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## Fifth Committee

**Summary record of the 22nd meeting**
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 6 November 2002, at 10 a.m.

*Chairman*: Mr. Sharma . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . (Nepal)

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

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*The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.*

**Agenda item 120: United Nations common system** (A/57/30; A/C.5/57/16)

1. **Mr. Bel Hadj Amor** (Chairman of the International Civil Service Commission), introducing the twenty-eighth annual report of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC), said that the decisions taken by the General Assembly on the basis of the report would have an important impact on conditions of service throughout the United Nations common system. The report covered a wide range of technically intricate subjects and the Commission had attempted to make it as concise and clear as possible.

2. In resolutions 51/216, 52/216 and 53/209, the General Assembly had called upon the Commission to play a lead role in the development of new approaches in the field of human resources management as part of the overall reforms. To that end, two years earlier the Commission had developed an integrated Framework for Human Resources Management that had been subsequently approved by the General Assembly. The Commission had considered that reform of the pay and benefits system was an essential element in the efforts of organizations to modernize their performance management systems and bolster organizational performance.

3. Over the past year, the Commission had been engaged in further analysing the problems that beset the current pay and benefits system and attempting to identify appropriate solutions. The report included some proposals for change and described the approach being considered while further study continued. The priorities and time frame for the reform of the pay and benefits system were set out in paragraph 17 of the report.

4. The Commission's first proposal concerned the revision of the job classification system that had long been criticized for being cumbersome, overly complex and requiring job classification specialists to administer the system. Its focus on job equity as opposed to contribution equity was not in tune with the current realities that focused on results. The system should function at a more generic level. The description of the work at each grade would be short and simple to support decentralized post management, and only key factors and elements for determining the grade of the post would be emphasized. As a result, managers would have a greater ability to determine how the assigned work was to be accomplished. They would have the assistance of tools, including computerized programmes, to classify positions for which they were responsible; that would ensure the consistency of the system. The system should also be designed to support revised salary structures tailored to meet the needs of the organizations and permit the introduction of broad-banded salary structures.

5. In order to recognize the contribution of individuals to the work effort, a broad-banded model and related pay-for-performance systems could have value for the common system. However, before making any recommendations, the Commission would like to conduct testing and validation of a model that could be applied in the common system.

6. Another proposal in the report dealt with the creation of a Senior Management Service. Indeed, in order to improve organizational efficiency, it was essential to create a system that strengthened the management capacity of the organizations by fostering excellence, assisting them in addressing leadership requirements and enabling them to attract and retain managers of high quality. The further development of modalities for such a service was on the Commission's work programme for 2003.

7. Taken together, the proposed changes represented a fundamentally new way of managing staff and reflected measures gradually being undertaken by Member States on all continents in response to a changing world. The international civil service, too, must have the capacity to improve and be more results-oriented.

8. While he recognized that change was never easy and might even be more difficult in multicultural organizations, such as those of the United Nations system, which had a rich experience of practices drawn from all four corners of the globe, it was precisely that experience that had helped to create a truly international civil service with common values and common goals. In his view, those core values had lost none of their relevance and would continue to attract generations of idealistic employees with the requisite competencies. However, the future success of those employees and, to a large degree, of the United Nations system itself would depend on the extent to which the employees saw the human capital management systems

in place as facilitating their ambitions, including their development goals.

9. Pursuant to a request by the General Assembly, the Commission had also considered the issue of mobility and its impact on career development of staff members. While reiterating the importance of mobility of staff both within and between organizations of the common system, the members of the Commission had been of the view that the issue of mobility was a complex matter that had implications for a number of areas and should therefore be examined in a holistic manner that would take into consideration the varying missions and mandates of the organizations. The Commission had also acknowledged the importance of taking into account the work/life agenda.

