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Letter dated 22 November 1996 from the Chairman
of the Fifth Committee to the Chairman of the
Second Committee

I wish to draw your attention to the concerns raised repeatedly by the delegations of the Fifth Committee during both formal meetings and informal consultations at the current session of the General Assembly regarding the tendency of substantive Committees to involve themselves in budgetary and administrative matters.

In this connection, I should like to refer to General Assembly resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990, section VI, on the procedures for administrative and budgetary matters, in which the Assembly reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters, and also reaffirmed the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. In the same section of that resolution, the Assembly expressed its concern at the tendency of its substantive Committees and other intergovernmental bodies to involve themselves in administrative and budgetary matters.

In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, when a Main Committee is about to adopt a draft resolution involving expenditures recommended for approval by the Assembly, the Secretary-General submits a statement of programme budget implications (PBI). It goes without saying that, in respect of the consideration of a statement by the Secretary-General on programme budget implications, the primary responsibility of your Committee is to review the programmatic aspect of it, leaving the consideration of the financial aspects to the Fifth Committee.

Taking into account the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and Assembly resolutions 41/213 of 19 December 1986, 42/211 of 21 December 1987 and 45/248 B, in which the Assembly reaffirmed the role of the Fifth Committee as the competent Main Committee that considered all reports of the Secretary-General with administrative and financial implications and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, I should

very much appreciate it if, in the course of your consideration of any proposal, the financial aspects would be left aside for the appropriate and necessary decision of the Fifth Committee.

I should be grateful if the above concerns and necessary clarifications could be brought to the attention of your Committee and taken into account in your deliberations on draft proposals.

(Signed) Ngoni Francis SENGWE
Chairman
Fifth Committee
