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**Fifth Committee****Summary record of the 34th meeting**

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 28 March 2024, at 10.30 a.m.

*Chair:* Mr. Mahmoud ..... (Egypt)  
*Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative  
and Budgetary Questions:* Mr. Bachar Bong

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seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly

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*The meeting was called to order at 10.35 a.m.*

1. **The Chair** informed the Committee that some of the draft resolutions and decisions to be introduced had only recently been adopted informally, and were thus provisional, subject to editorial review and quality control, and available in English only. With full regard for the resolutions of the General Assembly on multilingualism, he acknowledged the Committee's flexibility in proceeding on that basis so as to conclude its work at the first part of the resumed session.

**Agenda item 134: Programme budget for 2024**

*(continued)* (A/C.5/78/L.29, A/C.5/78/L.30, A/C.5/78/L.32 and A/C.5/78/L.33)

*Draft decisions contained in document A/C.5/78/L.33: Programme budget implications relating to the programme budget for 2024*

2. *The draft decisions contained in document A/C.5/78/L.33 were adopted.*

*Draft resolution A/C.5/78/L.29: Revised estimates relating to the Independent Institution on Missing Persons in the Syrian Arab Republic*

3. **Mr. Al-mansour** (Syrian Arab Republic), introducing the draft resolution, said that the Institution was a politicized entity that targeted the Syrian Arab Republic. Its establishment reflected interference in the internal affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic and was testament to the double standards, hypocrisy and hostility of certain Western countries towards the Syrian Arab Republic. His delegation had been obliged to submit draft resolution A/C.5/78/L.29 for several reasons.

4. General Assembly resolution 77/301 establishing the entity had not enjoyed consensus. The Syrian Arab Republic had not been consulted about the establishment of the entity, nor had it requested any technical assistance from the United Nations in the matter. Its establishment contradicted the principles of respect for the sovereignty of States and non-interference in their internal affairs. As with other entities established without consensus, his delegation did not recognize or interact with the entity, as it represented an exploitation of the principles of the United Nations, aimed at advancing goals unrelated to the interests of the Syrian people. The Syrian Arab Republic rejected the entity and its financing under the regular budget. He called on Member States to reject double standards and selectivity in matters relating to

human rights. The use of human rights issues to target specific States must cease.

5. **Mr. Bogaerts** (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States, said that the delegations for which he spoke regretted the submission of draft resolution A/C.5/78/L.29 and called for a recorded vote on it. He recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 77/301, had decided to establish, under the auspices of the United Nations, the Independent Institution on Missing Persons in the Syrian Arab Republic, to clarify the fate and whereabouts of all missing persons in the Syrian Arab Republic and to provide adequate support to victims, survivors and the families of those missing, in close cooperation with all relevant actors. As the Main Committee entrusted with administrative and budgetary matters, the Fifth Committee had a responsibility to ensure that sufficient resources were provided for the implementation of mandates approved by the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations. The Institution must be funded from the regular budget.

6. Should the draft resolution be adopted, it would deprive the Institution of funding and prevent it from carrying out its mandate, in direct violation of the General Assembly's decision and in contravention of the Committee's mandate. It was regrettable that the proponents of the draft resolution had refused to engage and had rejected all attempts to negotiate a consensual outcome. The States members of the European Union would vote against the draft resolution and called upon all other delegations to do the same.

7. *At the request of the representative of Belgium on behalf of the European Union member States, a recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.5/78/L.29.*

*In favour:*

Belarus, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Eritrea, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Mali, Nicaragua, Panama, Russian Federation, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kuwait, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania,

Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Niger, North Macedonia, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay.

*Abstaining:*

Algeria, Angola, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Ghana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen.

