

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION
Official Records*

UN LIBRARY

NOV 4 1981



COPY:
DO NOT REMOVE
FROM ROOM
L-201 (WWRB)

FIFTH COMMITTEE
17th meeting
held on
Wednesday, 21 October 1981
at 10.30 a.m.
New York

UN/SA COLLECTION

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 17th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. GODFREY (New Zealand)

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

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 100: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1982-1983 (continued)

General debate

* This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room A-3550, 866 United Nations Plaza (Alcoa Building), and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate fascicle for each Committee.

81-57281

Distr. GENERAL
A/C.5/36/SR.17
30 October 1981
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL : FRENCH

/...

The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 100: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1982-1983
(continued) (A/36/6,A/36/7, A/36/38 (chaps. V and VII D))

General debate

1. Mr. BUNC (Yugoslavia) said that he intended to give only general comments on the proposed programme budget. He fully agreed with the statement made by the Secretary-General in the Committee that the budget could not be drawn up in isolation from the economic and financial situation of Member States. The trouble with the zero real growth formula proposed by the Secretary-General was that it maintained the status quo in the United Nations administration, ignored the guidelines and priorities set by the Member States and reduced resources for economic and social programmes in developing countries.
2. The Secretariat should draw up the budget on the basis of the provisions of the Charter and recommendations of the Member States and should ensure that it provided the Organization with the means to carry out all activities related to the maintenance of peace and security and the implementation of the new International Development Strategy.
3. His delegation entirely agreed with the Member States which wanted the Organization to show greater administrative and financial responsibility. It would not object to zero real growth if it was linked to a reduction of administrative services, modernization of administration, and the development of new administrative technology. Unfortunately, the reality was that the percentage share of expenditure on substantive activities had declined.
4. Of course, increasing the budget did not automatically lead to better performance and results, but it should not be forgotten that for several years the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly had been requesting the Secretariat to identify activities that had been completed or were of marginal usefulness, ineffective or obsolete. In the current year, the Secretariat had for the first time made a modest attempt in that direction. The process of identifying such activities must be continued and developed and the management of the Organization must be improved before the zero growth concept could be accepted.
5. A policy of budgetary prudence should be applied so that more staff members could be engaged in development activities, as they wanted to be. However, such a redeployment of resources should go beyond the mere transfer of posts between sections of the budget, and should involve a real change of duties. In that connexion, it must be remembered that staff costs represented about 80 per cent of the Organization's regular budget and a reduction of from 10 to 25 per cent would mean that many productive projects could be carried out in developing countries, where they were most needed.

/...

(Mr. Bunc, Yugoslavia)

6. Finally, his delegation hoped that future programme budgets would contain more precise information on extrabudgetary resources and on treatment of the priorities set by the Member States.

7. Mrs. IDER (Mongolia) commended the Secretary-General for his efforts to reduce the growth of the budget as much as possible and to plan expenditures. However, zero real growth did not mean actual zero growth; in fact, the proposed budget for the next biennium showed an increase of about \$200 million over the previous budget. It must also be remembered that the initial increase in the budget would be changed with the approval of revised estimates to be submitted later.

8. Her delegation noted that the proposed budget showed an increase in expenditures of some \$160 million as a result of inflation. In its opinion, extra expenditures due to inflation should be absorbed by savings and by increasing the contributions of those Member States in territories United Nations agencies had their headquarters.

9. Mongolia was in favour of strengthening the role of the United Nations in the maintenance of peace and security and in development activities, but that called for more efficient management and greater productivity of existing staff. It was therefore surprised at the proposals for the establishment of additional posts, when the Organization was already overstuffed. As to the proposed reclassification of 236 posts, which was three times the number of reclassifications requested in the previous programme budget, her delegation did not object in principle but considered that reclassification should be accompanied by an increase in responsibilities and workload and by better professional performance. Unfortunately, the reasons put forward by the Secretariat for the proposed reclassifications were not sufficiently convincing.

10. In connexion with the financing of certain activities of the Organization, her delegation refused to assume responsibility for illegal operations in the Middle East. New activities included the proposed programme budget should be financed from resources released by identifying other activities as obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective. It was essential for the Secretariat to review programme priorities so as to ensure an effective reallocation of resources.

