United Nations GENERAL ASSEMBLY



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FIFTH COMMITTEE

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at 10.30 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 11th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ABRASZEWSKI (Poland)

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

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The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 110: SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR THE APPORTIONMENT OF THE EXPENSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS: REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTIONS (continued) (A/37/11, A/37/461 and Add.1)

- l. Mrs. KNEZEVIC (Yugoslavia) said that her delegation was well aware of the complexity of developing a new methodology for calculating the scale of assessments. General Assembly resolution 36/231 A, however, was a consistent and interrelated whole, aimed at defining a comprehensive indicator of Member States' capacity to pay for the purpose of establishing a more realistic, objective and equitable scale of assessments. The Committee on Contributions has failed to meet the requirements laid down in paragraphs 2 and 3 of that resolution, and had only partially adhered to the criteria and directives set out elsewhere in it. Paragraphs 1 (a), (b), (c) and (g) and paragraph 4 (c), in particular, had been disregarded. As a result, the scale of assessments it proposed suffered from serious shortcomings. Contributions by developing countries as a whole would increase, while contributions by permanent members of the Security Council and the Eastern European countries would decrease. Such an apportionment of the regular budget of the United Nations had certainly not been inspired by the spirit or letter of resolution 36/231 A.
- 2. In recent years, the gap between the economies of the developed and the developing nations had been widening alarmingly, and the situation was getting worse. At the same time, multilateral economic co-operation was being eroded and there was an ever greater emphasis on bilateralism. Such tendencies adversely affected development in the developing countries. The proposed increase in the percentage assessment for developing countries was therefore unacceptable. She noted that the developed countries strongly opposed the developing countries' desire to step up their share in the capital of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, in order to prevent an increase in the developing countries' voting power in those financial institutions.
- 3. To her delegation, the scale of assessments was a political issue which severely affected the economic position of developing countries. Her delegation was aware of Member States' financial responsibilities, and respected the general principle that those drawing benefits from the United Nations should participate in financing its expenditures. But special efforts had to be made to define methods that would determine States' real capacity to pay more adequately.
- 4. It had been suggested that freezing assessed contributions to the Organization at their current level, instead of adopting the new scale, would be tantamount to disregarding the work of the Committee on Contributions. She disagreed. The Committee on Contributions had not fully and faithfully discharged its mandate on behalf of Member States. It had also been suggested that inflation rates should not be considered in adjusting national income, since inflation was a result of measures taken by national monetary authorities to achieve specific economic

(Mrs. Knezevic, Yugoslavia)

goals. In fact, inflation was largely induced by external factors, and significantly modified national income in real terms. It would therefore be completely wrong to disregard inflation when determining the level of States' assessed contributions.

- 5. She repudiated the suggestion that Yugoslavia would benefit from a revision of the low per capita income allowance formula and the mitigation process.
- 6. Turning to Yugoslavia's assessed contribution according to the revised scale, she stated that, because of certain methodological accounting differences, Yuqoslavia's gross national product had been unduly exaggerated and should be reduced by 9.2 per cent. The country's per capita gross national product should be corrected to \$US 2,150 for 1979 and \$US 2,380 for 1980. Current prices in Yugoslavia, which were due to the high inflation rate, should be taken into account in determing the country's contribution, particularly by the Statistical Office when it calculated Yugoslavia's national income in United States dollars. deciding to raise Yugoslavia's role of assessment, the Committee on Contributions had ignored the fact that that rate had risen steadily in recent years and that paragraph 4 (c) of resolution 36/231 A called for special measures to be taken in favour of countries whose rates of assessment had already been increased at the previous review of the scale. Nor had the Committee taken proper account of paragraph 1 (c) of the resolution in Yugoslavia's case. In brief, Yugoslavia's assessment was unrealistic and could only be the result of a mechanical application of statistical data that incorrectly reflected the macro-economic aggregates used in determining the level of contributions.
- 7. Her delegation could not accept the proposed new scale of assessments, and favoured maintaining the existing scale until the Committee produced a suitable new method of calculating contributions, as requested in paragraph 3 of resolution 36/231 A.
- 8. The Committee on Contributions should be expanded to include representatives from developing countries, so as to achieve a more equitable representation of Member States. The Committee should also establish suitable forms of co-operation with scientific institutions in order to make its work on a new methodology more successful.
- 9. Mr. GUBCSI (Hungary) commented on the importance of restraining emotions and safeguarding the good tradition which the Fifth Committee had established over the decades. The representative of one State had tried to inject undesirable and unobjective political speculation into the Fifth Committee's debate. When in the past, an unpleasant or politically undesirable problem had arisen, that delegation had always reminded the Committee that it was instructed to deal with financial and administrative matters only. He requested that delegation, for the sake of facilitating a solution to the crucial problem facing the Fifth Committee, to return to its former practice and use suitable language when describing Member States or a group of them.