8. *The draft resolution was rejected by 70 votes to 13, with 43 abstentions.\**

*Draft resolution A/C.5/78/L.30: Revised estimates relating to the Independent Institution on Missing Persons in the Syrian Arab Republic*

9. **Ms. Prizreni** (Albania), introducing the draft resolution, said that the establishment of the Independent Institution on Missing Persons in the Syrian Arab Republic had been a much-awaited sign of justice for the victims of the Syrian conflict. The United Nations and its Member States had a duty to ensure that the families of the victims knew the fate and whereabouts of their missing relatives. That could only be achieved if the Institution was able to function efficiently and fulfil its mandate. Her delegation supported the proposed resource requirements and posts for the Institution, as set out in the report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates relating to the Institution (A/78/706). Her delegation also supported the choice of Geneva as the seat of the Institution, given the expertise in humanitarian affairs concentrated in Geneva and the duty station's role in efforts to find a solution to the Syrian conflict. Her delegation requested all Member States to vote in favour of the draft resolution and support the funding of the Institution.

\* The delegation of Panama subsequently informed the Committee that it had intended to vote against draft resolution A/C.5/78/L.29.

10. **Mr. Al-mansour** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation rejected the Institution and its financing from the regular budget for the reasons already explained. His delegation called for a recorded vote on draft resolution A/C.5/78/L.30 and urged all Member States to vote against the draft resolution and reject the financing of the Institution from the regular budget.

11. **Mr. Bogaerts** (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States in explanation of vote before the voting, said that the States members of the European Union had made every effort to negotiate a consensual outcome on the issue and had agreed to several concessions with a view to achieving a mutually acceptable compromise. The European Union reiterated its strong support for consensus, a principle that underpinned the working methods of the Committee and was essential for transparent and inclusive decision-making. It was regrettable, therefore, that some members of the Committee had refused to engage in negotiations, forcing the Committee to vote on the draft resolutions on the matter.

12. It was the paramount responsibility of the Committee to ensure that mandates approved by the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations were given adequate resources to ensure their successful implementation. As such, the States members of the European Union would have welcomed a negotiated outcome, even though it would have differed from their original position. In the light of the refusal of some Committee members to engage in negotiations, the European Union welcomed draft resolution A/C.5/78/L.30, which would ensure that the Institution could implement its important humanitarian mandate. The States members of the European Union would vote in favour of the draft resolution and called upon all other delegations to do the same.

13. *At the request of the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic, a recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.5/78/L.30.*

*In favour:*

Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras,

Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Niger, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay.

*Against:*

Belarus, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Eritrea, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Mali, Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Zimbabwe.

*Abstaining:*

Algeria, Angola, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, Yemen.

14. *The draft resolution was adopted by 71 votes to 12, with 46 abstentions.\**

*Draft resolution A/C.5/78/L.32: Special subjects relating to the programme budget for 2024*

15. **The Chair** said that in the light of the adoption of draft resolution [A/C.5/78/L.30](#), draft resolution [A/C.5/78/L.32](#) would be technically adjusted to consist of one section only, on the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan (UNITAMS), and would be renamed "Revised estimates relating to the programme budget for 2024 under section 3, Political affairs, and section 36, Staff assessment: special political missions – thematic cluster III: regional offices, offices in support of political processes and other missions – United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan".

16. *Draft resolution [A/C.5/78/L.32](#), as technically adjusted, was adopted.*

17. **Mr. Chumakov** (Russian Federation) said that it was regrettable that mandates approved by the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations were being discussed by the Committee. His delegation also regretted the fact that the United Nations would begin carrying out work without the consent of the host country, the Syrian Arab Republic. In addition to his delegation's political concerns about the Institution, which it had already raised in other forums, it was hard to imagine a greater waste of resources. His delegation wished to disassociate itself from the decision to fund the Institution under the regular budget.

18. **Mr. Al-mansour** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation wished to disassociate itself from the decision to finance the Institution from the regular budget. The Syrian Arab Republic would honour its financial obligations to the United Nations on that basis in 2024. The Institution was not recognized by the Syrian Arab Republic and only concerned the States that had established it. It was unacceptable to force other Member States to finance the Institution.

