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Committee for Programme and Coordination

Forty-third session

9 June to 3 July 2003

Agenda item 9

Adoption of the report of the Committee on the work of its forty-third session

Rapporteur: Mr. Jerry **Kramer** (Canada)

Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

Item 4 (a)

Section 1

Overall policy-making, executive direction and coordination

1. At its 10th and __th meetings, on 17 June and __ July 2003, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 1, Overall policy-making, executive direction and coordination, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced section 1 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the budget section.

Discussion

3. The Committee welcomed the presentation of the executive direction and management component in the results-based format, namely, in terms of objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement. The view was expressed that that presentation was in line with the reform process. It was pointed out that indicators of achievement were very vague and might not be easily measured. There was a need, therefore, to design more quantifiable indicators of achievement in line with the recommendations contained in the first report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 (A/56/7). On indicator of achievement (e) (i) in table 1.21,

the view was expressed that the timely implementation of the Secretary-General's reform should be in accordance with mandates established by the General Assembly.

4. As to paragraph 1.38, the view was also expressed that "partial restoration" of resource allocations as a result of a General Assembly decision did not constitute a proper justification by the Secretariat for requesting resources in the 2004-2005 biennium.

5. The Committee also welcomed the presentation of the programme narrative of the Office of the Ombudsman in the results-based format. The view was expressed that the expected accomplishment and the indicator of achievement might be too broad.

6. The absence of baseline data for three bienniums to measure performance was questioned, as was the absence of outputs proposed for termination.

Conclusions and recommendations

7. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 1, Overall policy-making, executive direction and coordination, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005, subject to the following modifications:**

Table 1.21

(a) **The Committee recommended much greater specificity in the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement;**

(b) **Under indicator of achievement (e) (i), after the words "of the Secretary-General's reform", insert the words "as mandated by General Assembly resolutions", bearing in mind the provisions of Article 97 of the Charter of the United Nations.**

Table 1.34

Under indicators of achievement, add a new indicator reading "(a) The number of conflicts referred to the Ombudsman for which the Ombudsman facilitated a resolution"; and add "(b)" before the words "Reduction in the number".

8. **The Committee noted the proposal in paragraph 1.30 and recommended that the General Assembly remain seized of this issue at its fifty-eighth session, if necessary.**

9. **In connection with paragraph 1.37, the Committee requested that the Secretary-General provide more information to the General Assembly on the Administrative Unit of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General.**

10. **The Committee observed that the proposals on the Office of the Ombudsman contained in paragraph 1.61 and in table 1.33 were new proposals initiated by the Secretary-General.**

11. **The Committee requested that programme managers under section 1 comply fully with the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and Methods of Evaluation.**