



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 38th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ABRAZEWSKI (Poland)

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

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

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UNIT (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 111: PERSONNEL QUESTIONS (continued)

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- (b) RESPECT FOR THE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES OF OFFICIALS OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
AND THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND RELATED ORGANIZATIONS: REPORT OF THE  
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- (b) MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1984-1989
- (c) REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

AGENDA ITEM 103: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1982-1983 (continued)

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Distr. GENERAL  
A/C.5/37/SR.38  
24 November 1982

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. The CHAIRMAN said that, at a recent meeting of the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General and the Chairmen of the Main Committees, the President had reiterated his determination to end the thirty-eighth session of the General Assembly on 21 December 1982. To meet that deadline the Fifth Committee would have to complete its work by 17 December, and that would require the timely submission by the other Main Committees of draft resolutions having financial and administrative implications. The Chairmen of the other Main Committees had been requested to observe a deadline of 1 December for the submission of such draft resolutions.

2. The Committee was up to date with its work, with the exception of item 104 (Programme planning), regarding which it was awaiting submissions from the other Main Committees. It seemed likely that delays would be encountered in the consideration of item 113 (United Nations pension system) and item 114 (Financing of the United Nations peace-keeping forces in the Middle East), while some documentation relating to item 103 (Programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983) might be delayed.

3. He intended to inform the Committee periodically of the status of documentation and the progress it had made in its work. If the consideration of an item was obstructed by the late submission of documents, the Committee might have to declare some reports unreceivable. There was a need for new measures to be implemented in respect of documentation. Finally, he appealed to delegations to be flexible with regard to their readiness to speak on various items.

AGENDA ITEM 107: JOINT INSPECTION UNIT: REPORTS OF THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT  
(continued) (A/37/34 and A/37/103; A/C.5/37/28)

4. Mr. BERTRAND (Chairman of the Joint Inspection Unit) said that he would convey the various remarks made in the Committee to the members of the Unit.

5. It was to be hoped that the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the only specialized agency which was not yet a participating organization, would soon decide to participate in the Joint Inspection Unit. It was important for the Unit to take account of the situation in all the specialized agencies, and it was in the interests of all concerned for all the agencies to participate.

6. The work of JIU bore little resemblance to that of the external auditors. The latter were entrusted with the verification of accounts, while the Unit was concerned with management problems. Of necessity, and in their common interests, there was some liaison between the two.

7. With regard to the observation made in the Committee that the part of the general report of the Joint Inspection Unit (A/37/34) relating to the principle of equitable geographical distribution contained no figures, it should be noted that

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(Mr. Bertrand)

chapter VII of the general report contained summaries of the JIU reports on different topics and that the relevant report itself should be consulted for statistical data.

8. The question of how JIU recommendations were followed up was highly pertinent. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, for example, had a formal procedure for implementing JIU recommendations, although a less systematic approach was the rule in other parts of the United Nations system. The Unit was considering ways of ensuring that its recommendations were implemented and would make recommendations thereon in due course. In that regard, it was important for the Unit's recommendations themselves to be precisely formulated; vague advice was not enough. In addition, the comments by the Secretary-General on JIU recommendations, whether positive or negative, had to be quite clear. Although progress had been made in that area, there was still room for improvement. There was also the fact that the Unit's reports were considered along with a mass of other documents under different agenda items. When the Committee came to draft a resolution on an item, the Unit's recommendations were often drowned in a multitude of other concerns. It might be preferable, where warranted, for resolutions to contain annexes relating exclusively to such recommendations, so that their status would be clear.

AGENDA ITEM 111: PERSONNEL QUESTIONS (continued) (A/36/407 and Add.1, A/36/432 and Add.1 and 2; A/37/30, annex I, A/37/143, A/37/378 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, A/37/469 and Add.1, A/37/528 and Add.1; A/C.5/37/5, A/C.5/37/6 and Corr.1, A/C.5/37/24, A/C.5/37/26, A/C.5/37/34)

- (a) COMPOSITION OF THE SECRETARIAT: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
- (b) RESPECT FOR THE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES OF OFFICIALS OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND RELATED ORGANIZATIONS: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
- (c) OTHER PERSONNEL QUESTIONS

9. Mr. LADOR (Israel), referring to the report of the Secretary-General on respect for the privileges and immunities of officials of the United Nations and specialized agencies and related organizations (A/C.5/37/34), said that 23 staff members of UNRWA had been arrested between July 1981 and June 1982. Twenty-one of them had subsequently been released, while two had been charged, tried and convicted.