11. Mrs. MUSTONEN (Finland) said that her country had always supported the work of the United Nations and considered it an indispensable instrument for international co-operation. The main objectives of the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly should be détente, disarmament and development. In a particularly critical international climate, priority must be given to combating poverty, hunger and malnutrition. It was against that background that her delegation would appraise the proposed programme budget for 1982-1983 and the Organization's budget policy.

/...

(Mrs. Mustonen, Finland)

12. Where budget policy was concerned, the Secretariat had not proposed any growth in real terms, which had meant reductions in all fields of activity. The Secretary-General had explained in his foreword that the policy was deliberately oriented towards maintaining and strengthening the financial credibility of the Organization and was aimed at a more cost-effective utilization of resources and the enhancement of work productivity in every unit of the Secretariat.

13. Finland supported the policy of financial restraint and economy of the United Nations. However, at a time of world-wide financial crisis, the Organization must intensify its work and its co-operation with the most disadvantaged countries. As for the more cost-effective utilization of resources, the Organization still had far to go, particularly in economic and social matters. Its cumbersome and inefficient bureaucracy was lessening the confidence of both donor and receiving countries, and the proliferation of conferences in the past few years had damaged its image.

14. Her delegation did not think that a zero growth budget was the answer to the problems resulting from the inefficiency of the Organization. Rather, the solution lay in rationalizing and planning the work of the United Nations system as a whole.

15. The technique of the proposed programme budget was a step forward towards better management of the Organization's resources. It was closely linked to medium-term planning and was based on the setting of priorities and identification of activities that had been completed or were obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective. Unfortunately, several sections of the budget still reflected a more traditional thinking, and her delegation supported the recommendation by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination that administrative activities and common services should also be covered by programme budgeting.

16. The setting of priorities, which was the crucial part of the budget process, was at present its weakest link. What was needed was a sufficiently detailed programme analysis to allow a choice to be made between the possible alternative measures for fulfilling objectives. Programming and budgeting must be closely co-ordinated, with stricter monitoring and evaluation of results. That called for a review of the relationship between CPC and the Advisory Committee for consideration of changes within the Secretariat.

17. In view of the fact that staffing costs absorbed 80 per cent of United Nations resources, the importance of the Organization's personnel policies was apparent. Her delegation considered that percentage excessive and symptomatic of ineffective recruitment and staff management policies. It was true that the Secretariat had to cope with ever-increasing and more and more complex activities, but there should be no expansion of staff unless the workload was clearly beyond the capacity of the existing staff. As for reclassification of posts, any reclassification should be accompanied by changes in functions and responsibilities.

/...

(Mrs. Mustonen, Finland)

The structure must also provide possibilities for General Service staff to be promoted to the Professional category, the prospects of which had been jeopardized by the abolition of many P-1 and P-2 posts, offset by the increase in the number of P-4 and P-5 posts. Since women constituted an overwhelming majority of General Service staff, the career prospects of that category must be safeguarded.

18. Lastly, the Secretary General's arguments for a zero growth budget were not fully justified, and there were still problems in budget techniques. Her delegation's chief concern was that the United Nations should maintain a dynamic and flexible policy to meet the legitimate needs of all countries. Such a policy was based on the collective responsibility of Member States, and Finland would continue to shoulder its share of the expenditures.

19. Speaking on behalf of the delegations of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden on the subject of the special review of the ongoing work programme of the United Nations, she said that at the twenty-fifth session of CPC, in May and June 1981, several delegations had deplored the fact that the special review had not yet been completed because they would need it for making relevant comments on the budget proposals. According to the tentative programme of work of the Fifth Committee, the document in question would not be issued until early November and the Advisory Committee's report on it would not be available until mid-November. Delegations could not be expected to consider the proposed programme budget until they had seen that report, the importance of which had been emphasized by the Secretary-General himself. Her delegation would therefore like to know whether the group had completed its review, on what date the document would be issued, and whether the report would contain proposals which had administrative and financial implications. Her delegation also wondered whether it was imperative that the report should be considered by the Advisory Committee before it was taken up by the Fifth Committee. Lastly, she asked when the Secretary General's comments on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on priority-setting were likely to be issued.