(Mr. Gubcsi, Hungary)

- 10. In his delegation's view, the Committee on Contributions had done its best to achieve a compromise that met the interests of the great majority of Member States. It had fulfilled its mandate as laid down in past General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 36/231. It had extended the base period, raised the low per capita income limit and increased the gradient of relief to be granted. Paragraphs 24 and 37 of its report (A/37/11) showed that it had also done its best to implement the requirement of paragraph 4 (d).
- 11. The Committee on Contributions was obliged to follow the principle of capacity to pay when calculating new scales of assessment, and that capacity was best expressed in per capita national income at current prices. It had, however, paid significant attention to paragraph 4 (c) of resolution 36/231 A, making downward corrections against the machine scale in the case of several countries.
- 12. Some delegations had suggested that countries with centrally planned economies had been given preferential treatment. In fact, most of the countries concerned had absorbed extra points by comparison with their machine scales, and the rates of assessment of most of them had grown steadily since their admission to the United Nations.
- 13. His delegation sympathized with the approach the Committee on Contributions had taken in certain individual cases, and endorsed the conclusions in chapter III, section E, of its report. Its finding regarding Hungary was justified, and took the real situation duly into account.
- 14. The compromise produced by the Committee on Contributions met most of the demands of a resolution produced after almost two months of lengthy debate. To work out a new scale appeared an impossible task, and he therefore did not support the creation of an open-ended working group for that purpose. Furthermore, to reject the Committee's recommendation would create a dangerous precedent, undermining the authority and respect that the Committee commanded and scarificing the interest of the many for the sake of the few. He could not, therefore, agree to freeze the scale at its present level, since that would imply de facto rejection of the Committee's recommendation.
- 15. On the other hand, his delegation was ready to elaborate further means of ensuring that justice was strictly observed in the preparation of new scales of assessments and to consider whether the Committee on Contributions required more time for its work on assessments. It agreed that a parameter, such as the statistical base period, should not be selected simply because of its immediate impact on Member States' rates of assessment. Finally, he reiterated his Government's position that the provisions of Article 19 of the Charter did not apply to the financing of peace-keeping operations.
- 16. Mr. ALI (Bangladesh) said that although the Committee on Contributions had succeeded in recommending a scale of assessments for the period 1983-1985, it had not been able to prepare the set of guidelines for the collection and presentation of data by Member States requested by the General Assembly, or the thorough study

(Mr. Ali, Bangladesh)

that had been called for on alternative methods of assessing the real capacity of Member States to pay. Those two studies were necessary to enable the Committee to take appropriate decisions and to ensure that the scale of assessments was as reasonable and fair as possible. He trusted, therefore, that the Committee on Contributions would make time to continue its work on the guidelines and would undertake the study on alternative methods.