10. The judicial system in the areas administered by Israel was based upon the rule of law. Any person suspected of having committed an offence was taken into custody. An investigation was held, and, if there existed sufficient grounds, legal proceedings were instituted. Any person not convicted was released. Trials were conducted in accordance with the basic principles of natural justice, and defendants benefited from all the pertinent guarantees provided for in the system of justice administered by Israel.

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(Mr. Lador, Israel)

11. The UNRWA staff members detained by Israeli forces in southern Lebanon during the recent hostilities had been arrested on suspicion of having been connected with or having participated in terrorist activities directed against Israel and its civilian population. It would be recalled that most of Israel's neighbours considered themselves to be in a state of war with Israel. Under the internationally recognized principle of the right of self-defence, Israel was fully entitled to take the necessary steps to ensure its security. It should be emphasized that the suspected terrorist activities occasioning the detention of the UNRWA staff members had been in clear violation of their responsibilities as employees of an international agency. The Commissioner-General of UNRWA himself had acknowledged that an UNRWA school at Sibliin had served as a training and storage base for terrorist trainees. The detainees had been treated in accordance with the provisions of the fourth Geneva Convention, access having been granted to representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Naturally, if the detainees were cleared of the charges, they would be released immediately. It should be noted that Israel maintained appropriate contact with the UNRWA authorities regarding the staff members being held. In contrast to certain other nations, Israel had endeavoured to provide prompt notice of all cases of detention to UNRWA and the families concerned.

12. It was surprising that certain representatives had chosen to criticize Israel's actions in that regard, given their country's infamous record of human rights, particularly in matters of detention, which had been well documented by many objective international observers. It would be of interest to know whether the Soviet representative's recent statement in the Committee on behalf of the nations whose contingents were taking part in the Middle East peace-keeping operations signalled a change in its long-standing refusal to participate, as required by the principle of collective responsibility, in the financing of those operations

13. Mr. RALLIS (Greece), referring to the distribution of posts subject to geographical distribution, said that his delegation was pleased to note that the number of unrepresented and under-represented countries had diminished. That was a positive step towards the full implementation of Article 101 of the Charter, which underlined the importance of recruiting the staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible. Efforts to bring all Member States within their desirable ranges should continue. At the same time, no effort should be spared to assure the representation of as many States as possible at all levels, particularly in posts above the Professional category. There was an unfortunate practice of recruiting low-ranking staff members simply in order to bring the quota of certain countries up to the desired level, without giving due consideration to the need for representation of Member States at the decision-making level. Greece, for example, had no nationals in posts above the Professional category.

14. His delegation noted with concern that over the past year, nationals from 16 over-represented countries had been appointed to posts subject to geographical distribution. In particular, three candidates had been recruited from a country, whose nationals already occupied 3.6 times more posts than the maximum of that country's desirable range. His delegation understood the concern to secure the

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(Mr. Rallis, Greece)

highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, but wished to know why those particular candidates had been appointed. To remedy the imbalance in the representation of Member States, all vacancies should be announced as soon as possible. The recruitment of nationals from over-represented States should, as far as possible, be avoided, unless there were no equally qualified candidates from under-represented countries. Attempts should also be made to recruit nationals of countries which were below their mid-points. As to the age of retirement, its extension would surely perpetuate the existing imbalances in the composition of the Secretariat and was therefore undesirable.

15. Mr. MONAYAIR (Kuwait) said that personnel questions were among the most complex issues with which the Committee had to deal and, since they were vital to the ability of the United Nations to attain its objectives, were of great political significance. The implementation of various General Assembly resolutions on personnel questions, particularly resolutions 35/210 and 33/143, had fallen short of his delegation's expectations. His delegation was particularly concerned about the need for equitable geographical distribution and, since many countries, mostly developing countries, were unrepresented or under-represented, it called upon the Secretariat to take prompt and effective measures to recruit candidates from those countries. The goal of achieving universality went beyond the admission of countries to the United Nations to their representation in the Organization and would not be fully attained until all unrepresented and under-represented countries came within their desirable ranges. If every department and office showed the necessary determination and co-operative spirit, he was confident that the principle of equitable geographical distribution could be applied faithfully.