20. Mr. GREN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, before going into substantive matters, he would like to emphasize that the Soviet Union's position on United Nations administrative and budgetary questions was marked by basic support for the Organization, active participation in its activities and constant concern to enhance its effectiveness as an instrument for the maintenance of peace, the purpose for which it had been established.

21. His delegation commended the personal efforts of the Secretary-General, which had made it possible to bring about some reduction in proposed expenditures, and assured him of its full support. It felt obliged to point out, however, that the initial results achieved were quite inadequate. The proposed programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983 showed a real growth rate of -0.2 per cent, but a simple analysis showed that that rate had been underestimated. So-called non-recurrent expenditures, totalling \$38.7 million, had been omitted from

/...

(Mr. Gren, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)

the calculation of real growth. His delegation wondered why these expenditures were called "non-recurrent" if they reappeared every biennium and why they were not taken into account in determining the real growth rate of the budget. If they were taken into account, it would be seen that the real growth rate was not zero but nearly 3 per cent. Furthermore, if the supplementary estimates to be submitted by the Secretariat before the end of the current session were included, the "budget restrictions" that had been mentioned would be clearly seen to be only modest efforts in the right direction.

22. The concern expressed by a number of delegations at the fact that "zero growth" might jeopardize the execution of some programmes was unfounded, firstly, because there was no zero growth, and, secondly, because the proposed budget provided for the full financing of all programmes approved by the General Assembly.

23. The growth in the Organization's budget was due to a number of factors. First, the information on reduction or completion of programmes and the resources thus released was incomplete. The same applied to information on the identification of activities that had been completed or were obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective. The lack of such information was a contravention of the relevant General Assembly resolutions and prevented Member States from taking decisions on any reallocation of resources. His delegation urged the Secretariat to provide the Committee with all the necessary information before it completed its consideration of the proposed programme budget.

24. Secondly, the Secretariat had failed to indicate the order of priority for programme execution activities, to which nearly 10 per cent of total resources were allocated. That deprived Member States of the opportunity to review the present priorities and, if necessary, to reallocate resources involved. Thirdly, the proposed establishment of 153 posts was unjustified, since the Secretariat had a large staff and considerable funds to pay temporary personnel, experts and consultants. The Soviet Union considered it essential to limit the size of the staff and at the same time, with the assistance of the International Civil Service Commission and the Joint Inspection Unit, to increase the efficiency of the existing staff through a rationalization of work, stricter supervision and increased responsibilities. Fourthly, the reclassification of 236 posts under the proposed programme budget was three times the number of reclassifications which had been requested under the current biennial budget. Those reclassifications did not involve any change in functions or responsibilities but were being used as a means of promotion, which was totally unacceptable. The proposal to convert 90 temporary posts into permanent posts, without any explanation, was also inadmissible. Sixthly, the proposed budget contained unexplained requests for appropriations under such expenditure heads as overtime, temporary conference service staff, staff travel expenses, rental of supplies and equipment and communication costs. Seventhly, a large sum was included in the proposed programme

/...

(Mr. Gren, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)

budget to offset the effects of inflation. In that respect, his delegation considered that the consequences of the worsening of the monetary and financial crisis of the capitalist system should be borne by the developed capitalist countries in whose territory the offices of the United Nations Secretariat were situated, and it reiterated its support for the draft resolution submitted by the Cuban delegation. In addition, the Secretary-General should take steps to alleviate the effects of inflation and report to the General Assembly on the matter.

25. In the view of his delegation, budget resources should be used primarily to attain the principal objectives of the United Nations, which were clearly set forth in the Charter. It deplored the fact that the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983 still included funds for activities undertaken in violation of the United Nations Charter. He was referring in particular to the payment of interest and repayment of the principal for the bonds issued by the United Nations to finance illegal operations in the Congo and the Middle East. The Soviet Union would not participate in the financing of those operations, which had been forced on the Organization by certain countries. His delegation also wished to reiterate its position with respect to the methods for financing technical assistance. According to strict interpretation of Article 17 of the Charter, the regular budget could not be used to finance technical assistance, which should be carried out exclusively by means of voluntary contributions. In view of those considerations, the Soviet Union would continue to pay its contributions for technical assistance in its national currency.

