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## Fifth Committee

### Summary record of the 3rd meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 11 October 2019, at 10 a.m.

*Chair:* Mr. Mavroyiannis. . . . . (Cyprus)  
*Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative  
and Budgetary Questions:* Mr. Terzi

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*United Nations Office for Partnerships*

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*The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.*

**Agenda item 137: Improving the financial situation of the United Nations**

1. **The Chair** said that he wished to reiterate the concern expressed by the Secretary-General, in his letter to Member States of 4 October 2019, that the United Nations was confronting the worst liquidity crisis in recent years. Committee members were urged to reflect on the seriousness of the Organization's financial situation.

2. **Ms. Pollard** (Under-Secretary-General for Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance), accompanying her statement<sup>1</sup> with a digital slide presentation, said that, since the presentation on the financial situation of the United Nations at the Committee's 34th meeting at the seventy-third session of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General had written to all Member States on 2 August and 4 October 2019 about the Organization's deepening liquidity crisis, particularly in relation to the regular budget. Her presentation would cover the financial situation of the regular budget, peacekeeping operations and the international tribunals.

3. The cash situation of the regular budget had been characterized by severe liquidity issues in recent years, with larger deficits arising earlier in the year and persisting for longer periods. In 2019, for the second consecutive year, the cash reserves of the regular budget had been exhausted, despite the measures taken to reduce expenditure in line with the available liquidity. As at 9 October, the cash deficit in the regular budget had reached \$386 million, the highest level in the year so far, exhausting the reserves of \$150 million from the Working Capital Fund and \$203 million from the Special Account. The remaining deficit of \$33 million had been covered by borrowing from the accounts of closed peacekeeping missions. Borrowing from the Working Capital Fund had started in July, from the Special Account in August and from the accounts of closed peacekeeping missions in late September, as the cash reserves of the regular budget had been so severely depleted that the Organization had risked incurring problems with payroll payments and defaulting on payments to vendors. By the end of October, the Organization was expected to surpass the previous year's record cash deficit of \$488 million and exhaust

the remaining balances in the accounts of closed peacekeeping operations.

4. By the cut-off date of 4 October 2019, letters of assessment had been issued at a level of \$2.85 billion, the highest for the decade and \$362 million higher than at 30 September 2018. The higher level in the second year of the biennium had been largely in line with the pattern of assessments under biennial budgets, the methodology for which resulted in a tendency for letters of assessment to be issued after appropriations were approved and expenditures incurred. As at 4 October 2019, Member States had paid assessed contributions in a total amount of \$1.99 billion, \$61 million higher than at 30 September 2018, but those payments had represented only 70 per cent of the amount assessed, compared to 78 per cent the previous year. The result had been a shortfall of nearly \$230 million; consequently, the unpaid assessed contributions as at 4 October 2019 had amounted to around \$1.4 billion, \$299 million higher than at 30 September 2018.

5. By 4 October 2019, 128 Member States had paid their regular budget contributions in full, compared to 141 at 30 September 2018; 3 more Member States had paid since the cut-off date. She thanked those Member States that had paid all their regular budget contributions, including those that had also paid a partial advance for 2020.

6. The cash required to meet budgeted expenditure for the rest of the biennium 2018–2019 was approximately \$955 million, comprising \$464 million in post-related expenses and \$491 million in non-post expenses, including commitment authorities and unforeseen and extraordinary expenses. Although hiring had been slowed from early in the year and non-post expenditure had been curtailed, the Organization had barely enough liquidity to pay the post-related costs for October, even by using the balance of \$147 million in the accounts of closed peacekeeping missions. The United Nations was confronting the worst liquidity crisis in recent years and, from the start of November, might not have enough cash to cover payrolls or pay vendors in a timely manner.

7. To expend the budgetary resources fully, the Organization would need to receive payments of at least \$808 million in the last quarter of 2019 in respect of the remaining assessed contributions, but there was significant uncertainty about the amount and timing of those payments. While nearly half of the unspent

<sup>1</sup> Subsequently circulated as document [A/74/501](#).

budgetary resources were for post-related expenses, which could not be postponed, the remaining \$491 million included non-post expenses that could not be deferred without significantly affecting the fulfilment of mandates. The large amount of unspent non-post resources also reflected the impact of postponing non-post expenditures throughout the year in an effort to conserve cash to meet salary and other urgent costs. Because of the ongoing financial uncertainty relating to the payment of contributions, expenditure must be managed on the basis of liquidity rather than programme delivery. The use of average vacancy rates and the limitations on transfers of funds across budget sections and budget classes exacerbated the resource management problems. Cumulatively, those problems undermined mandate fulfilment and efforts to focus on results rather than inputs. Unless those structural and liquidity issues were addressed expeditiously, the work and reforms of the United Nations would increasingly be at risk.