16. That principle must be observed qualitatively as well as quantitatively. The inadequate representation of the nationals of developing countries in senior and policy-making posts, which was commented on by JIU in paragraphs 7 and 8 of document A/37/378, gave rise to an imbalance which had clear consequences for the United Nations and its functioning. The qualifications required for senior posts were not to be found solely in the nationals of a small group of countries. Furthermore, the principle of equitable geographical distribution must be applied in each entity of the Organization, if not on a State-by-State basis at least on a regional basis.

17. Having heard the introductory statement by the Assistant Secretary-General for Personnel Services, his delegation was confident that the Office of Personnel Services would make further efforts to ensure equitable geographical distribution in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Committee. His delegation welcomed the medium-term recruitment plan and hoped that its implementation would lead to fairer representation within the Organization.

18. Mr. LÖSCHNER (Federal Republic of Germany) said that his delegation fully supported the views expressed by the representative of Denmark on behalf of the ten countries of the European Economic Community. It noted with satisfaction the efforts made by the Secretariat and in particular by the Office of Personnel Services to solve the problem of achieving an equitable geographical distribution of posts and hoped that those efforts would be pursued actively in order to achieve

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(Mr. Löschner, Federal Republic  
of Germany)

true geographical distribution without discrimination against any nationality in respect of quantity, quality and location of posts and also career development, including types of appointment and promotion.

19. His Government favoured the competitive-examination method for the recruitment of young nationals of the Federal Republic of Germany for earmarked P-2 posts and believed that a fair proportion of such posts should be at Headquarters in New York and should entail interesting work. His Government therefore supported the continuation of competitive examinations and believed that they should be extended to levels other than the entry level. It also believed that nationals of the Federal Republic of Germany should be recruited at decision-making levels. The Federal Republic of Germany continued to be seriously under-represented. Since it was the fourth largest contributor to the regular budget, and the third largest donor to operational activities, its adequate representation in important Secretariat posts was of great significance.

20. His delegation shared the view of the Secretary-General in paragraph 6 of document A/37/378/Add.1 that equitable geographical distribution in the Secretariat as a whole presupposed a commitment by every head of department or office to work towards that objective in his or her sphere of competence, within the objectives established for the purpose by the Office of Personnel Services. It was encouraging to note from the Assistant Secretary-General's remarks in introducing the item that the Secretary-General would monitor closely the distribution of staff in each of the main departments and offices of the Secretariat. His delegation believed that the monitoring exercise should apply to all departments and offices of the Secretariat and should compare not only regions but also the proportions of staff from over-represented and under-represented countries. It should also assess the commitment by every head of department or office, including the secretariat of UNCTAD, to work towards appropriate geographical distribution. Those steps would safeguard the validity of the principle of equitable geographical distribution at the level of departments and offices.

21. With regard to the status of women in the Professional category and above, his delegation felt that the paramount concern should be to attain a true geographical balance which, combined with efforts to increase the percentage of women in Secretariat posts, would give due preference to women candidates from grossly under-represented countries, like the Federal Republic of Germany.

22. Mr. NUÑEZ (Ecuador) said that documents A/37/143 and A/C.5/37/L.2 clearly demonstrated that a high proportion of staff members were nationals of only 26 States Members of the Organization, 19 of which had over 100 staff members and 7, over 500. The report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of personnel policy reforms (A/C.5/37/5) showed that special consideration was being given to nationals of Member States within their desirable ranges but below the mid-point in order to raise their levels of representation towards that mid-point. His delegation also welcomed the statement that no post should be considered the exclusive preserve of any Member State or group of States and that posts subject

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(Mr. Nufez, Ecuador)

to geographical distribution should not be successively encumbered by nationals of the same Member State. It appreciated efforts to increase the representation of developing countries in senior and policy-formulating posts.