10. Another issue examined by the Commission was the net remuneration margin, which measured the relationship between net salaries in the common system and those of the comparator, the United States federal civil service. Currently, the margin stood at 109.3, almost six points below the desirable midpoint established by the Assembly, which, in 1985, had approved a margin range of 110 to 120, on the understanding that the margin would be maintained at a level close to the desirable midpoint of 115. The current level of the margin was mostly attributable to real salary increases received by United States civil servants in recent years. That trend was expected to continue. It should also be noted that the tax cuts from which federal employees had benefited had resulted in further gains in their net salaries.

11. When the margin range of 110 to 120 had been adopted, it had been with the understanding that the Commission would act to prevent the margin from exceeding 120 and would recommend a salary increase should the margin fall below 110. It should be noted that, in the latter half of the 1980s, when the margin had exceeded 120, salaries had been frozen for more than three years. In order to restore the overall margin at least to the desirable midpoint of 115, the Commission was recommending that net remuneration of United Nations common system staff should be adjusted. However, since the General Assembly had expressed concern about the imbalances in the margin, which was generally narrow at the upper grades but higher than desirable at the lower levels — in 2002, for example, the margin at the P-1 level was 120, while at the D-1 level it was 101.2 — the Commission was not calling for an across-the-board adjustment. In accordance with Assembly resolution 56/244, the Commission recommended, in paragraph 174 of its report, for implementation effective 1 March 2003, a differentiated real increase of the base/floor salary scale to address the low level of the margin at the upper grades of the salary scale and to restore the overall level of the margin to the desirable midpoint of 115.

12. It should be emphasized that all staff members, at all levels, would receive some increase resulting from the base/floor salary adjustment procedure and that, while larger increases were proposed at the higher levels, the margins would still be higher at the lower levels.

13. The recommendation was based on studies conducted in a rigorous manner, using methods that had been accepted by all parties and had existed for almost 20 years. Despite being beset by budget cuts and cash flow problems, the United Nations system must be able to attract, motivate and retain staff of the highest calibre, as prescribed by the Charter, otherwise it would lose its competitive edge.

14. The other issues addressed by the Commission had included the levels of the education grant and of dependency allowances for staff in the Professional and higher categories, matters which had been considered in the context of the regular biennial review of allowances. The education grant had been increased so as to take account of inflation, while dependency allowances had been maintained at their current levels.

15. Regarding staff serving at duty stations where hazardous conditions obtained, the Commission had decided to maintain the hazard pay for international staff at its current level of $1,000 per month but, with effect from 1 January 2003, to increase the level of hazard pay granted to locally recruited staff to 30 per cent of the midpoint of the local salary scales.

16. Lastly, the report contained the results of the surveys of best prevailing conditions of employment in London, Vienna and Geneva and of a survey of best prevailing conditions of employment for staff in the Language Teachers category in Geneva. With the completion of those surveys, the Commission had concluded the fifth round of surveys of salaries of staff in the General Service and related categories at headquarters duty stations. In 2003, it was to review the survey methodologies applicable at headquarters and non-headquarters duty stations. In the light of the

experience of the previous round of surveys, the review was expected to be a major undertaking, particularly given the difficulties associated with employer participation.

17. **Ms. Fréchette** (Deputy Secretary-General), introducing the statement of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination on the report of the International Civil Service Commission (A/C.5/57/16, annex), said that the Commission played a key role in the reform process for the entire United Nations system, which was designed to modernize human resources management, build results-oriented cultures and promote accountability, continuous learning and managerial excellence. The Executive Heads were keenly aware that the capacity to attract, motivate and retain high-quality staff would be a crucial factor in that transformation.

18. The pay and benefits system, which should support those objectives, currently fell short of them; the Executive Heads had repeatedly expressed concern at its lack of competitiveness, flexibility and responsiveness. United Nations organizations must be able not only to recruit, but to recruit the best.

19. The Member States had also emphasized the importance that they attached to those goals. The General Assembly, in resolution 55/258, had endorsed the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) that a competitive package of conditions of service was a prerequisite if the reform of human resources management was to succeed.

20. The Executive Heads welcomed the Commission's proposals, which complemented the reforms already being carried out and would provide new tools with which to facilitate mobility, build competencies, strengthen management, reward high performance and address recruitment and retention problems, especially at senior levels.