26. His delegation wished to draw special attention to a matter of direct interest to Member States, namely, the increase in their assessments. Budget estimates for the biennium 1982-1983 exceeded those for the current biennium by over \$300 million, or 26.5 per cent. His delegation shared the view of the United States delegation that the financial policy of the United Nations should be changed radically and should be more responsive to the concerns of States Members. The budgetary growth rate in monetary terms exceeded the growth rate of the revenue of Member States, which was intolerable, and it would be recalled that at the preceding session a considerable group of Member States, which contributed over 83 per cent of the budget, had refused to support the revised estimates for the biennium 1980-1981. Those Member States, and among them the Soviet Union, which was one of the major contributors, had thereby shown unequivocally that they would not agree to an unacceptable growth rate.

27. The corrective measures to be taken should be based on the interests of all Member States, particularly those of the major contributors. The level of activities should depend on the level of resources Member States were willing to provide. A strict order of priorities should be established, keeping in mind the possibilities afforded by the United Nations system and the need to avoid duplication. All new activities that were unrelated to the principal objectives of the United Nations should be financed from resources released by changes in programmes and increased productivity; his delegation would oppose

/...

(Mr. Gren, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)

any new programmes which could not be financed from existing resources. The adoption of an order of priorities and the reduction of the number of bodies and the length of sessions should release sufficient resources to allow the meetings of new bodies and conferences to be held. Appropriations for studies, experts and consultants, the purchase of equipment and construction and maintenance of buildings should be reduced. A ceiling on budgetary expenditure should be established; the amount should be agreed by Member States, bearing in mind the position of the major contributors. Finally, with regard to the budget under consideration, the total amount of the estimates for the biennium 1982-1983 should be maintained at the expenditure level of the current biennium.

28. In conclusion, he expressed the hope that the Fifth Committee would desist from comments on the efficiency of the United Nations and instead adopt concrete measures that would enable budgetary expenditure to be stabilized.

29. Mr. BELEZA (Portugal) welcomed the concern for moderation reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983. In various resolutions adopted in recent years by the General Assembly, Member States had requested the United Nations to exercise budgetary discipline and financial restraint. That approach appeared at first sight both prudent and realistic, so long as the necessary flexibility in budget administration was not sacrificed; otherwise, the exercise would be self-defeating.

30. The international community could not, except at dire peril to its interests, ignore the fact that, in the current economic crisis, new resources for development, which was the common goal of all Member States, were difficult to come by. It must, therefore, exercise discipline.

31. Noting that the initial estimates for the biennium 1982-1983 of \$1,536 million were only provisional, since decisions taken by certain United Nations conferences and bodies and other intergovernmental organs would certainly involve additional expenditure, he said that the rapid growth of the budgets of international organizations was a heavy burden for Member States, particularly those which had economic difficulties or which, in order to fulfil their financial obligations, had to ask their people to make great sacrifices.

32. The rate at which the budget was increasing--it had doubled in six years--seemed excessive when compared with available resources, and certain measures therefore became urgent. Spending should be limited through the adoption of a rational scheme of priority-setting, the productivity of available resources should be maximized, and new activities should be restricted and, wherever possible, financed through the redeployment of existing resources.

33. The effective implementation of the numerous General Assembly resolutions which required that obsolete, ineffective and marginally useful activities be

/...

(Mr. Beleza, Portugal)

identified would also help to control United Nations expenditure. His delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's efforts in that direction, including the review of all ongoing work programmes. Those efforts must yield tangible and visible results.

34. The analysis of costs distributed by main object of expenditure and by category revealed that too large a percentage of resources was required for operating expenses, while too little was allocated to substantive activities. His delegation endorsed the recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination in its report, and hoped that ways would be found to reduce that disproportion in the allocation of resources. The identification and elimination of activities that were obsolete or of marginal usefulness should help to trim the bureaucratic machine and limit the volume of documentation, the cost of which the President of the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly had rightly characterized as exorbitant.

35. With regard to the cost of conference servicing, he said it was clear that the multiplicity of conferences organized in the most diverse locations added to expenses. Moreover, given that travel was a sizable item of expenditure, a system of control should be imposed in order to ensure that in each case the journey was warranted and that the authorized class would be used.