23. His delegation welcomed the action taken to implement General Assembly resolution 35/210 and in particular the dispatch of recruitment missions to pre-select candidates in under-represented countries, and it was pleased that examinations were being held in the mother tongue of candidates. His delegation fully agreed with the representative of Spain that the competitive examinations for promotion from the General Service category to the Professional category should be held in Spanish so that candidates with that mother tongue could compete on a basis of equality with other candidates.

24. With respect to the recruitment of women, his delegation appreciated the efforts that had been made to achieve the target established by the General Assembly. It felt, however, that new procedures were required which would make it possible to increase the number of women in the Secretariat without the establishment of predetermined percentages, since numerical targets were incompatible with the only valid criterion, namely competence and suitability for a post.

25. It was essential that the staff of the United Nations should be motivated by a sincere desire to serve the Organization and work for peace and development. The necessary steps must be taken to ensure that the standards of efficiency demanded by Member States were achieved. Without prejudice to the career prospects and acquired rights of existing staff members, the proportion of short-term contracts should be increased, thus encouraging the holders of such contracts to maintain a high level of efficiency to the direct benefit of the Organization. To that end, it was desirable that competitive methods of recruitment should be used for outside candidates. There must be a freeze on appointments of nationals of over-represented countries in order to implement the principle of equitable geographical distribution and promote the legitimate interests of many Member States, such as Ecuador, which were under-represented.

AGENDA ITEM 104: PROGRAMME PLANNING (continued) (A/37/3 (Part II), chap. VI, sect. C, future A/37/6, A/37/7, A/37/38, A/37/154 and Corr.1 and 2, A/37/206 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, A/37/207, A/37/460; A/C.5/37/25, E/1982/INF/12, decision 1982/173)

- (a) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND CO-ORDINATION
- (b) MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1984-1989
- (c) REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

26. Mr. PURUSHOTTAM (Chairman of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination), introducing the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) on the work of its twenty-second session (A/37/38), said that at that session, CPC had focused on programming issues. Four of the reports that had been considered by CPC in connection with the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 had already been introduced by the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning

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(Mr. Purushottam)

Co-ordination, and he would have preferred to present the report of CPC at the same time, as was the custom. At all events, it was important that he should be informed well in advance that the agenda item was to be taken up so that he had enough time to prepare his introduction of what the Fifth Committee considered a fairly important subject.

27. Programming issues were not new to the Committee; a series of in-depth studies on the many methodological questions involved had been conducted by the Secretariat and submitted to CPC and the General Assembly and, on the advice of CPC, the General Assembly had adopted a series of resolutions over the past nine years which set forth the basic guidelines and principles to be followed by the Secretariat in programming its activities. It had apparently proved difficult for the Secretariat to put those principles into practice and as a result they had remained a rather abstract ideal, of marginal interest or relevance to the practical operations of the Secretariat. It was thus essential to codify those principles. Although the methodology of programming was complex, the purpose of programming should be obvious: there should be no finances for activities without programme justification and, conversely, programmes to which high priority was attached should have first call on resources. The Office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination had been entrusted with the task of drafting rules and regulations for the preparation of the plan and the budget. Once the General Assembly had approved the rules and regulations, it could be satisfied that the principles it had laid down at earlier sessions had been faithfully put into practice and the Secretariat would have an authoritative and precise set of guidelines which it must follow. The rules and regulations were not an end in themselves; they must be used as a tool for the implementation of decisions. Improvements could be made later, as the need arose, but it was essential to adopt the draft rules and regulations without delay so that they could be used in the formulation of the next programme budget.

28. In connection with the observations of ACABQ on the draft regulations, CPC agreed with that Committee that the original draft regulations prepared by the Secretary-General had in many cases been unclear and ambiguous. It was for that reason that CPC had devoted such care to extensive redrafting. As was shown in document A/37/206, the wording of the draft regulations was derived from the language of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, which had been drafted in the Fifth Committee. The CPC revisions were largely designed to bring that wording even further into line with the resolutions. As a result, neither CPC nor the Economic and Social Council had believed that the comments of the Office of Legal Affairs or definitions of key terms were necessary for their review.