19. **Mr. Amrollahi** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his delegation wished to disassociate itself from any resources for the so-called Independent Institution, as it objected to selective country-based human rights mandates. The Institution undermined the sovereignty and integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic, which had not approved the establishment of the Institution or been consulted on the matter.

20. **Ms. Llano** (Nicaragua) said that her delegation regretted the double standards, politicization and selectivity in the Organization. In establishing the so-called Independent Institution without consulting or cooperating with the Syrian Arab Republic, the General Assembly had exceeded the authority granted to it under the Charter of the United Nations and had violated the principles of sovereign equality and non-interference in the internal affairs of States. Her delegation had confidence in the capacity of Syrian institutions to carry out the process without external interference. Nicaragua stood in solidarity with the Syrian people and Government and called for the intensification of efforts at the national, regional and international levels to support development, reconstruction and peace in the Syrian Arab Republic, in accordance with the wishes of the Syrian people. Her delegation did not support the

\* The delegation of the Niger subsequently informed the Committee that it had intended to vote against draft resolution [A/C.5/78/L.30](#).

funding of the Institution and therefore dissociated itself from draft resolution [A/C.5/78/L.30](#).

21. **Mr. Bayley Angeleri** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that his delegation was opposed to the politicization of humanitarian affairs. The so-called Independent Institution was nothing more than a political tool created by certain Western States to serve their hostile agenda towards the Syrian Arab Republic. For as long as the Syrian Arab Republic did not recognize the Institution, the United Nations could not allocate funds for it from the regular budget. The Institution represented an additional financial burden on all Member States of \$3 million in 2024 and \$13 million in 2025. Such resources would be better used to support humanitarian and development efforts, rather than squandered on politicized entities that served the interests of certain Member States. His delegation requested that no resources be allocated to the Institution. Coordination should be established between the Institution and the country concerned; nothing should be imposed on that country from external forums.

22. **Mr. Tur de la Concepción** (Cuba) said that his delegation dissociated itself from the decision to approve resources for the Institution, which sought to create a negative image of the Syrian Arab Republic. The Institution had been established just as the Syrian Arab Republic was in the process of normalizing relations with its neighbours and was intended to undermine that process. The Institution was not the first entity to be established against the will of the Syrian Arab Republic and it was redundant, duplicative and a waste of resources.

23. **Mr. Kim Nam Hyok** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that his delegation opposed and disassociated itself from the decision to fund the so-called Independent Institution, a politicized mechanism, from the regular budget. Syrian issues should be addressed in a peaceful way, in accordance with the wishes of the Syrian people.

24. **Mr. Hadgu** (Eritrea) said that his delegation rejected the mandate of the Institution and the allocation of resources for it from the regular budget. The Institution had been established by a non-consensual decision, without the agreement of the State concerned. His delegation's long-standing position had been to oppose country-specific mandates, which were an impediment to constructive engagement and the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms everywhere. Politically motivated country-specific

mandates had not worked in the past and would not work in the future.

25. **Ms. Jiang Hua** (China) said that China consistently advocated the principles of objectivity and impartiality in human rights and humanitarian affairs. It also opposed the politicization of such rights and such affairs. In the context of cooperation between the United Nations and Member States, the opinions and needs of Member States must be taken into account, and their leadership must be respected. It was regrettable that United Nations resources were being used to establish a mechanism without consulting the country concerned or taking into account Member States' opinions. Such a measure would also aggravate the liquidity crisis facing the Organization. The budgetary resources to be allocated to the Institution should be spent on supporting capacity-building in the Syrian Arab Republic, instead of on establishing a controversial mechanism. Without the support and collaboration of the host country, the Institution would not be functional or effective. China therefore opposed the funding of the Institution from the regular budget.

26. **Mr. Evseenko** (Belarus) said that in the absence of cooperation with the Syrian authorities, the so-called Independent Institution was destined to fail. His delegation therefore wished to disassociate itself from the decision to provide funding for the entity.