8. The financial period for peacekeeping operations differed from that of the regular budget in that it ran from 1 July to 30 June rather than for the calendar year. In 2019, letters of assessment had been issued in an amount of nearly \$8 billion; the letters corresponding to nearly half that amount had been issued in July 2019 for the 2019/20 financial period. As at 4 October 2019, payments of \$5.7 billion had been received, and the total amount outstanding had been \$3.7 billion, compared to \$1.5 billion as at 31 December 2018.

9. At 4 October 2019, 30 Member States had paid all their peacekeeping assessments, 11 fewer than at 30 September 2018; 7 more Member States had paid since the cut-off date. She paid a tribute to those Member States that had paid their peacekeeping assessments in full.

10. The outstanding amount of \$3.7 billion as at 4 October 2019 had comprised \$3.3 billion owed for active missions and \$409 million owed for closed missions. Of the \$3.3 billion owed for active missions, \$2.8 billion had related to letters of assessment issued in 2019, while \$500 million had related to letters of assessment issued in 2018 or previously.

11. Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on improving the financial situation of the United Nations (A/73/809), the General Assembly, in its resolution 73/307, had requested that the Secretary-General issue letters of assessment for peacekeeping operations for the full budget period, including the estimated budget for the period for which the mandate

had not yet been approved by the Security Council, and that that amount be considered due within 30 days of the effective date of the extension of a peacekeeping operation's mandate. As a result, in July 2019, letters of assessment in an amount of \$2.4 billion had been issued for peacekeeping operations for the "non-mandated" period. Together with the Assembly's approval, in the same resolution, of the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions that the restriction on the cross-borrowing of cash among active missions be removed, the payment of assessed contributions for non-mandated periods had improved the overall liquidity of active peacekeeping operations. She thanked the 10 Member States that had paid in full for all missions for the 2019/20 peacekeeping year, including the non-mandated period, and the Member State that had paid in full for 12 of the 13 missions.

12. As at 9 October 2019, the peacekeeping cash balance had comprised approximately \$2 billion in the accounts of active missions, \$99.6 million in closed mission accounts and \$141 million in the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund. The General Assembly had specified that the balance of each mission should be maintained in a separate fund. The use of the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund was restricted to new operations and the expansion of existing operations.

13. As at 10 October 2019, \$6 million had been owed to Member States for troops and formed police units. With regard to claims for contingent-owned equipment, \$64 million had been owed in the case of active missions and \$86 million had been owed in the case of closed missions. Reimbursements in respect of troops and formed police units had been current up to July 2019 for all missions except the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH). Payments in respect of contingent-owned equipment claims had been current up to June 2019 for all missions except the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) and the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), for which payments had been current up to March 2019, and MINUJUSTH, for which payments had been current up to December 2018. For the quarterly payment cycle for September 2019, as a result of the General Assembly's decision to allow cross-borrowing among active missions and the

issuance of letters of assessment for the full budget period, the outstanding amount owed to Member States, which would otherwise have been \$285 million, had been only \$70 million.

14. The Secretary-General was committed to meeting obligations to Member States providing troops and equipment as expeditiously as the cash situation permitted. The Secretariat monitored the peacekeeping cash flow situation closely with a view to maximizing payments, but depended on Member States' meeting their financial obligations and on the expeditious finalization of memorandums of understanding with contributors of contingent-owned equipment. As requested by the General Assembly in its resolution [73/307](#), quarterly briefings would be held for Member States on the status of reimbursements to troop- and police-contributing countries and the steps taken to ensure their timely settlement.

15. As at 4 October 2019, unpaid assessments for the international tribunals had stood at \$76 million, including amounts owed for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, for which letters of assessment had last been issued in 2016, the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, for which such letters had last been issued in 2018, and the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, for which such letters had last been issued in 2019. As at 4 October 2019, 176 Member States had paid in full their assessments for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, 144 Member States had paid in full for the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and 110 Member States had paid in full for the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals. She thanked all Member States for their financial support for the tribunals and urged those that had not paid their assessments in full do so as soon as possible.