36. Mr. GUBCSI (Hungary) referred to the interrelationship between the medium-term plan, the programme budget and the scale of assessments and welcomed the fact that the Secretary-General had taken account of it in the preparation of the programme budget. He endorsed the idea that the budget should reflect the economic and financial conditions under which the United Nations must discharge its mandate. The financial strength and credibility of the United Nations should be maintained and enhanced.

37. Throughout its membership in the United Nations, the Hungarian People's Republic has always supported the realization of the Organization's main goals and principles, which were to maintain international peace and security and help people to live in dignity and States to develop according to the basic principles of international law. There was no field of activity or programme compatible with the Charter in which his country would not be prepared to cooperate. As his delegation had already explained, however, some sections of the proposed programme budget either were not compatible with the Charter, or did not contribute to the maintenance of peace and security or should not be financed from the United Nations regular budget. Consequently, Hungary did not feel obliged to contribute to them.

38. When one analysed the United Nations budget, one had to consider to what extent it corresponded to the programmes adopted by Member States and to the demands and realities of the world. It was encouraging that the United Nations was exercising stricter budgetary restraint. The most effective method was to establish priorities in programmes and spending in accordance with the main goals expressed in the Charter.

/...

(Mr. Gubcsi, Hungary)

39. His delegation believed that, before new programmes were launched and new resources allocated to them, the financial stability and credibility of the United Nations should be restored, and it welcomed the political will which the Secretary-General had displayed in that regard. Despite zero real growth, the proposed programme budget showed an increase of 14.7 per cent, or approximately \$200 million, over the previous budget. Those figures demonstrated that much remained to be done in the budgetary field.

40. The proposed programme budget once again provided for the establishment of new posts, many upgradings and the conversion of temporary or extrabudgetary posts to established posts. That was unacceptable to his delegation, which was not convinced that the only way the Secretariat could carry out its tasks was to increase the bureaucracy. Indeed, stabilizing the budget and maintaining the number of posts at the current level would help to enhance the effectiveness of the Organization and of its Secretariat.

41. In recent years Member States had frequently called for the identification and termination of activities that were ineffective or of marginal usefulness in order to release resources to finance new programmes. The results achieved so far in that regard were inadequate. His delegation wished to request the Secretariat to draw up a complete list of programmes terminated because they were obsolete, ineffective or of marginal usefulness, and a list of financial and staff resources released as a result, including a detailed breakdown of the way in which they had been utilized.

42. Salaries and related costs already accounted for the major part of the resources of the United Nations and would increase in the near future as a result of reclassifications and the establishment of new posts. His delegation felt that it was preferable, as a way of freezing the number of posts at the existing level, to make greater use of fixed-term contracts. Various sections of the Secretariat had already proved that through better organization of their work, limiting travel to what was really needed and making optimum use of conference services, it was possible to enhance effectiveness without detrimental consequences for ongoing programmes. The Secretariat should, therefore, give consideration in future years to the possibility of using fixed-term contracts more systematically, which could lead to substantial savings.

43. His delegation shared the view expressed by several delegations with regard to the adverse effects of inflation. It endorsed the idea advanced by Cuba according to which the developed Western countries in whose territories 82 per cent of the budget was spent should bear a larger share of the burden imposed by inflation.

44. He feared that, despite the Secretary-General's stated intention to secure the financial credibility of the Organization, while taking care not to affect adversely its substantial work programmes, especially in the economic and social

/...

(Mr. Gubcsi, Hungary)

fields, further increases in expenditure were highly likely. In that connexion, his delegation would not support the approval of additional appropriations to cover the financial implications of resolutions adopted unless they related to activities that were within the main fields of the Organization's responsibility, such as, in particular, the maintenance of peace and security and related economic activities, or unless they were to be financed from resources released by economies in other areas.

45. Lastly, his delegation endorsed the recommendations of the Advisory Committee since it believed that significant savings could be made with respect to expenditure on common services.