**Agenda item 139: Human resources management**  
(continued) ([A/C.5/78/L.31](#) and [A/C.5/78/L.35](#))

*Draft resolution [A/C.5/78/L.31](#): Human resources management*

27. **Mr. Chumakov** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation had submitted draft resolution [A/C.5/78/L.31](#), containing a request for the Secretary-General not to use so-called gender-inclusive language in the Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, because the consultations had reached an impasse owing to the unwillingness of the like-minded group to participate in them, and because the Secretariat had arranged things in such a way that any possible procedural decisions on the matter, such as adopting a "skeletal" resolution, deferring consideration or taking no action, would have meant approving the use of so-called gender-inclusive language in the Staff Rules. His delegation thanked those Member States that had supported draft resolution [A/C.5/78/L.31](#), which had given rise to an important phase in the Committee's consultations. The outcome of those consultations had been draft resolution [A/C.5/78/L.35](#), on which

consensus had been reached. Pursuant to paragraph 4 of that draft resolution, gender-inclusive language should not be used in the Staff Regulations and the Secretary-General must withdraw such language from the Staff Rules. The Committee's interpretation of that instruction should be that the Secretary-General had been directed not to use so-called gender-inclusive language. Accordingly, in the light of the efforts of all delegations that were committed to reaching consensus, his delegation was prepared to withdraw [A/C.5/78/L.31](#) in favour of [A/C.5/78/L.35](#).

28. *Draft resolution [A/C.5/78/L.31](#) was withdrawn.*

*Draft resolution [A/C.5/78/L.35](#): Amendments to the Staff Regulations and Rules*

29. *Draft resolution [A/C.5/78/L.35](#) was adopted.*

**Agenda item 141: Joint Inspection Unit (continued)**  
([A/C.5/78/L.34](#))

*Draft resolution [A/C.5/78/L.34](#): Joint Inspection Unit*

30. *Draft resolution [A/C.5/78/L.34](#) was adopted.*

**Agenda item 132: Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (continued)** ([A/C.5/78/L.36](#))

*Draft decision [A/C.5/78/L.36](#): Questions deferred for future consideration*

31. *Draft decision [A/C.5/78/L.36](#) was adopted.*

**Completion of the work of the Fifth Committee at the first part of the resumed seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly**

32. **Mr. Ainomuhisha** (Uganda), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Committee had built on the progress achieved at the seventy-seventh session with regard to human resources management by adopting draft resolution [A/C.5/78/L.35](#) on amendments to the Staff Regulations and Rules. The Group also welcomed the adoption of a resolution on the Joint Inspection Unit ([A/C.5/78/L.34](#)). However, it was regrettable that the Committee had been unable to reach agreement on other matters, including supply chain management. The Organization needed to be provided with guidance on procurement, which accounted for over \$3 billion annually, yet the General Assembly had not adopted a resolution on procurement in a decade.

33. He thanked the members of the Committee for their flexibility in working late, but said that the

unavailability of facilities after normal working hours was inconvenient and unacceptable, noting that on one occasion some colleagues had been temporarily unable to enter the building.

34. **Mr. Camelli** (Representative of the European Union, in its capacity as observer) said that while the Committee had been able to adopt a number of resolutions by consensus, some Member States had refused to uphold their responsibility to fund all mandates without discrimination and by consensus. Despite the efforts of the European Union to achieve a consensual outcome on the Independent Institution on Missing Persons in the Syrian Arab Republic, some delegations had put forward a draft resolution containing a proposal to defund the Institution, thereby making its viability and proper functioning contingent on the results of a vote. It was the paramount responsibility of the Fifth Committee to ensure that mandates approved by intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations were given adequate resources to ensure their successful implementation.