16. As at 4 October 2019, 106 Member States had paid their assessed contributions in full for all the tribunals, compared to only 58 as at 30 September 2018. One Member State had paid in full since the cut-off date. While the cash position of the tribunals was currently positive, the final outcome for 2019 would depend on Member States' continuing to honour their financial obligations.

17. In conclusion, she said that the unpaid assessed contributions for the regular budget, peacekeeping operations and the tribunals had been higher as at 4 October 2019 than at 30 September 2018. The improvement in the settlement of reimbursements to troop- and police-contributing countries for active

peacekeeping operations in October 2019 had resulted from the decision of the General Assembly, in its resolution [73/307](#), to allow cross-borrowing among active operations and the issuance of letters of assessment for the full budget year, including the non-mandated period.

18. She expressed appreciation to the 35 Member States that had paid all assessments in full as at 11 October 2019, as the financial health of the Organization depended on Member States' meeting their financial obligations in full and on time. The full and efficient implementation of the Organization's work depended on the provision of financial support by Member States through the adoption of realistic budget levels and the timely payment of contributions to ensure a stable, predictable financial situation throughout the year. The Secretariat was committed to using the resources entrusted to it in a cost-effective, efficient manner and to providing information in the most transparent way possible.

19. **The Chair** said that, following the Secretary-General's announcement, in his letter of 4 October 2019, of the introduction of austerity measures to ease the liquidity crisis, the Committee could not remain passive. As the Main Committee of the General Assembly responsible for the budget, the Committee must be resource-conscious. He encouraged delegations to consider practical ways in which the Committee could go beyond the Secretary-General's measures in order to help save costs and set an example for the other Main Committees.

**Agenda item 144: Report on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services ([A/74/305 \(Part I\)](#) and [A/74/305 \(Part I\)/Add.1](#))**

**Agenda item 133: Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations ([A/74/280](#))**

20. **Mr. Kanja** (Assistant Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services), introducing the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on its non-peacekeeping activities for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 ([A/74/305 \(Part I\)](#) and [A/74/305 \(Part I\)/Add.1](#)), said that, during the reporting period, OIOS had issued 444 oversight reports, including 11 to the General Assembly. Of the 1,177 recommendations made in those reports, 48 had been classified as critical. The Office's report on its non-peacekeeping activities contained descriptions of selected oversight results, and full copies of all internal audit and evaluation reports

were available on the OIOS website. Efforts to address vacancy rates in the Office had continued, and the overall OIOS vacancy rate at the end of August 2019 had been 13 per cent.

21. The Internal Audit Division had issued 72 non-peacekeeping audit reports and aligned its risk-based planning process with the Organization's enterprise risk management strategy. Following the implementation of the Secretary-General's reforms in January 2019, the Division had included in its workplan advisory and audit engagements relating to the reinvigoration of the resident coordinator system, the new delegation of authority framework and related change management initiatives. The results of those adjustments would be reflected in the Office's next annual report. The Division had also enhanced its data analytics capacity, including by developing a data extraction manual for auditors, to fully utilize the real-time data available through the Umoja enterprise resource planning system and other systems. It had continued to participate in the Meeting of Representatives of Internal Audit Services of the United Nations Organizations and Multilateral Financial Institutions, of which it served as one of the Vice-Chairs and the secretariat, and to lead a working group established by the Meeting to coordinate audits of the response of the United Nations system to humanitarian emergencies.

22. The Investigations Division had issued 83 non-peacekeeping investigation and closure reports, 46 per cent more than in the previous year. The average time taken to complete an investigation and issue the related report had been 10.2 months. For sexual harassment investigations, the average time had been 6.3 months. The Division had held awareness-building sessions on such topics as the fight against fraud and corruption, misconduct and sexual harassment. The Division also led the subgroup on strengthening investigative capacity and improving investigations of sexual harassment within the organizations of the United Nations system of the Task Force on Addressing Sexual Harassment of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination.

23. The Inspection and Evaluation Division had issued four non-peacekeeping evaluation reports, which had been considered by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its fifty-ninth session. To further the professional development of staff, the Division had held in-house training sessions on selected topics. In light of the management reforms implemented at the beginning

of 2019, it had launched several change initiatives to align its evaluations with United Nations reform and the Sustainable Development Goals. To support the reform, the Division had provided policy and technical advice to the newly established Evaluation Section of the Business Transformation and Accountability Division of the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance.

