

**United Nations
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION

Official Records



**106th
PLENARY MEETING**

*Tuesday, 16 March 1982,
at 3.30 p.m.*

NEW YORK

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Resumption of the session	1919
Agenda item 106: Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations: report of the Committee on Contri- butions (<i>concluded</i>)	1919
Organization of work	1919
Agenda item 60: United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refu- gees in the Near East (<i>continued</i>): (b) Report of the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	1919

President: Mr. Ismat T. KITTANI (Iraq).

Resumption of the session

1. The PRESIDENT: I declare the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly resumed, in accordance with decision 36/461 of 18 December 1981.

AGENDA ITEM 106

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations: report of the Committee on Contributions (*concluded*)

2. The PRESIDENT: In keeping with established practice, I should like to invite the attention of the Assembly to a letter addressed to me by the Secretary-General [A/36/867] informing the Assembly that two Member States are in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions to the United Nations under the terms of Article 19 of the Charter.

Organization of work

3. The PRESIDENT: I should like to refer briefly to item 110 (b) of the agenda of the thirty-sixth session, concerning the financing of UNIFIL. In document A/36/860, the Secretary-General proposes that the General Assembly at its resumed session consider that item further in order to provide adequate funding for the additional 1,000 troops authorized for UNIFIL.

4. May I take it that the General Assembly agrees to that proposal and that the Fifth Committee will consider further item 110 (b) and report on it to the Assembly?

It was so decided.

5. The PRESIDENT: On the morning of Friday, 19 March, the General Assembly and the Security Council will proceed, independently of one another, to elect one

member of the International Court of Justice, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Judge Abdullah El-Erian of Egypt, under agenda item 15 (c).

6. In this connection I would draw the Assembly's attention to the relevant documents. First, a memorandum by the Secretary-General [A/36/861-S/14885] sets out the composition of the Court and the procedure to be followed for the election in the General Assembly and in the Security Council. Secondly, a note by the Secretary-General and its addenda [A/36/862-S/14886 and *Corr.1 and Add.1-3*] contain lists of candidates nominated pursuant to Article 5, paragraph 1, of the Statute of the International Court of Justice. Thirdly, a note by the Secretary-General [A/36/863-S/14887] contains the curricula vitae of the candidates. Finally, a note by the Secretary-General [A/36/864-S/14896 and *Add.1*] contains nominations received after 18 February 1982.

7. In view of the short period of time available for the national groups to make nominations, I hope that the Assembly will agree with my suggestion that the Secretariat be requested to issue a revised version of document A/36/862-S/14886 so as to reflect the information thus far received. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Assembly agrees to that proposal.

It was so decided.

8. The PRESIDENT: Finally, there is agenda item 37, entitled "Launching of global negotiations on international economic co-operation for development". I should like in this connection to state that the consultations to which I have repeatedly referred are continuing at this stage and that should there be any developments I shall not fail to inform the Assembly.

AGENDA ITEM 60

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (*continued*):

(b) Report of the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

9. Mr. KOLBY (Norway), Rapporteur, Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East: On behalf of the Working Group on the Financing of UNRWA, I have the honour of introducing the special report contained in document A/36/866 and *Corr.1*. The report is submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 36/146 E requesting the Working Group to continue its efforts for the financing of UNRWA, as well as decision 36/431 by which the Assembly decided to keep its thirty-sixth session open until the Working Group had submitted its proposals on ways of meeting UNRWA's deficit for 1982.

10. The Working Group held a series of meetings between 20 January and 10 March when it adopted the present special report.

11. The Working Group examined in detail the financial situation of UNRWA. In submitting the latest available data, the Commissioner-General informed the Working Group that the deficit in projected estimated expenditure for 1982 had been reduced from \$80 million to \$50 million. Within this amount a minimum of \$20 million of additional income would enable the Commissioner-General to keep the school system operating in all fields until the end of 1982.