- 17. Largely because of the absence of those two studies, the scale of assessments recommended by the Committee on Contributions was less than fair, to some of the developing countries in particular. The overall share of the developing countries had increased and a few countries had been subjected to an excessive increase, which was contrary to the spirit of General Assembly resolution 36/231 A. The process of mitigation which might have helped the situation did not appear to have been appropriately applied.
- 18. The Committee on Contributions had recommended an assessment of 0.03 per cent for Bangladesh in place of the 0.04 per cent of the existing scale. Although in appearance that gave Bangladesh some relief, closer examination would show that the relief was inadequate and that the Committee had failed to take into account the reality of the situation as described by his delegation before the Fifth Committee on many previous occasions. According to the scale recommended by the Committee, 75 Member States were assessed at 0.01 per cent and 11 Member States at 0.02 per cent. There were thus 86 countries assessed at a level below that of Bangladesh. Yet, Bangladesh was one of the world's least developed countries and had one of the lowest per capita incomes. According to the World Bank, the per capita income of Bangladesh had been the fourth lowest in 1981, second lowest in 1980, third lowest in 1979 and sixth lowest in 1978. In the circumstances, it was clearly anomalous for Bangladesh to be assessed at a level higher than that of 86 other countries.
- 19. In 1972, in order to accommodate the least developed countries, the General Assembly, in resolution 2961 D (XXVII), had lowered the floor of the scale of assessments from 0.04 per cent to 0.02 per cent, chiefly because the low income allowance formula benefited mainly those developing countries with assessments higher than the floor, while the countries with the lowest per capita income were not benefiting from the recommendations in that respect because of the rigidity of the fixed floor. In 1976, in resolution 31/95 A, the Assembly had again lowered the floor of the scale from 0.02 per cent to 0.01 per cent. In accordance with the spirit of those two resolutions, the scale for all the least developed countries, with the sole exception of Bangladesh, had been assessed at the floor level of 0.01 per cent, in both the existing scale and the proposed new scale. Although the delegation of Bangladesh had pointed out that anomaly in previous years, the exception in the case of Bangladesh continued to prevail. He strongly urged that henceforth Bangladesh should recieve the relief granted to other least developed countries.

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(Mr. Ali, Bangladesh)

- 20. A number of delegations had spoken in favour of expanding the membership of the Committee on Contributions in order to increase the representation of the developing countries. The delegation of Bangladesh concurred in the suggestion and hoped that the Fifth Committee would approve it.
- 21. Mr. MONAYAIR (Kuwait) said that he supported the principle of capacity to pay as the basis for calculating the scale of assessments, but could not accept the changes proposed in the scale of assessments recommended by the Committee on Contributions in view of the proposed reductions in the assessment of certain high-income industrialized countries. Such changes were not in the interest of the developing countries.
- 22. Whatever the methods of calculation it had used, the Committee on Contributions had not acted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 36/231 A, which had been intended to prevent major changes between successive scales. His country was faced with a 40-per-cent increase in its assessment, based largely on its income from a resource which was now diminishing. Yet the General Assembly had specifically directed the Committee on Contributions to take into account the particular situation of Member States whose earnings depended heavily on one or a few products.
- 23. His delegation could not accept the assessed contribution proposed for Kuwait, and favoured the idea of establishing an open—ended working group to draw a new scale of assessments. Failing that, his Government would be forced to review the level of its contributions to voluntarily—funded development and other activities.
- 24. Mr. MANSOURI (Syrian Arab Republic) said that since the Committee on Contributions had not had before it all the information called for by the General Assembly in resolution 36/231 A, his delegation supported the idea of establishing an open-ended working group to draw up a new scale of assessments. It also was in favour of enlarging the Committee and including more developing States in its membership. The Committee should be assisted in its work by experts and technical assistants.
- 25. The Committee on Contributions should be asked to work out a definition of capacity to pay based on national income and national wealth, and to strike a balance between real and relative capacity to pay that was acceptable to all concerned. The analytical study of alternative methods of assessing capacity to pay referred to in paragraph 42 of document A/37/11 should be made available to all delegations so that the Committe on Contributions could benefit from their comments on the matter.
- 26. The new scale should provide for increased contributions by the industrialized countries, especially those deriving profits from investments in developing countries, and the permanent members of the Security Council.

(Mr. Mansouri, Syrian Arab Republic)