24. **Ms. Arriagada Villouta** (Chair of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee), introducing the report of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee (IAAC) on its activities for the period from 1 August 2018 to 31 July 2019 (A/74/280), said that IAAC was responsible for advising the General Assembly on compliance by management with audit and oversight bodies' recommendations. In that regard, the rate of implementation of recommendations of the Board of Auditors in some Secretariat entities had been unusually low; in non-peacekeeping operations, it had been 8 per cent.

25. The mandate of IAAC also included advising the Assembly on risk management procedures and the internal control framework of the United Nations. Senior management must actively lead enterprise risk management efforts to ensure that the identification and management of risks became standard practice across the Organization. The risk associated with organizational culture was significant, and management must be clear about the values and behaviours that would help the Organization to excel, the ways in which the incentives, policies and controls designed by management would support system entities' purpose and desired culture, and the behaviours for which there would be zero tolerance.

26. With regard to the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of the activities of OIOS, IAAC had followed up on its previous recommendation that the Office clearly identify the steps it planned to take to improve its capability to conduct performance audits. In response, OIOS had informed IAAC that, in many of its audit reports, it referred in the audit objective to economy, efficiency or effectiveness, and thus systematically included elements of performance auditing in most of its audits. The vacancy rate in the Investigations Division had not improved, but had in fact worsened, from 11.5 per cent in 2018 to 22.1 per cent in 2019; the rate in the peacekeeping section of the Division had been 25.8 per cent as at 30 June 2019.

27. The timely completion of investigations of retaliation cases was essential to an effective accountability system. While the average length of



investigations had been reduced to 11.5 months, that was longer than the 6-month period stipulated by OIOS in its programme impact pathways. The Investigations Division should analyse the root causes, including any resource constraints, that resulted in investigations exceeding the established time frames, and should propose ways of reducing the length of investigations.

28. While IAAC welcomed the progress made in the implementation of Umoja, it called on management to ensure that the critical modules were in place by December 2019. IAAC commended the progress made with regard to the statement of internal control, an important accountability tool through which an organization provided assurance that it was appropriately managing and controlling the resources under its responsibility. IAAC supported management's decision to expand the scope of the statement to include operations and would continue to monitor and report on progress in the area.

29. **Mr. Katkhuda** (Observer for the State of Palestine), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that OIOS had an important role in strengthening the Organization's internal oversight through internal audit, inspection, evaluation and investigations, and was essential to the improvement of internal controls, accountability and organizational efficiency and effectiveness. The Group supported the operational independence of the Office in line with General Assembly resolution [48/218 B](#). In order to minimize overlap and duplication in oversight work, the continuous coordination between OIOS and other oversight entities, including the Board of Auditors and the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), should be enhanced. Relevant United Nations entities should cooperate fully with the Office in the discharge of its responsibilities. The Secretary-General should report continuously on any impediments to the work of the Office and prevent their recurrence.

30. The Office, in its report on strengthening the role of evaluation and the application of evaluation findings on programme design, delivery and policy directives ([A/74/67](#)), had assessed evaluation functions, resources and practice at 31 United Nations entities in the biennium 2016–2017. Such functions, resources and practice were not mutually exclusive, and the complementarities among them must be optimized. The organizational independence of evaluation functions was defined to a significant extent by their structural arrangement, which was indicative of their autonomy in setting the evaluation agenda and performing their tasks

with minimal interference. The reporting lines of the most senior evaluation staff indicated the extent to which an evaluation function had the autonomy to plan its work and submit its results to the appropriate level of decision-making. The most senior evaluation staff at 17 entities reported to the head of entity, an arrangement that had resulted in formal improvements in the evaluation functions, but changes in the reporting line of such staff had reduced the independence of the evaluation function at the Department of Field Support, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Department of Management; that divergence showed that continuous commitment to strengthening accountability and evaluation was essential. The weaknesses found in evaluation functions and practice should be addressed, and the Group therefore welcomed the establishment of the Evaluation Section of the Business Transformation and Accountability Division of the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance. In informal consultations, it would seek further information on the role of the Section.

