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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1974-1975

Question of the separate preparation and submission of the
programme and budget of the United Nations Industrial
Development Organization and of administrative autonomy for
the United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Note by the Chairman

1. In document A/C.5/1633, I circulated to the Committee the text of a letter dated 15 November 1974, in which the Chairman of the Second Committee informs the President of the General Assembly that the Second Committee considered the question of the separate preparation and submission of the programme and budget of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and administrative autonomy for UNIDO and agreed to recommend that the Secretary-General's reports, as contained in documents A/9792 and A/C.5/1616 and Corr.1, be transmitted to the Second General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, so that the question of the autonomy of UNIDO and its institutional relationship with other organs of the United Nations system might be considered in all its aspects at that Conference.

2. The Fifth Committee may recall that, at its 2192nd plenary meeting on 6 December 1973, the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee:

"(a) Decided to request the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the question of the separate preparation and submission of the programme and budget of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the question of administrative autonomy for that organization as covered, respectively, in paragraphs 1 and 3 of decision II (VII) of 14 May 1973 of the Industrial Development Board, and to submit that report to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session;

"(b) Endorsed the observations contained in paragraph 7 of the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1974-1975." 1/

3. In the paragraph in question the Advisory Committee had agreed:

"that it would be useful for the General Assembly to have a report setting out the Secretary-General's views on the matter. The issues raised in paragraphs 1 and 3 of decision II (VII) of the Industrial Development Board, however, might have administrative and budgetary repercussions extending to the United Nations as a whole. Should that prove to be the case, a piecemeal approach based on problems encountered by one organizational unit might prove inadequate. In the circumstances, while recognizing that the views of the Second Committee would be of value, the Advisory Committee is of the opinion that the detailed consideration of the proposed report by the Secretary-General, together with the Advisory Committee's comments thereon, should take place in the Fifth Committee." 2/

4. It was pursuant to the request contained in paragraph (a) of the decision taken by the General Assembly on 6 December 1973 (see para. 2 above) that the Secretary-General submitted the report contained in document A/C.5/1616 and Corr.1; he also submitted a separate report on the establishment of a United Nations industrial development fund (A/9792).

5. In the light of the letter from the Chairman of the Second Committee, I would suggest that the Fifth Committee decide to postpone its own consideration of the question until the thirtieth session of the General Assembly, at which time it will have the benefit of the reports of the Secretary-General referred to in paragraph 3 above, the views of the Second General Conference of UNIDO and such comments thereon as the Second Committee may wish to make and the observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and will thus be able to give the question detailed attention within the over-all framework of the budgetary policies and requirements of the United Nations.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 30 (A/9030), p. 130.

2/ Ibid., Supplement No. 8 A, document A/9008/Add.19, para. 7.