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Committee for Programme and Coordination

Sixty-first session

Organizational session, 15 April 2021

Substantive session, 1–25 June 2021*

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Annotated provisional agenda

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Programme questions:
 - (a) Proposed programme budget for 2022;
 - (b) Evaluation.
4. Coordination questions:
 - (a) Report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination;
 - (b) New Partnership for Africa's Development.
5. Report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit.
6. Provisional agenda for the sixty-second session.
7. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its sixty-first session.

Annotations

1. Election of officers

At its twenty-fifth session, the Committee for Programme and Coordination reaffirmed the decision made at its twenty-fourth session that the post of its Chair, as well as the other posts on the Bureau, should rotate annually among the regional groups, and decided on the following pattern of rotation for the post of the Chair: (a) African States; (b) Eastern European States; (c) Latin American and Caribbean States; (d) Western European and other States; and (e) Asia-Pacific States. The

* The dates for the substantive session are tentative.



Committee also decided that each year the post of Rapporteur should be occupied by a member of the regional group that occupied the post of the Chair the previous year.

At its sixty-first session, the Committee may wish to elect the Chair from the Latin American and Caribbean States, in accordance with the agreed pattern of rotation among regional groups, and the Rapporteur from the Eastern European States, the regional group that occupied the post of Chair during the previous session.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Pursuant to paragraph 2 (e) of Economic and Social Council resolution [1979/41](#) and paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution [34/50](#), the Committee submitted to the Council and the Assembly for their review the provisional agenda for its sixty-first session, together with the list of documentation requested.

In accordance with paragraph 6 of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution [2008 \(LX\)](#), the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit concerning the economic, social and human rights programmes of the United Nations system, including the reports dealing with the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, shall be examined by the Committee, which shall report thereon to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. In its resolution [59/267](#), the Assembly invited the Committee, in performing its programmatic, coordination, monitoring and evaluation functions, as set out in its mandate, to consider relevant reports of the Unit. The Assembly, in its resolution [67/236](#), endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee contained in its report on its fifty-second session ([A/67/16](#)), including its recommendation that the Assembly urge the Unit to intensify its efforts to introduce to the Committee reports that are relevant to the function of the Committee, bearing in mind subparagraphs 4 (d) and (e) of article 11 of the statute of the Unit. In that connection, the Committee will select, at its organizational meeting, under agenda item 2, the report or reports of the Unit that it will consider at its sixty-first session under agenda item 5.

Pursuant to General Assembly resolutions [70/8](#) and [72/9](#), attention is drawn to the Secretary-General's bulletin [ST/SGB/2018/3](#), which contains the approved Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, effective as at 1 January 2018.

In its resolution [64/229](#), the General Assembly endorsed the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and decided not to include the agenda item "Improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee for Programme and Coordination" in future sessions, and further decided to discuss related matters under the agenda item "Adoption of the agenda and organization of work" as and when needed.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation for the sixty-first session ([E/AC.51/2021/L.1](#))

Note by the Secretariat on the report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit ([E/AC.51/2021/L.2](#))

3. Programme questions

(a) Proposed programme budget for 2022

In its resolution [72/266 A](#), entitled “Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations”, the General Assembly approved, inter alia, the proposed change from a biennial¹ to an annual budget period on a trial basis and decided that the proposed programme budget should consist of:

- (a) Part I: the plan outline, which endorses the long-term priorities and the objectives of the Organization;
- (b) Part II: the programme plan for programmes and subprogrammes and programme performance information;
- (c) Part III: the post and non-post resource requirements for the programmes and subprogrammes.

In the same resolution, the General Assembly decided that parts I and II would be submitted through the Committee for Programme and Coordination and part III through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for the consideration of the Assembly. The Assembly also decided that the plan outline shall be submitted every three years. Furthermore, the Assembly reiterated that the Committees should examine the proposed programme budget in accordance with their respective mandates and that the sequential nature of the review process of the proposed programme budget would be preserved.

The changes decided upon in resolution [72/266 A](#) would be reviewed by the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session, with a view to taking a final decision on the implementation of the annual budget.

In adopting resolution [72/266 A](#), the General Assembly reaffirmed that no changes to the budget methodology, established budgetary procedures and practices or the financial regulations may be implemented without prior review and approval by the Assembly in accordance with established budgetary procedures.

In its resolution [74/251](#), the General Assembly recalled its resolution [72/266 A](#), in which it had approved the change from a biennial to an annual budget period on a trial basis, and reaffirmed that no changes to the budget methodology, established budgetary procedures and practices or the financial regulations might be implemented without prior review and approval by the Assembly in accordance with established budgetary procedures. In addition, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to ensure that the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation approved by the Assembly in its resolutions [70/8](#) and [72/9](#) were fully respected, with the exception of regulations and rules that had been directly impacted by the decisions taken by the Assembly in its resolution [72/266 A](#).