- 27. His delegation supported the suggestion that countries should be allowed to pay their contributions in their national currencies, and agreed with the view that apportioned expenses for peace-keeping operations had nothing to do with arrears in contributions within the meaning of Article 19 of the Charter.
- 28. Mr. PIBUISONGGRAM (Thailand) said that his delegation, which had supported General Assembly resolution 36/231 A, appreciated the earnest efforts made by the Committee on Contributions and supported its recommendation. In so doing, it noted the statement in paragraph 39 of the report (A/37/11) that many members of the Committee had recognized the inherent difficulties in reaching a scale that was satisfactory to all concerned. It further noted that only one third of the Member States had provided comprehensive statistical information and expressed the hope that the situation could be improved. In particular, it trusted that a set of guidelines for the collection and presentation of data and a study on alternative methods to assess the real capacity of Member States to pay would be prepared as soon as possible, since they would facilitate the Committee's task of improving current methods for working out the scale.
- 29. His delegation fully appreciated the difficulties faced by the developing countries whose assessments had been increased. Although there was merit in the proposal to set up a working group to look into ways of improving this scale of assessments, he had doubts regarding its implications; Member States would, in effect, be asking for a review of the work already done by a body which had been established by the Fifth Committee itself.
- 30. Mr. HAKIM (Afghanistan) said it was clear from the report of the Committee on Contributions (A/37/11) that the Committee had taken into account resolution 34/6 B, as well as all the elements listed in resolution 36/231 A, which had received the full support of the Group of 77.
- 31. He noted the legal opinion that the Committee on Contributions, as a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly, was required to assist the Assembly in carrying out functions assigned by Article 17, paragraph 2, and Article 19 of the Charter, and to carry out its tasks in accordance with any directives addressed to it by the Assembly (A/37/11, para. 5).
- 32. Even though some of the problems which the Committee on Contributions had been asked to deal with still remained, the report showed that the Committee had taken a positive step towards a fair and equitable scale of assessments. Accordingly, his delegation did not support the unscientific comparisons drawn by some representatives in explaining why they did not support the proposed scale of assessments.
- 33. Noting that, according to paragraph 9 of the report, approximately one third of the members had provided complete national income data for the period 1969-1980 he said that since complete statistical data were essential in order to calculate an equitable scale of assessments, the United Nations should give further assistance to those countries which lacked the resources to provide such data.

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(Mr. Hakim, Afghanistan)

- 34. The increases and decreases in rates of assessment reflected changes in the share of individual countries in the aggregate national income of all Member States, and it was on that basis that capacity to pay must be determined in accordance with General Assembly resolution 36/231 A. Accordingly, his delegation supported the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on Contributions and would vote in favour of the proposed new scale of assessments, which would clearly benefit a majority of Member States. It hoped, none the less, that the Committee would continue its work on alternative methods to assess States' real capacity to pay.
- 35. Mr. WILLIAMS (Panama) said that calculating a scale of assessments was a difficult task in any economic system or institution. When considerations such as natural disasters and ability to secure foreign currency were introduced, the calculation was made even more difficult and what should be a scientific exercise became a conceptual exercise the results of which were bound to be opposed by those who did not benefit and supported by those who did. Some of the arguments adduced against the new scale of assessment were based on a conceptual interpretation of the methodology, while others stemmed from a natural instinct to resist anything that was new or progressive. Delegations must not overlook the damage done by those who sought to promote dissention without suggesting any solution.
- 36. As far as the proposed scale of assessments was concerned, Member States seemed to be divided into three groups. The first, composed of 83 Members, mainly developing countries, had been assessed at the same rate as before; the second group, consisting of 29 States including 19 developing countries which had benefited under the terms of resolution 36/231 A had had their rates of assessment reduced; while the third group, comprising 45 States, had had their rates increased. The total net increase came to 3.72 per cent, of which 2.89 per cent would be borne by the petroleum—exporting countries, and the total net decrease was 3.86 per cent, leaving a negative balance of 0.14 per cent to be divided among all Members. Since 0.14 per cent represented, in monetary terms, slightly over \$60,000, his delegation believed that some members of the Fifth Committee were creating a storm in a teacup.
- 37. His delegation would support the recommendation of the Committee on Contributions because it strongly believed that the Committee had worked out the fairest scale of assessments possible under the circumstances. Member States should remember that every right gave rise to an obligation and, if they wished to see the United Nations survive, must support it with deeds as well as words. There were some who were waiting to precipitate the destruction of the Organization and care should be taken not to assist them in their task.