12. The Commissioner-General informed the Working Group that, unless UNRWA receives assurances of the additional \$20 million before the end of April at the latest, he would be obliged to issue notices of dismissal to some 10,000 teachers providing education to some 340,000 refugee children. A detailed description of the financial situation is contained in chapter III of the Working Group's report.

13. After having examined the financial situation, the Working Group considered ways of meeting UNRWA's deficit for 1982. It examined a wide range of proposals and suggestions that might be recommended to the General Assembly. The consideration of these proposals and suggestions are set out in chapter IV of the Working Group's report.

14. Chapter V of the report contains the Working Group's recommendations. As a result of its deliberations, the Working Group proposes the following recommendations for consideration and possible adoption by the General Assembly.

15. First, the General Assembly should urge the Commissioner-General to continue his efforts to make the most efficient use of UNRWA's resources, and should request the Joint Inspection Unit to carry out a comprehensive review of the Agency's organization, budget and operations with a view to assisting the Commissioner-General to make the most effective and economical use of the limited funds available to UNRWA.

16. Secondly, the General Assembly should call on Governments that have not yet contributed to UNRWA to start contributing; Governments that have hitherto made only relatively small contributions to contribute more generously; Governments in a special position to do so to increase their contributions; and Governments that in the past have made generous contributions to continue doing so and strive whenever possible to increase their contributions.

17. Thirdly, the General Assembly should call on Governments and organizations making contributions in kind either to give cash instead or to allow UNRWA to sell their contributions for cash.

18. The PRESIDENT: I thank the Rapporteur of the Working Group on the Financing of UNRWA for his statement introducing the Working Group's report.

19. I believe that I speak on behalf of all the members in also extending our sincere thanks to the Chairman of the Working Group, Mr. Kirca of Turkey, and to the other members of the Working Group for their devoted efforts

over the last few months in coming to grips with this difficult and important problem. They have thoroughly examined the situation, considered a wide range of possible solutions and presented recommendations which, if implemented, would go a long way towards assisting UNRWA in meeting its financial problems.

20. As pointed out in the report, the financial situation of the Agency is extremely critical. The Agency has enough funds to maintain the school programme in all fields only until the end of the school year in May-June 1982. If enough funds are not pledged by the end of April—that is, next month—it will be obliged to issue termination notices to some 10,000 teachers, and some 340,000 refugee children will thus be without schooling after June. The Agency has also stated that the minimum amount required to keep the schools functioning until the end of 1982 is around \$20 million. The need is therefore most urgent.

21. There is general agreement, in my view, that UNRWA plays a vital role in the Middle East and, in particular that closing its 643 schools would have extremely serious consequences for the refugees, for the host Governments, and for the peace and stability of the region. Surely this should not be allowed to happen for lack of resources.

22. It was, of course, to avoid such an eventuality that the General Assembly requested the assistance of the Working Group. I should like to inform members, however, of other efforts that have been pursued. The Commissioner-General has visited various capitals in Europe and the Middle East appealing for funds. He has also recently addressed letters to the Foreign Ministers of all Governments drawing attention to the urgent needs of the Agency.

23. The Secretary-General has lent his support by issuing an appeal to all Governments for timely and generous contributions. The Secretary-General of the League of Arab States has also assisted by issuing a similar appeal to all Governments. The Working Group's recommendations, particularly its recommendations 1 and 2, which would have the General Assembly add the weight of its authority to these appeals, are therefore worthy of our full support.

24. From the consultations I have held, I have sensed agreement that it would be helpful in meeting the crisis faced by UNRWA for the Assembly to approve the recommendations of the Working Group. I therefore very much hope that the response to these recommendations will be prompt and generous. At the same time, until the situation to be faced by the Agency in the future becomes clearer as a result of the response to these appeals, I understand why it may be felt wiser not to declare that consideration of this item has been concluded at the present session.

25. May I therefore take it that the General Assembly agrees to take note of the report of the Working Group on the Financing of UNRWA and to adopt the recommendations set out in paragraph 26 of that report, while suspending further consideration of this item for the present time?

It was so decided (decision 36/462).

The meeting rose at 3.50 p.m.