29. CPC had requested the Joint Inspection Unit to prepare a report to assist the General Assembly in its consideration of the item. The report produced contained a great deal of extremely useful analysis, although his own assessment of the CPC review of the medium-term plan was more positive. Should the General Assembly so decide, the Secretary-General would naturally take into account the detailed comments of JIU when drafting the final version of the programme rules and regulations, subsequent to their adoption by the Assembly, and at that stage the

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advice of ACABQ would no doubt be of value to him. The Assembly, in resolution 36/228, had requested the Secretary-General to present to it at its thirty-seventh session, through CPC, proposals enabling it to adopt official rules and regulations at that session. CPC had complied with the General Assembly's request and its recommendations had been endorsed by the Economic and Social Council. Thus, under the terms of that resolution, no further advice was necessary and the General Assembly should proceed to adopt the regulations.

30. The proposed medium-term plan was the first plan to be prepared after the adoption of the detailed resolutions of the General Assembly to which he had referred. CPC had found the plan to be a practical demonstration of the need for rules and regulations that would ensure consistency in the preparation and presentation of its various chapters. The plan was of uneven quality and varying format, and the procedures laid down, such as procedures for specialized intergovernmental review, had not always followed. Although the General Assembly had asked for a plan that was deductive and forward-looking, CPC had found that programme managers had based their proposals mainly on past and present activities and very little had been done to focus on problems that would arise during the plan period.

31. Despite its shortcomings, the medium-term plan could be a helpful document for intergovernmental bodies and the Secretariat in their discussions on long-term programme orientation. Substantive bodies could use it as a basis for decisions on new activities to be undertaken by the Secretariat and on changes in direction during the operation of the plan. It was for that reason that the General Assembly, on the advice of CPC, had decided that its Main Committees should consider the relevant chapters of the plan. For the Secretariat, the plan should serve as a major tool for programme managers to review and project their work and also to formulate proposals on priorities during the plan period. Most important of all, as CPC had repeatedly urged and the General Assembly had agreed, the process of formulating programme budgets must be closely related to the planning process; the policy guidelines, priorities and programmatic content of the medium-term plan, as adopted by the General Assembly, must be brought to bear on the process of formulating proposed programme budgets.

32. There were, however, some lacunae which continued to plague the process. In particular, the priority-setting procedures envisaged by the General Assembly had not been implemented. Without that guidance, the formulation of the budget would be based on financial considerations rather than programme orientations and needs and could not be used for a transfer of resources from low-priority to high-priority areas. Accordingly, CPC hoped that the Secretary-General would soon consider measures to rationalize the process of programme planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation in the United Nations and that the Programme Planning and Budgeting Board would be able to consider the problems and propose some solutions. The Committee of Governmental Experts to Evaluate the Present Structure of the Secretariat in the Administrative, Finance and Personnel Areas, in its current report (A/37/44), had expressed the view that the Board, as constituted, could not replace the need for integration of the whole system of programme planning, budgeting, monitoring and reporting and expressed the hope that the experience

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gained in the operation of the current arrangements, and the modalities existing in other organs and organizations of the United Nations system would be taken into account when the Secretary-General took a final decision on how such responsibility would be established.

33. On the subject of programme monitoring, CPC had once again stressed the importance of the early establishment of a central programme monitoring unit. When CPC and the General Assembly had recommended the establishment of such a unit, great emphasis had been laid on the need to ensure its independence, and CPC had recommended that the unit should be organized in such a way that it could ensure objectivity and independence in its work as well as effective accountability for the implementation of the work programme of the United Nations as a whole. It was doubtful whether a unit consisting of part-time staff seconded from three different offices or departments would be able to meet those requirements.

34. Mr. BERTRAND (Chairman of the Joint Inspection Unit) said that the JIU report on the elaboration of regulations for the planning, programming and evaluation cycle of the United Nations in document A/37/460 had been prepared in response to the request made by CPC as recently as May 1982. In the short time at his disposal, he had endeavoured to prepare a report which would be useful to the General Assembly in considering the item on programme planning. The comments made by the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination at the preceding meeting with regard to the role of the medium-term plan and the JIU report showed that there was broad agreement between the representatives of the Secretary-General and JIU on the main issues but that they differed considerably where the aims of the planning, programming and evaluation exercise were concerned. The various documents before the Committee could help to integrate the results of the efforts described by the Assistant Secretary-General.