35. It was regrettable that the Committee had once again deferred consideration of or taken no action on the vast majority of agenda items. The European Union was particularly disappointed that no resolutions on accountability or supply chain management had been adopted. The European Union also regretted the late introduction of the Secretary-General's proposals to ensure the proper functioning of the reinvigorated resident coordinator system through adequate, predictable and sustainable funding, as contained in his report on revised estimates relating to the proposed programme budget for 2024 under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination, and section 29B, Department of Operational Support ([A/78/753](#)), and looked forward to continuing discussions on the matter at the second part of the resumed session. The European Union was committed to supporting the Secretary-General's efforts to modernize and reform the United Nations. The Committee's responsibility was not restricted to budgetary and financial matters; it also encompassed the Organization's administrative functioning, which was essential to ensuring the implementation of mandates.

36. The outcome of the first part of the resumed session raised serious questions about the organization of the Committee's work. The extension of the first part of the resumed session to five weeks, at considerable cost to the Organization, had been wasteful, as 18 half-day meeting slots had not been used, with most of the

progress only achieved in the final days or even hours of the session. What was needed was not more time, but earlier and more active and constructive engagement. Reports should be made available at the start of the session, not during the final week, and most could be shortened significantly, given the up-to-date data available to delegates through various online portals. The Committee needed to make more meaningful, efficient and effective use of the time allotted and respect timelines and deadlines, in order to conclude its programme of work in a timely fashion. The European Union commended the Chair's commitment to improving the Committee's working methods, noting that it was necessary to address the Committee's time management problems while ensuring that it continued to take decisions by consensus, a fundamental tenet of the Committee that was essential for transparent and inclusive decision-making.

37. With respect to the liquidity challenges facing the Organization, the European Union reiterated its commitment to the United Nations and to multilateralism, and invited all Member States to pay their contributions in full and on time and to consider further measures aimed at giving the Organization the tools it needed to address liquidity constraints and bridge gaps. The programme of work for the second part of the resumed session was heavy. The European Union hoped that the outcome of the current part of the resumed session would be a wake-up call to Member States.

38. **The Chair** said that he and the other members of the Bureau were of the view that it was feasible to complete the first part of the resumed session within four weeks, provided that the time was properly utilized, but it was up to the members of the Committee to decide. The Bureau would utilize the intersessional period to consult the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and Secretariat representatives, with a view to hitting the ground running at the start of the second part of the resumed session. He did not intend to extend the second part of the resumed session beyond 31 May 2024.

39. **Ms. Minale** (Ethiopia), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that the Committee must discharge its responsibility to provide regular guidance on human resources management and organizational reform. While the Committee had had productive discussions on the Secretary-General's proposals and initiatives, only a few negotiated outcomes had been reached, with most items deferred to future sessions.

The Committee must make better use of the time allotted. To that end, the Group hoped that reports would be issued in a timelier manner in future.

40. Human resources management initiatives should always be in line with the relevant resolutions and the guidance provided by the Committee. The Group underscored the need to maintain regulatory mechanisms that were informed by norms and values on which all Member States agreed. The Organization's regulatory framework should not advance controversial social values.

41. The Committee must, as a matter of urgency, reach a substantive negotiated outcome on supply chain management and procurement. It was regrettable that consideration of those matters had been deferred owing to the late issuance of the relevant reports and a lack of time to negotiate an outcome. Given the current scattered approach to procurement at the United Nations and the fact that no resolution on the matter had been adopted for nine years, the Committee should work towards the adoption of a comprehensive resolution.

42. **Mr. Kawasaki** (Japan) said that at its seventy-seventh session, the General Assembly had successfully adopted a resolution on human resources management after over six years of negotiations, thereby providing solid guidance to ensure a more effective, efficient and inclusive Organization. Regrettably, the Committee had been unable to reach consensus on a comprehensive resolution at the first part of the resumed session. Although some progress had been made in the negotiations, areas of divergence remained. To ensure that the Committee could continue to provide the Secretary-General with guidance on human resources management, it must review its approach in order to avoid a repetition of the same outcome at the seventy-ninth session.

