



General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 March 2002

Original: English

Fifty-sixth session

Agenda item 122

Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001

Final appropriation for the biennium 2000-2001

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the final appropriation for the biennium 2000-2001 (A/56/866). During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarifications.
2. The General Assembly, by its resolution 56/240 A of 24 December 2001, took note of the second performance report of the Secretary-General on the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (A/56/674) and the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/56/694) and approved a combined revised appropriation and commitment authority of \$2,561,578,000. As indicated in paragraph 1 of the report of the Secretary-General, "the Assembly also decided, in the light of the need for precision in determining the required final level of appropriations and assessments, that it would revert to consideration of the final appropriation at its resumed fifty-sixth session in March 2002".
3. As indicated in paragraph 5 of the report, pending a determination of the final level of appropriations and income, no assessment action was taken at the main part of the fifty-sixth session to reflect the changes in requirements vis-à-vis the revised appropriation and estimates of income approved by the Assembly in its resolutions 55/239 A to C of 23 December 2000. In its resolutions 55/239 A to C, the Assembly approved a revised appropriation of \$2,533,125,400 and a revised estimate of income of \$380,822,700.
4. The annex to the report shows a final level of expenditure of \$2,561,186,900, or a decrease of \$391,100 as compared with the revised appropriation and commitment authority approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/240 A, and a final income estimate for the biennium of \$383,415,200, or an increase of \$3,741,700 over the provisional estimate approved by the Assembly in its resolution 56/240 B.

5. The Committee received detailed information on the budget performance in respect of the financial period 2000-2001, which is contained in the annex to the present report. The Committee was informed that a rigorous exercise had been undertaken to evaluate the validity of the unliquidated obligations. As can be seen from that annex, unliquidated obligations of \$74,936,000 in respect of 2000-2001 represent 2.9 per cent of expenditure, a significant decrease as compared with the previous two bienniums. The Committee welcomes this development; it points out that, as a consequence, significant savings should not be expected as the result of any future cancellations of obligations for 2000-2001. Amounts resulting from cancellations of any obligations would be confirmed after the audit relating to the biennium 2002-2003, which will be reported by the Board of Auditors and considered by the General Assembly in autumn 2004; Member States would therefore be credited in 2005.

6. The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve the final appropriation resolution for the biennium 2000-2001 as set out in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General. In so doing, the General Assembly will have also approved the necessary transfers among sections.

Unliquidated obligations

(in thousands of US dollars)

	<i>1996-1997</i>	<i>1998-1999</i>	<i>2000-2001</i>
Total expenditure	2 532 745.3	2 487 758.6	2 561 186.9
Unliquidated obligations	120 927.5	110 142.0	74 936.0
Obligations as percentage of expenditure	4.8	4.4	2.9