31. The budgetary resources allocated to evaluation had been \$28 million in total for the biennium 2016–2017, compared with \$26.4 million for the biennium 2014–2015. Expenditure on evaluation had therefore increased in nominal terms, but, as a proportion of programme budgets, it had generally remained below organizational benchmarks. The minimum threshold, namely the allocation of 0.5 per cent of the programme budget to evaluation, had been reached at only six entities. Average spending on evaluation reports as a proportion of the entities' overall budgets had been 0.31 per cent, which had been below the range indicated by JIU in its analysis of the evaluation function of the United Nations system ([JIU/REP/2014/6](#)). The Department of Management, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the Office for Outer Space Affairs, the United Nations Office at Geneva, the United Nations Office at Nairobi and the United Nations Office at Vienna had produced no evaluation reports, despite having budgeted for evaluation.

32. With regard to the report of IAAC, the Group appreciated the expert advice and assistance of IAAC, whose comments, observations and recommendations were intended to ensure compliance with audit and oversight recommendations and the overall effectiveness of risk management procedures.

33. **Mr. Ammann** (Switzerland), speaking also on behalf of Liechtenstein, said that the two delegations wanted a strong, efficient and effective United Nations, and OIOS was essential to the good governance and functioning of the Organization. A robust internal oversight function in the Secretariat was key to accountability, transparency and the effective fulfilment of mandates, which was the objective of the Secretary-General's management reform. The Office must maintain an appropriate degree of real and perceived independence from the management of the United Nations and of the funds and programmes, and must be able to perform its mandated activities impartially and objectively.

34. OIOS was essential to the strengthening of accountability at all levels; accountability was key to the reforms of the delegation of authority framework and other areas of management, and, together with transparency, was needed in order to reduce micromanagement. To ensure that the reforms were effective and credible, the Organization's oversight bodies must cooperate and share knowledge in relation to their implementation.

35. The Office was essential to combating the violation of ethical standards and such forms of misconduct as retaliation, discrimination, sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment, all of which resulted in suffering and an unhealthy, inefficient working environment, and tainted the public image of international organizations. The increase in the number of investigations conducted by OIOS, particularly into prohibited conduct, demonstrated the importance of and trust placed in the Office as the central mechanism for receiving complaints of misconduct. OIOS should strengthen its investigations through a victim-centred approach and specialized responses. The two delegations would seek ways of strengthening the Office to make the United Nations more accountable, transparent and effective.

36. **Ms. DiGiacomo** (United States of America) said that her delegation had long valued the work of OIOS, which, as the Secretary-General's reforms took hold, was more important than ever in helping the United Nations become more accountable, transparent and agile. Her delegation fully supported the Office's mandate of enhancing oversight in the Organization while maintaining the independence needed to produce timely, high-quality audits, investigations and evaluations.

37. Her delegation welcomed the development of an OIOS practice guide on auditing and evaluating organizational culture in order to build an assessment of that culture into audits and evaluations. It would seek

further information on the ways in which the assessment was carried out and which elements of the assessment would focus on change management initiatives in the context of management reform.

38. The number of matters reported to the Investigations Division, including matters related to sexual harassment, had increased by 63 per cent. Her delegation shared the Secretary-General's commitment to zero tolerance of such harassment and supported system-wide efforts to address it. The Office should include in its reports on its activities a year-to-year comparison specifically related to such harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse. IAAC noted in its report on its activities for the period from 1 August 2018 to 31 July 2019 (A/74/280) that the average time taken to complete OIOS investigations was 11.5 months, much longer than the 120-day time frame stipulated in the policy on protection against retaliation for reporting misconduct and for cooperating with duly authorized audits of investigations (ST/SGB/2017/2/Rev.1). Her delegation agreed with IAAC that the Division should analyse and resolve the root causes that resulted in investigations exceeding the established time frames.

39. Her delegation was concerned at the continued increase reported by OIOS in the number of its recommendations – including 71 issued in 2015 and 661 issued in 2018 – whose implementation was pending, given that the Office's recommendations were intended to protect the Organization from risk and ensure that internal controls were in place. The Secretary-General and senior managers should implement recommendations without delay. Her delegation commended OIOS, which often operated in a challenging environment, on its work the previous year and looked forward to helping make the United Nations more accountable and effective in implementing its mandates.

40. **Mr. Penaranda** (Philippines) said that his delegation recognized the important role of OIOS. It welcomed the enhancement of the Office's functioning and the promotion of cooperation and coordination between OIOS and other relevant United Nations entities. The Office must be able to perform its tasks on the basis of sound decision-making and without interference.