43. Nevertheless, the Committee had managed to find common ground on several important items, providing urgently needed policy guidance and resources. His delegation encouraged all Member States to maintain that spirit of constructive cooperation, consensus-building and compromise during the second part of the resumed session.

44. **Mr. Lu** (United States of America) said that in order for the United Nations to do its job and confront the multitude of crises facing the world, it needed to use every tool at its disposal, the most important of which was its workforce. Every year, the Committee devoted the bulk of the first part of the resumed session to human

resources management, enabling Member States to engage in serious conversations with the Secretariat about what policy and process changes were needed to ensure that the United Nations oversaw its workforce in the most effective manner. If the United Nations were a company or government agency, its human resources policies would be reviewed and updated annually, yet the Committee failed to provide regular guidance, even though it was charged with overseeing the most important organization in the world. While the General Assembly had adopted a comprehensive resolution on human resources management at its seventy-seventh session, that had been the first such resolution adopted since 2016, meaning that only one meaningful reform of the Organization's personnel policies had been undertaken in the previous eight years.

45. In the coming months, Member States would negotiate a pact for the future, to guide the United Nations for the rest of the century. People and processes would be required to implement the pact, which was why the work of the Committee was of such importance. However, the Committee's output at the current part of the resumed session had been dismal. It had failed to exercise meaningful oversight of personnel compensation, the Organization's main cost driver; failed to extend measures for the secondment of active-duty military staff, which would directly affect the success of peacekeeping missions; failed to take action to address the mental health needs and well-being of the Organization's workforce; and failed to provide guidance on United Nations procurement policies and supply chain management to ensure that they were efficient and in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The extension of the first part of the resumed session by one week had been unnecessary and the Committee should revert to its previous practice of meeting for four weeks.

46. **Mr. Young** (United Kingdom) said that while some progress had been made during the first part of the resumed session, the overall outcome was deeply disappointing, with no action taken on two items, the deferral of consideration of three items, the adoption of two skeletal resolutions, and the need to hold a recorded vote. Those results did not reflect a committee that was functioning effectively and efficiently on behalf of the United Nations and the people it served. Rather, they reflected a committee that was grappling with the late issuance of reports and extensive documentation, and mired in political wrangling, in which some delegations sought to undermine agreed mandates by attempting to defund them, and whose results were not commensurate

with the time, effort and resources expended. His delegation estimated that the wage bill for delegates and Secretariat staff involved in the first part of the resumed session amounted to over \$4 million, not including staff time spent producing, translating, reviewing and introducing reports.

47. His delegation applauded the efforts of the Chair to facilitate an honest conversation about the working methods and culture of the Committee. Certain things could and should be done immediately, such as shortening the length of the first part of the resumed session, considering certain items only biennially or triennially, and improving the timely issuance of reports and access to supplementary information. It was the duty of all delegations to ensure that the Committee could discharge its important duties effectively and efficiently.

48. **The Chair** said that he and the other Bureau members encouraged all delegations to contribute to the Committee's discussion on working methods. He urged Member States to make progressive suggestions aimed at improving and rationalizing the Committee's working culture and methods. For instance, considering certain items biennially would help to sharpen the Committee's focus and increase efficiency. He would engage with the previous Chair and the incoming Chair to share his experience.

49. **Ms. Jiang** Hua (China) said that many reports were not issued on time, making it difficult for Member States to make full use of the time allotted and conclude their deliberations in a timely manner. For instance, the reports on supply chain management had not been issued until the final week of the first part of the resumed session. With respect to the liquidity crisis, the root cause was that Member States were not paying their contributions on time. In order for the Organization to function efficiently and effectively, it needed the support of Member States and guidance from the Fifth Committee.

50. **The Chair** declared that the Fifth Committee had completed its work at the first part of the resumed seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly.

*The meeting rose at 12.05 p.m.*