AGENDA ITEM 108: PATTERN OF CONFERENCES (continued) (A/37/32, A/37/112 and Add.1; A/C.5/37/2, A/C.5/37/7 and Corr.1, A/C.5/37/11)

- (a) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES
- (b) REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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AGENDA ITEM 109: CONTROL AND LIMITATION OF DOCUMENTATION (continued) (A/36/167 and Add.1 and 2; A/37/32, chap. V; A/C.5/37/11)

AGENDA ITEM 8: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK (continued)

(b) SUBSIDIARY ORGANS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued) (A/37/3, chap. III, sect. A, and chap. IX, sects. C and H)

- 38. Mr. BENZEITUN (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that the excellent report of the Committee on Conferences (A/37/32) contained a number of important comments and recommendations. The Committee had an important role to play in securing the most economical use possible of conference services and of the resources assigned to that section of the budget. His delegation was therefore in favour of strengthening the Committee so that it could carry out its duties effectively and achieve tangible results.
- According to paragraph 20 of the report, there had been general agreement in the Committee that without a streamlining of the agenda and programme of work of the main organs and a reduction in the number and volume of documents, no substantial improvement could be achieved. The underlying cause of the problem was the failure to respect the rules and regulations already laid down. The calendar of conferences was overloaded, making any changes very difficult, and documents were frequently not produced on time. For instance, the report of the Committee on Conferences report had appeared late. The Libyan delegation attached great importance to the reports produced by the United Nations, which reflected the views held by delegations on very specific problems. Although the question of the proliferation of documentation and the delays in its production and distribution had claimed the attention of delegations for a number of years, no viable solution had yet been found. The volume of paper continued to grow and recent statistics showed that despite the attempts made to reduce it, delegations would still have hundreds of thousands of pages to deal with at the current session. Efforts to find a solution must be intensified: not only must the length of documents be curtailed but their quality must be improved and their timely distribution ensured. Failure to produce documents on time and thus to allow delegations to benefit from them had hindered the work of some special conferences.
- 40. Delays in the production of summary records in certain languages, particularly Arabic, caused some delegations great difficulty. In that connexion, he noted that no summary record in Arabic for the current session of the Fifth Committee was yet available although records had appeared in English and French. He also noted that the discontinuance of summary records for certain subsidiary bodies seemed not to have had the desired effect of speeding up the production of summary records for the General Assembly. He emphasized that all the official languages should receive equal treatment as far as the issuance of documentation was concerned. The fact that some delegations had to spend time reading documents in foreign languages was letrimental to their work and made it difficult for them to contribute to the lebates as they would wish.

(Mr. Benzeitun, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

- 41. The letter from the Secretary-General to the organizational meeting of the Committee on Conferences in annex I of the report was a new departure in the attempt to utilize a system of planning in order to improve the distribution and curtail the volume of documentation. It should make possible a considerable saving of resources, provided that all delegations and all the organizations which used the facilities of the Secretariat would co-operate.
- 42. The Libyan delegation supported the guidelines and recommendations regarding the organization of special conferences (A/37/32, chap. XI, recommendation 4), and hoped that the Secretary-General's new initiatives would be successful.
- 43. Mr. MACARTNEY (Canada) said that his delegation welcomed the report of the Committee on Conferences (A/37/32) and the many recommendations it contained. It fully supported the measures aimed at rationalizing the calendar of conferences and at keeping conference costs within reasonable limits.
- 44. Over the past 10 years, special conferences had become an important element in the calendar, costing hundreds of millions of dollars and straining the limited conference resources of the United Nations. The Committee's guidelines for improving the Secretariat organization of United Nations special conferences should, if followed, pave the way for more effective preparation. The Canadian delegation particularly welcomed the proposal to establish a Conference Management Committee to be responsible for special conference preparations and post-conference assessment.
- 45. Canada agreed that the growth in the number and duration of meetings had become a serious problem, and he had listened with interest to the suggestion that there should be an enforced 10-per-cent cut in the total number of scheduled meetings. Since the Secretariat was obliged to service all meetings requested by the General Assembly, however, the Assembly itself must make the reduction.
- 46. A number of interesting approaches to avoid the over-burdening of the documents services were outlined in paragraph 27 of the report and it would be useful for the Committee on Conferences to study the matter in greater depth. fewer meetings were convened, not only would there be a reduction in conference servicing costs but the flood of documentation would be checked and delegations would be able to focus their efforts better. The Canadian delegation, therefore, commended the efforts of the Secretary-General to impose a 24-page limit on all action-oriented documentation emanating from the Secretariat. The 32-page limit for the reports of subsidiary organs, referred to in paragraph 14 of the draft resolution in recommendation 6, was desirable, but it must be recognized that a number of subsidiary organs, such as the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, the International Civil Service Commission and the Committee on Contributions, could not usually cover their subject-matter within that limit. The discussions of some subsidiary bodies, however, could perhaps be cut substantially and presented in the form of a synopsis. In that connexion, the Committee on Conferences and the Joint Inspection Unit were to be commended on limiting their reports to 32 pages exactly.