In the same resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to apply the following guidelines when preparing the next proposed programme plan and programme performance documents for the remainder of the approved trial period, namely, for 2021 and 2022:

- (a) Adhering to a programme plan that contained the required level of detail and information, in particular keeping the objectives, results and corresponding performance measures at the subprogramme level, in line with the results-based budgeting framework;

¹ Background information on the mandate of the biennial programme budget process pursuant to General Assembly resolutions [58/269](#), [62/224](#), [67/236](#), [70/8](#) and [72/9](#) is provided in [E/AC.51/2020/1](#).

(b) Including a detailed list of deliverables in the proposed programme budget and ensuring that resources were justified in terms of the requirements to implement deliverables as contributions to the planned results;

(c) Including clear, comprehensive explanations of the approved methodologies to be applied in the context of the programme budget proposals to be submitted in respect of the 2021 and 2022 budget periods, with reference to the applicable provisions of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolutions [47/212 A](#) of 23 December 1992 and [72/266 A](#);

(d) Enhancing the link between the preceding programme plans and the proposed future plans, with a view to ensuring consistency and continuity;

(e) Incorporating more general information on programmes and subprogrammes by showing not only examples of actual and planned results, but also an overview of activities and general strategy that encompassed a comprehensive overall account of the actual and planned results;

(f) Presenting performance information on a comprehensive set of results, which would allow for enhanced oversight, transparency and accountability in the implementation of all activities in the programme plan as approved by the General Assembly;

(g) Providing, in the context of performance measures, at least three prior years of actual performance information to facilitate a better understanding and assessment of progress made at the programme and subprogramme levels;

(h) Including a strategy at both the programme and subprogramme levels;

(i) Incorporating the list of legislative mandates into the published official document and not into the supplementary document provided informally;

(j) Replacing the proposed section on alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals with concrete information regarding contributions to the implementation of the Goals by relevant programmes and subprogrammes in accordance with their specific related intergovernmental mandates;

(k) Using simplified and identifiable numbering to improve the readability and referencing of the proposed programme plan;

(l) Reducing the use of accompanying photographs in the foreword to each proposed programme plan;

(m) Ensuring that the use of anecdotal narratives in subprogrammes was only to provide examples of actual and planned results as referenced in (e) above;

(n) Ensuring that the terms and expressions referenced in the proposed programme plan had been intergovernmentally agreed.

In its resolution [75/243](#), the General Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the proposed programme plan for 2021 and programme performance for 2019, contained in its report on the work of its sixtieth session. At that session, the Committee had not reached an agreement on the programme narrative for programmes 3, 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 23 and 25 of the proposed programme budget for 2021, and recommended that the Assembly, at its seventy-fifth session, review the programme plan of those eight programmes under the agenda item entitled "Programme planning".

In the same resolution, the General Assembly, on an exceptional basis and without creating a precedent, approved, for programmes 3, 7, 13, 14, 20, 23 and 25 of the proposed programme budget for 2021, a programme narrative that was composed solely of the list of mandates at the programme level and the objectives approved by

the Assembly in its resolution 71/6 and the deliverables for 2021 at the subprogramme level, and, where new mandates implied changes to the objectives at the subprogramme level as approved in their agreed formulation under its resolution 71/6, also approved the relevant objectives as updated in the proposed programme budget for 2021.

Also in the same resolution, the General Assembly approved the programme plan for programme 6, Legal affairs, of the proposed programme budget for 2021, as contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/75/6 (Sect. 8)).

Also in its resolution 75/243, the General Assembly recommended that the Committee, in accordance with its mandate, provide recommendations on all programmes of the proposed programme budget. It also confirmed that, in the rare event that the Committee could not provide conclusions and recommendations on a given subprogramme or programme of the proposed programme budget, the plenary or the relevant Main Committee or Main Committees of the Assembly responsible for those mandates would have the subprogramme or programme before it in order to provide any conclusions and recommendations on the said subprogramme or programme to the Fifth Committee, at the earliest opportunity, for its timely consideration.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget for 2022: part II: programme plan for programmes and subprogrammes and programme performance information (General Assembly resolutions 72/266 A, 74/251 and 75/243)

(b) Evaluation

Programme and thematic evaluations

In its resolution 62/224, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendations of the Committee, set out in its report on its forty-seventh session, on improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee within the framework of its mandate, whereby the Committee would consider in-depth and thematic evaluation reports, as well as the report on strengthening the role of evaluation and the application of evaluation findings on programme design, delivery and policy directives, in budget years, without prejudice to its consideration of evaluation reports in off-budget years, upon its request or that of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, taking into account rule 107.2 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation.

Strengthening the role of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives

In accordance with regulation 7.4 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, the Committee will consider the report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the evaluation role and the application of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives. In that regard, the attention of the Committee is drawn to the relevant sections of General Assembly resolutions 36/228 B, 37/234, 38/227 A and B, 42/215, 43/219, 44/194, 45/253, 51/219, 53/207, 55/234, 57/282, 59/275, 61/235, 64/229, 66/8, 68/20, 70/8 and 72/9.

