<u>A1</u>		
	0								
						<u>Issued by end of week:</u>			
				<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
				0	7	14	29	29	21
International Narcotics Control Board, fifty-ninth session 30 October-16 November	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>MR</u>	<u>PAF</u>	<u>UF</u>
	28	-	-	28	-	.35/ 7.20	100	100	89
	<u>C1</u>						<u>A1</u>		
	12								
						<u>Issued by end of week:</u>			
				<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
				0	0	6	15	32	35
United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), twenty-eighth session 2-26 May	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>MR</u>	<u>PAF</u>	<u>UF</u>
	36	-	-	36	-	6.20/ 13.40	100	100	81
	<u>C1</u>						<u>A1</u>		
	48								
						<u>Issued by end of week:</u>			
				<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
				5	7	6	4	18	12
UNCITRAL - Working Group on Insolvency Law, eighteenth session 30 October-10 November	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>MR</u>	<u>PAF</u>	<u>UF</u>
	18	-	1	17	-	4.45/ 11.50	94	94	61
	<u>C1</u>						<u>A1</u>		
	25								
						<u>Issued by end of week:</u>			
				<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
				25	8	0	17	17	8

	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>MR</u>	<u>PAF</u>	<u>UF</u>
UNCITRAL - Working Group on International Contract Practices, twenty-fourth session 13-24 November	18	-	1	17	-	3.50/ 11.00	94	94	67
	<u>C1</u>						<u>A1</u>		
	100								
						<u>Issued by end of week:</u>			
				<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
				0	0	0	0	0	0
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) - Provident Fund Committee 20-21 April	4	-	-	4	-	-	100	100	100
UNRWA - Provident Fund Committee 19-20 October	3	-	-	3	-	-	100	100	100
United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, forty-fourth session 12-16 June	14	-	1	13	-	.45/ 10.30	93	93	64
	<u>C1</u>						<u>A1</u>		
	64								
						<u>Issued by end of week:</u>			
				<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
				8	4	16	0	4	4

Annex II

ANALYSIS OF THE STATISTICS

1. The overall utilization factor for 1995 was 76 per cent. It is computed by totalling the data in the six columns for all bodies in the three locations and treating them as if they reflected a single body, as follows:

Duty station	A	B	C	D	E	F	UF
New York	1 551	130	270	1 411	138	891	74
Geneva	764	5	131	638	-	120	78
Vienna	254	1	3	248	-	135	81
	2 569	136	404	2 297	138	1 146	76

2. The overall utilization factor for 1995 shows a loss of 1 per cent against the same factor for 1994 (77 per cent), as reported in paragraph 1 of document A/AC.172/161/Corr.1.

3. The average utilization factor for 1995 was 78 per cent. It is computed by totalling the utilization factors of each body under review at each session held during a given year and dividing that figure by the number of sessions held (i.e., in 1995, 6,384/82). The average utilization factors for the period from 1986 to 1995 were as follows:

1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
74	77	75	75	70	77	78	83	82	78

4. The study indicates a fluctuating trend in average utilization over the past decade. The three-point gain achieved between 1986 and 1987 was lost over the following three years, as the average utilization factor declined to 70 per cent in 1990 from 77 per cent in 1987. None the less, over the next three years the average utilization factor soared 13 points to 83 per cent in 1993. However, that positive development was again reversed in 1994 when the factor dropped slightly to 82 per cent and more significantly in 1995 when it fell to 78 per cent. On average, until 1995 the bodies under review exceeded the benchmark figures of 75 per cent and 80 per cent utilization adopted by the Committee on Conferences in 1983 and 1993, respectively.

5. The utilization factors for the bodies in the sample for the period from 1993 to 1995 are presented below in tabular form for comparison purposes:

Utilization factor (percentage)	Number of sessions 1993	Utilization factor (percentage)	Number of sessions	
			1994	1995
0-14	-	0-19	-	-
15-24	-	20-29	-	1
25-34	-	30-39	2	1
35-44	-	40-49	-	1
45-54	4	50-59	3	6
55-64	1	60-69	8	11
65-74	7	70-79	16	18
75-84	12	80-100	47	44
85-100	28			
Total number	52		76	82

6. In 1993, 8 per cent of the bodies in the sample fell in the lowest range of 0-54 per cent utilization. In 1994, 3 per cent of the bodies fell in the lowest range of 0-49 per cent; in 1995, nearly 4 per cent of the bodies fell in that range. In 1993, 15 per cent of the bodies used 55 to 74 per cent of their resources. In 1994 and 1995, 35 per cent and 43 per cent of the bodies, respectively, used 50 to 79 per cent of their resources. As to compliance with the benchmark, in 1993, 77 per cent of the bodies utilized 75 per cent or more of their conference-servicing resources; in 1994 and 1995, 62 per cent and 54 per cent, respectively, had a utilization factor of 80 per cent or higher.

7. The figures are summarized as follows:

Percentage of conference resources utilized	Percentage of sessions held 1993	Percentage of conference resources utilized	Percentage of sessions held	
			1994	1995
75-100	77	80-100	62	54
55-74	15	50-79	35	43
0-54	8	0-49	3	4

8. The following is a breakdown of the meeting ratios of the bodies in the sample for 1995:

<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Number of sessions</u>
20-29	1
30-39	-
40-49	-
50-59	3
60-69	4
70-79	7
80-89	10
90+	<u>57</u>
Total	<u>82</u>

9. Thus, in 1995, 18 per cent of the bodies in the sample had meeting ratios below 80 per cent; 82 per cent had meeting ratios above 80 per cent. Seventy per cent of the bodies had meeting ratios of 90 per cent or higher.

10. The following is a breakdown of the planning accuracy factors of the bodies in the sample for 1995:

<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Number of sessions</u>
0-39	3
40-49	1
50-59	7
60-69	6
70-79	8
80-89	16
90-100	<u>41</u>
Total	<u>82</u>

11. Thus, in 1995, 30 per cent of the bodies had planning accuracy factors below 80 per cent; 70 per cent had factors above 80 per cent. Fifty per cent of the bodies had planning accuracy factors of 90 to 100 per cent.