(Mr. Macartney, Canada)

- 47. A key ingredient in the struggle against burgeoning conference costs and the overload of documentation was a spirit of co-operation and restraint on the part of the delegations of Member States themselves. The Advisory Committee on Co-ordination noted in paragraph 4 of its report (A/36/167/Add.1) that internal discipline within the secretariats could have a substantial effect on the volume of documents prepared by the secretariats, but the need for the document in the first place and its potential utility to the body considering it were matters on which the secretariat could advise but not dictate. The objective of control and limitation of documentation required a joint effort. The Canadian delegation urged all Member States, therefore, to co-operate with the Secretariat to reduce the number and duration of conferences and to limit the amount of documentation, in the knowledge that those efforts would free scarce United Nations resources for additional activities.
- 48. Mrs. LISBOA (Venezuela) said that the Venezuelan delegation deplored the continued increase in the volume of documentation produced by the United Nations despite the guidelines laid down in the many resolutions of the General Assembly, most recently in resolution 36/117 A. There had been no substantial improvement in the volume, the poor calibre, and the repeated delays in the distribution of documents, all of which impaired the effectiveness and efficiency of the United Nations system, the proper operation of which was of the utmost importance to Member States. As a first step, the guidelines that had been laid down must be made obligatory at all levels. The Fifth Committee would not then have to repeat its appeals and recommendations year after year. The Venezuelan delegation endorsed the principle underlying most of the recommendations of the Committee on Conferences, which were in general those already approved by most delegations in previous years.
- 49. Accordingly, the Venezuelan delegation would support any more binding proposal for the elimination of most summary records, save those for the General Assembly itself, its Main Committees and the General Committee, the International Law Commission, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, the Legal Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the United Nations Council for Namibia, and the governing bodies of the United Nations organs and programmes listed in the annex to recommendation 6 of the report of the Committee on Conferences.
- 50. Experience had shown that in practice summary records had not proved fully useful for the purposes for which they were intended. From time to time, delegations received a bundle of summary records distributed so late that they were of little utility; either their content was already known from other sources, or it was so difficult to find time to read them that they had to be sent on to other national institutions which might possibly be interested in them, although in fact their usefulness was usually very limited. The waste of time and money was obvious.
- 51. Since the timely distribution of documentation was as important as its limitation, the Venezuelan delegation viewed with interest the possibility of introducing new technology to solve the problem, after the appropriate studies had

(Mrs. Lisboa, Venezuela)

been made. She noted in that connection the reference in paragraph 38 of the report (A/37/32) to the value of tape recordings.

- 52. Her delegation was also convinced of the need to limit most reports to a maximum of 32 pages, except in the case of certain United Nations bodies. Much of the material in the reports was repetitive and could be reduced substantially. Even the current report of the Committee on Conferences could have been reduced still further. It was impossible to establish a rule limiting the volume of documentation and at the same time show flexibility. That merely weakened the obligation, with the result now confronting the Fifth Committee. The summary of the recommendations of the Committee on Conferences, therefore, or any resolution that was adopted, should include an explicit reaffirmation of the 32-page rule. The Venezuelan delegation also endorsed the decision of the Secretary-General to reduce certain documents prepared by the Secretariat from 32 to 24 pages, as well as the initiatives and measures for the control and limitation of documentation reported by the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences.
- 53. The delegation also whole-heartedly supported the recommendation of the Joint Inspection Unit in document A/36/167 that United Nations organizations should include in their training programmes courses in drafting skills and editing; that would improve the quality of United Nations documents.
- 54. In conclusion, she reiterated that the control and limitation of documents depended to a large extent on the will and the effort of all Member States. Her delegation was ready to co-operate in that effort to the full.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

55. The CHAIRMAN expressed concern regarding the distribution of some documents that had been scheduled to appear by early October, in particular the documents required for the discussion of agenda item 105, Financial emergency of the United Nations, scheduled for the following week. Accordingly, he appealed to all the units of the Secretariat concerned with producing the documents needed by the Fifth Committee to do their best to provide them and allow the Committee to proceed in accordance with the timetable it had adopted.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.