35. The preparation of regulations for the planning, programming and evaluation cycle of the United Nations had been undertaken in response to the decision taken by the General Assembly at the preceding session on the basis of a JIU recommendation. The aim was to synthesize the methodological work done over the years, to refine it in the light of experience and to present the result in a single document, patterned on the Staff Rules or the Financial Regulations of the United Nations, for use by delegations and the Secretariat. As in the case of the Staff Rules, it had been decided to make a distinction between regulations on the one hand, which would have to be adopted by the General Assembly itself and which only the Assembly could amend, and detailed rules, on the other hand, which the Secretary-General would establish in order to apply the regulations. That endeavour was extremely important to efforts to enhance the effectiveness of the Organization, and the decision which the General Assembly would take would affect the future of the Organization.

36. CPC had already made an outstanding contribution by developing the comprehensive conceptual framework for medium-term planning, programme budgeting, priority-setting, monitoring and evaluation. JIU, which had itself participated over the years in that work, could only approve of the main features, since they gave effect to many of its own recommendations. However, a number of significant

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refinements needed to be made. CPC itself had wanted the process of reflection to continue: it had not been satisfied with the conception of the medium-term plan document submitted to it, since that document had been based on the regulations which it was in the process of codifying. That was why CPC had requested the Secretary-General to provide detailed information to the General Assembly on the rules which he intended to issue in order to apply the regulations which had so far been worked out, and at the same time had asked JIU to submit a report to assist the General Assembly in finalizing the draft regulations. CPC had thus made it clear that not only did it not consider the regulations it had reviewed in a few brief meetings in May to be final but it also believed that the exercise of establishing the regulations was not simply a matter of codifying existing resolutions. On the contrary, what had to be done, during the review of the medium-term plan, was to introduce the necessary refinements in a methodological approach which was basically sound but which was not yet producing the results for which it had been designed.

37. The task of the Fifth Committee was to determine whether or not the refinements and additions proposed in the report of JIU were necessary. That task should be facilitated by the fact that many members of the Committee had long been involved in the work on the draft regulations, including some who were members of ACABQ and CPC.

38. The main recommendations of JIU would elucidate and supplement several of the regulations, including regulations 3.6, 3.7, 4.4, 6.1 and 6.2, add an explanatory preamble and make the consequential changes that were necessary. He had presented his recommendations in the form of regulations because the importance of the problems to be solved required that they should be dealt with in regulations and not mere rules, and because, given the complexity of the subject, the Fifth Committee's task would be facilitated if it had before it a specific wording for each of the changes proposed.

39. The recommendations were designed to help the General Assembly give an opinion on the medium-term plan document, identify the causes of the existing situation and decide how to correct any mistakes which might have been made. The Secretariat and JIU viewed the current medium-term plan document very differently. Whereas the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination considered it a useful tool, he (Mr. Bertrand) believed that it could have been better organized, better written, more specific and less monotonous. The statement made earlier in the meeting by the Chairman of CPC supported that view. The JIU report criticized the medium-term plan for its lack of precision in both form and substance, and for its verbalism, which the medium-term planning exercise had, in fact, been designed to eliminate. As to the introduction to the plan, the importance of which had been highlighted by CPC, the least that could be said was that it was a lost opportunity, even if the version submitted to the Fifth Committee represented a marked improvement over the one considered by CPC.

40. Evaluation exercises, which were central to the collective reflection that the planning, programming and evaluation cycle was intended to foster, had so far been very modest and inadequate, and the resources and machinery necessary for such exercises to play their role had not been provided. The JIU report also indicated

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that programme budgeting, although greatly improved, was still not being used rationally for programming needs. That assessment might seem harsh but he considered that JIU had a duty to present Member States with harsh assessments when it was necessary to do so.

41. While it was normal that there would be a difference of opinion between JIU and the Secretariat on the seriousness of the situation, there was no disagreement on the causes of the situation or the remedial measures proposed by JIU. Everyone familiar with the subject knew the difficulties and was aware that they had not yet been overcome. Traditional attitudes had to be changed so that collective reflection could take place on a periodic, if not permanent, basis and so that the results of such reflection could be integrated into the methods of work.