Documentation

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on strengthening the role of evaluation and the application of evaluation findings on programme design, delivery and policy directives ([A/76/69](#))

Programme evaluations

At its sixtieth session, the Committee selected the following evaluations for consideration at its sixty-first session, in 2021: (a) the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States; (b) United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development; (c) the Department of Economic and Social Affairs; (d) the inspection of the evaluation function of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women); (e) the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; and (f) the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs.

Documentation

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States ([E/AC.51/2021/2](#))

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development provided by programme 9 through the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Department of Global Communications ([E/AC.51/2021/4](#))

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs ([E/AC.51/2021/5](#))

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the inspection of the evaluation function of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women ([E/AC.51/2021/7](#))

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([E/AC.51/2021/6](#))

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs ([E/AC.51/2021/3](#))

4. Coordination questions

(a) Report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution [2008 \(LX\)](#), the Committee will have before it the annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) for 2020.

Documentation

Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2020 ([E/2021/47](#))

(b) New Partnership for Africa's Development

In its resolution [60/257](#), the General Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, contained in chapter IV.B of the report of the

Committee on its forty-fifth session ([A/60/16](#) and [A/60/16/Corr.1](#)). In endorsing those conclusions and recommendations, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report annually on progress by the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

In its resolution [73/269](#), the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to include, in his future reports, information on: (a) possible outcomes of the achievement of NEPAD targets; (b) tangible actions and results in respect of United Nations system support for projects of the Partnership throughout Africa, focusing on the impact, in both quantitative and qualitative terms, of the activities implemented by entities of the United Nations system in support of the Partnership; (c) the activities undertaken by the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa in the areas of advocacy and analytical work, coherence and coordination and facilitation of intergovernmental deliberations relating to the provision of support by the United Nations system to the NEPAD agenda; (d) activities undertaken to provide support to countries to address concerns regarding the protection of women and children, including from sexual violence; (e) the efforts of United Nations entities in support of the region to address challenges relating to governance, youth unemployment, extremism and terrorism; and (f) the continued implementation of activities relating to the monitoring mechanism.

In its resolution [75/243](#), the General Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, contained in its report on the work of its sixtieth session, relating to the annual overview report on the New Partnership for Africa's Development. In so doing, the Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in paragraphs 118 to 124 of the annual report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development ([E/AC.51/2020/9/Rev.1](#)), to be implemented in a manner consistent with intergovernmental mandates, and encouraged the Secretary-General to address the comments made by the Committee members. The Committee also encouraged that the information provided in that report be of a high quality and be made available more widely in future, and that the concerns of all Committee members be addressed.

In the same resolution, the General Assembly encouraged the Office of the Special Adviser to explore cooperation between the Common Fund for Commodities and the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD with the aim of financing more developmental projects in Africa. The Assembly stressed the importance of realizing the potential of youth on the continent and encouraged the Office of the Special Adviser to explore the feasibility of a dedicated subprogramme on youth.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development ([E/AC.51/2021/___](#))

5. Report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit

Under agenda item 5, the Committee will consider the relevant report or reports of the Joint Inspection Unit, to be decided upon by the Committee during its organizational session on 15 April 2021.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit ([E/AC.51/2021/L.2](#))

6. Provisional agenda for the sixty-second session

Pursuant to paragraph 3 of Economic and Social Council resolution [1894 \(LVII\)](#), the Committee will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its sixty-second session, with an indication of the documents to be submitted under each agenda item and the legislative authority for their preparation, in order to enable the Committee to consider those documents, their contribution to its work, their urgency and their relevance in the light of the current situation.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the provisional agenda and documentation for the sixty-second session of the Committee ([E/AC.51/2021/L.3](#))

7. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its sixty-first session

The report of the Committee on its sixty-first session will be submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its coordination and management meeting, to be held in July 2021, and to the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session.

Documentation

Draft report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its sixty-first session ([E/AC.51/2021/L.4](#) and addenda)

Annex

Members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination for 2021*

<i>Membership in 2021</i>	<i>Term expires on 31 December</i>
Angola	2021
Argentina	2021
Armenia	2023
Belarus	2023
Brazil	2023
Cameroon	2023
China	2022
Comoros	2022
Costa Rica	2023
Cuba	2023
Eritrea	2023
Eswatini	2023
Ethiopia	2021
France	2021
Germany	2023
India	2023
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2023
Italy	2023
Japan	2023
Liberia	2022
Mali	2023
Malta	2023
Mauritania	2022
Pakistan	2023
Paraguay	2021
Philippines	2022
Poland	2023
Republic of Korea	2022
Russian Federation	2021
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2023
United States of America	2023
Uruguay	2022

* As at 1 January 2021, the following vacancies remain to be filled on the Committee: one vacancy for a member from the Western European and other States for election by the General Assembly for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2021 and one vacancy for a member from the Latin American and Caribbean States for election by the Assembly for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2023 (see Economic and Social Council decisions 2021/201 A and B and General Assembly decisions 75/410 A and B).