46. Mr. OKLESTEK (Czechoslovakia) observed that the programme budget for 1982-1983 differed from previous budgets in that, for the first time since 1954, it provided for no real growth in expenditure. Nevertheless, estimated expenditure represented an increase of 13.67 per cent over the level of the preceding budget and the target of zero growth had not therefore been fully reached. In fact, given the financial crisis affecting the capitalist countries, it was doubtless impossible to achieve a zero growth. The best that could be expected was to come as near as possible to the target. That result had been achieved without reducing activities in certain areas and even without eliminating some unimportant programmes which no longer had any justification.

47. If there was no question of reducing the Organization's activities, the available resources had to be put to better use. That required, first, increasing the effectiveness of the Organization and especially of its Secretariat. In that connexion, his delegation deplored the improper use of time and staff in certain divisions, the squandering of resources in connexion with some conferences, the excessive volume of documentation and the very high travel expenses. Since staff costs accounted for 77 per cent of the Organization's expenditure, his delegation was opposed to increases in the staff of the Secretariat, whether through the establishment of new posts or recruitment on a temporary basis. It likewise could not agree to the reclassifications proposed. With regard to personnel policy, resolution 35/210, in which the General Assembly had defined the criteria for calculating the desirable ranges of all Member States with respect to Professional posts subject to geographical distribution, had marked an important step forward. What was needed now was to implement that resolution, which provided for a rather high number of Professional posts.

48. Like other delegations, the Caechoslovak delegation was opposed to expenditure that was in violation of the Charter or which was the result of resolutions at variance with the Charter.

49. Improved co-ordination of the activities of the various United Nations bodies would also help to release additional resources by eliminating duplication. It was essential towards that end to identify and terminate activities which

/...

(Mr. Oklestek, Czechoslovakia)

were ineffective or of marginal usefulness and to allocate the resources released as a result to other programmes or bodies or to offset the impact of inflation. The programme budget could not be used to finance activities or programmes not provided for in the medium-term plan.

50. The causes of inflation were to be found in the economic policies of the capitalist countries of the United Nations and its agencies where the headquarters were situated. His delegation therefore endorsed the draft resolution on that question submitted by the Cuban delegation.

51. It would be desirable to have better quality information on programmes, particularly on the justification for proposed expenditure. The budget should focus on the essential tasks of the Organization, namely, the maintenance of international peace and security. His country would support any future financial measures for balancing the budget of the Organization.

52. Mr. ELDIN (Sudan) said that he would confine his remarks to the budgetary policy underlying the preparation of the programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983. It was clear that the overriding factor had been the adoption of a zero growth rate in accordance with the austerity policy of some Member States. However, the criteria which governed national budgets were not applicable to the budget of the United Nations. National budgets reflected the monetary and financial policies which individual Governments deemed necessary to respond to the current economic and financial situation, both domestic and international, whereas the budget of the United Nations should be drawn up in the light of its mandates, objectives and programmes.

53. While economies were desirable, they should not be achieved at the expense of programmes approved by intergovernmental organs. All programmes should be presented in a consolidated format, whether they were financed from extrabudgetary resources or the regular budget. Unfortunately, the adoption of a zero-growth approach had probably preceded the preparation of the budget instead of being the result of an evaluation of the various programmes.

54. The Secretary-General had indicated that the proposed programme budget marked the beginning of a phase of financial consolidation in the history of the Organization. The current session should be an occasion for legislative bodies to review the performance of the Organization and the relations between the Secretariat and intergovernmental bodies with a view to remedying any anomalies that might exist. The substantial expansion of the Organization's activities since its inception had resulted, despite the quality of its human resources, in its becoming a bureaucracy which, like any organization, had come to have its own laws and objectives. It was for the legislative bodies to assess and monitor the activities of the Secretariat, which should not be determined by the Secretariat's own aspirations but rather by the will of Member States.

/...

(Mr. Eldin, Sudan)

55. He found unconvincing and unacceptable the arguments adduced by the Secretary-General in support of the zero-growth approach. A matter of principle was at stake: while intergovernmental organs had decided, in unambiguous guidelines and resolutions, to give priority to programmes in the economic and social sectors, the budgetary policy adopted by the Secretariat evinced a disregard for those decisions. He urged the Committee to review the performance of the Organization with a view to introducing reforms to satisfy Member States and obtain the maximum benefit from available resources.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.