42. No one was seeking to blame the Secretariat or any of its units for the existing shortcomings, which were due primarily to the fact that the basic objectives of the exercise had not been adequately spelt out or understood. In a situation of that kind, all concerned should consider themselves responsible and make an effort to bring about the necessary changes.

43. In his report, he had endeavoured to identify the basic causes of the situation, which included the inadequate development of evaluation exercises, the failure to distinguish in the plan between different kinds of activities, an improper understanding of what the introduction to the medium-term plan was intended to be, and the inadequate integration of programme budgeting into the planning exercise. The solutions proposed in the report were based on his analysis of the causes. JIU proposed a new wording for regulations 6.1 and 6.2 in the light of the suggestions of CPC. The aim was to promote a better understanding of the very nature of the evaluation exercise, to provide for an evaluation programme and time-table in the regulations themselves, to incorporate evaluation in the medium-term planning process and to demonstrate the necessity of employing different evaluation methods for different types of programmes. A more precise wording for regulation 3.6 was proposed so that the fundamental distinction between plannable, partly plannable and unplannable activities would be reflected in different presentations. The aim was to make the medium-term plan more relevant to Member States. The amendment proposed to regulation 3.7 was intended to highlight further the importance of the introduction to the medium-term plan by elucidating its objectives. The introduction to the medium-term plan was of great importance to the co-ordination of activities of all the organizations of the system. The amendment to regulation 4.4 would spell out the contents of the statement which should precede the programme budget so as to integrate the programme budget into the planning cycle. Lastly, JIU recommended the addition of a preamble outlining the essential objectives of the planning exercise along the lines of the text contained in paragraph 93 of its report.

44. The Fifth Committee would have to determine how urgent it was to put the regulations and related rules into effect. The Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination had expressed the wish that they could

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be adopted at the current session, and the Chairman of CPC had expressed a similar view. He understood the reasons for that desire since preparations for the 1984-1985 programme budget were already under way. However, that would mean that the Fifth Committee would have to take a decision on the recommendations of JIU without their being reviewed by CPC and without the thorough consultation within the Secretariat suggested by JIU in recommendation No. 8.

45. One possible course was to adopt provisionally the draft regulations, as amended by CPC, and to supplement and further amend them at the thirty-eighth session in the light of the JIU recommendations, once the latter had been considered by CPC and, perhaps, ACABQ by CPC and, perhaps, ACABQ. A more expeditious alternative might be to establish a working group of the Fifth Committee comprising all the members of CPC, which could make recommendations on the basis of the JIU proposals. He remained at the disposal of the Committee to provide any additional explanations it might wish to receive.

46. Mr. RUEDAS (Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management) said that, as members would recall, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee had indicated at the preceding meeting that that Committee would submit its report on the draft regulations to the General Assembly after it had considered the report of JIU and the related comments of the Secretary-General. As the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination had stated at the preceding meeting, the Secretariat had not felt that there were compelling reasons to submit a further written report on the subject. Arrangements had been made for an immediate hearing of the representatives of the Secretary-General in the Advisory Committee and he trusted that that would facilitate the Fifth Committee's work.

47. The CHAIRMAN indicated that copies of the statements made by the Chairman of the Joint Inspection Unit and the Chairman of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination would be made available to interested delegations.

48. Mr. M'TESA (Zambia) suggested that arrangements should regularly be made in future to distribute copies of all important statements to delegations.

49. The CHAIRMAN said that members should bear in mind the difference between the circulation of a statement as an official document, which required translation into all the official languages of the Organization, and informal arrangements to make statements available to delegations in the original language only.

50. In accordance with the decision of the General Committee and the plenary Assembly, he had addressed letters to the Chairmen of the Main Committees requesting their comments on the chapters of the medium-term plan which were relevant to their work. He had now received replies from all the Chairmen and would arrange for them to be circulated shortly to members in an official document.

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AGENDA ITEM 103: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1982-1983 (continued)

51. Mr. van HELLENBERG HUBAR (Netherlands) observed that the Committee would be asked to take decisions in the days ahead on the financial implications of resolutions that were being discussed in the other Main Committees. It would therefore be essential for the Fifth Committee to know to what extent the cost of new activities could be absorbed within existing resources. That was possible only if it had information on activities that had been completed or were obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective. He asked when the Committee could expect to receive a report on that subject.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.