41. The implementation of some critical OIOS recommendations was overdue. The Office stated, in the addendum to its report on its activities for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 (A/74/305 (Part I)/Add.1), that its recommendations had financial implications of approximately \$5.3 million, of which

\$0.9 million had been realized. His delegation supported the recommendations that were intended to achieve cost savings and payment recoveries, and would seek further information regarding the critical recommendations whose implementation was pending.

42. The Office had stated, in its report on strengthening the role of evaluation and the application of evaluation findings on programme design, delivery and policy directives (A/74/67), that evaluation functions, practice and reports should be improved to help certain United Nations entities meet organizational standards. The establishment of the Evaluation Section in the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance could strengthen the culture of accountability and evaluation.

43. The Philippines appreciated the expert advice and recommendations of IAAC, which helped OIOS fulfil its oversight responsibilities. IAAC indicated, in its report on internal oversight: proposed programme budget for 2020 (A/74/92), that the projected resources for OIOS for 2020 from the regular budget were \$61,551,600, a slight increase of 0.8 per cent over the 2019 appropriation of \$61,085,100. His delegation would welcome further information about the projected resources for the Office in order to ascertain which divisions would need more support and enhancement. It commended the cooperation among OIOS, IAAC and other oversight entities, including the Board of Auditors and JIU.

#### **Agenda item 134: Programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019**

*United Nations Office for Partnerships (A/74/266)*

44. **Mr. Kennedy** (United Nations Office for Partnerships), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Office for Partnerships (A/74/266), said that, as the Secretary-General stated in his report on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, 2019 (A/74/73-E/2019/14), the Office was the Organization's global gateway for partnerships and a platform for the engagement of public and private stakeholders with the United Nations development system. The Office oversaw the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP) and the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF), and provided partnership- and outreach-related advisory services to the United Nations system, Governments and

non-governmental agencies, in support of the Sustainable Development Goals.

45. The purpose of UNFIP was to serve as the interface between the United Nations Foundation and the United Nations system, a relationship governed by the Revised and Restated Relationship Agreement between the United Nations and the United Nations Foundation. The Joint Coordination Committee had been established to assist with that task. Of the \$7.9 million disbursed by the Foundation in 2018, the majority, \$5.2 million, had been provided to global health projects, but the Foundation had also funded projects in such areas as women, girls and population, particularly the empowerment of girls; climate, energy and the environment; advocacy and communications; capacity development; fiduciary agreements and multi-stakeholder alliances. The cumulative grant allocations provided by the Foundation through UNFIP between 1998 and 2018 had reached \$1.46 billion, and covered 657 projects implemented in 128 countries by 48 United Nations entities.

46. With regard to UNDEF, whose purpose was to empower civil society, promote human rights and encourage the participation of all groups in democratic processes, 48 new projects had received a total of \$8.7 million from the twelfth round of funding in 2018, and 2,307 proposals for assistance from the thirteenth round of funding had been received by the January 2019 closing date for applications in that round. Between its establishment and 2018, UNDEF had supported almost 800 projects in over 130 countries.

47. To help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the Office had identified opportunities for partnerships not only between actors from the United Nations system and Member States, the private sector, civil society and philanthropic organizations, but also among external stakeholders. The Office also served as a focal entry point to the system for organizations that were considering collaboration in relation to the Goals.

48. **Mr. Katkhuda** (Observer for the State of Palestine), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group welcomed the provision by the Office, as the gateway for public-private partnerships for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, of partnership- and outreach-related advisory services to the United Nations system and Member States. It also welcomed the Office's efforts to advance the 2030 Agenda through partnerships in such areas as infrastructure, procurement, project management, human resources and financial services, areas pertinent



to developing countries. The Office should continue to cooperate with institutions to address such global challenges as the elimination of preventable diseases, particularly measles and malaria, and the promotion of the health and well-being of children, women and youth. The Office should take more initiatives related to the demographic dividend presented by large youth populations.

49. In accordance with Sustainable Development Goal 17, the Office should help revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, including through multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilized and shared knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources to support the achievement of the Goals. The Office should explore opportunities for partnerships between the United Nations system and other stakeholders to support the implementation by Member States of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. Lastly, pursuant to various United Nations resolutions, the Office should continue to work closely with regional and subregional organizations and support the development efforts of developing countries.

*The meeting rose at 11.15 a.m.*