21. The Executive Heads would work with the Commission to implement those proposals gradually, fine-tuning them as necessary, in the spirit of openness that had characterized the Commission's work. They looked forward to further proposals from the Commission, particularly with regard to updating the Noblemaire principle. Lastly, they strongly supported the Commission's recommendation regarding a differentiated salary increase for the Professional and higher categories, which was consistent with the methodology approved by the General Assembly and with the many resolutions in which the Assembly had requested the Commission to address the imbalance in the current margin.

22. In his report entitled "Strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change" (A/57/387 and Corr.1), the Secretary-General had stressed that the aspirational aims of the Millennium Declaration could be achieved only if the United Nations had a world-class staff equal to the challenges of the new global era. The Commission's recommendations had the potential to strengthen the international civil service and improve staff morale. The Secretary-General and the Executive Heads therefore hoped that they could count on the support of Member States.

**Agenda item 121: United Nations pension system**
(A/57/9 and A/57/490; A/C.5/57/11)

23. **Mr. Larivière** (Chairman of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board), introducing the report of the Pension Board (A/57/9), said that the actuarial valuation of the Fund as at 31 December 2001 had revealed a surplus amounting to 2.92 per cent of pensionable remuneration, a decrease over the previous valuation which was due mainly to investment returns lower than those projected, changing assumptions regarding the rates of early retirement and pensioner longevity, and changes in the provisions of the Fund approved in 2000. The required contribution rate could be expected to increase to 21.87 per cent over the next five years as a result of asset losses that were not fully reflected in the current valuation. Nevertheless, the Board remained confident that the actuarial model currently used was fundamentally sound.

24. During its discussions on actuarial matters, the Board had also decided to approve proposed transfer agreements with the European Organization for the Safety of Air Navigation (Eurocontrol) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). In accordance with article 13 of the Regulations of the Fund, those agreements required the approval of the General Assembly.

25. The very positive long-term return on investment of the Fund's assets (3.9 per cent after adjustment in line with the United States consumer price index) was the major factor contributing to the Fund's current actuarial surplus, despite the negative returns for the years ended on 31 March 2001 and 31 March 2002. In

concluding the discussion of that matter with the Investment Committee, the Board had noted with appreciation that the Chairman of that Committee had expressed his readiness to improve the flow of information to the Board. The Board had also requested that the report on the management of investments should be more analytical and should contain a performance analysis. In light of article 19 of the Regulations of the Fund, which placed fiduciary responsibility for the management of investments with the Secretary-General, the designated representative of the Secretary-General had agreed to provide more information on investments, including the impact of recent market developments.

26. Paragraphs 13 to 15 of the report provided key statistics on the operations of the Fund. The Pension Board had noted the conclusions of the Board of Auditors that the Fund's operations were carried out satisfactorily, that its financial statements were in compliance with accepted standard accounting principles and that there were no major problems concerning procedures and controls. The Pension Board attached great importance to the Fund's internal and external audit arrangements. In that connection, the videoconference between the Pension Board and the Board of Auditors in July 2002 had been useful, and further such conferences would probably be held in the future.

27. With regard to the administrative expenses charged directly to the Fund, the Pension Board had approved additional resources representing an increase of $179,200 over the $74.3 million budget which the General Assembly had originally approved for the biennium 2002-2003. The additional resources were earmarked for a required recalculation of benefits resulting from a judgement of the Administrative Tribunal of the International Labour Organization and for the implementation of the recommendations of the Working Group undertaking a fundamental review of the Fund's benefit provisions which had been approved by the Pension Board.

28. In addressing the longer-term vision and objectives of the Fund, the Chief Executive Officer had submitted detailed progress reports on the five main projects contained in the Fund's new management charter (para. 98). The Board had considered a whole-office review of the Fund's staffing structure; it had found the proposed structure acceptable as a blueprint and had endorsed it in principle, but had decided to defer action on the requests for reclassification and new posts. Those proposals would be considered as part of the Fund's budget proposals for the biennium 2004-2005. The Board had expressed support for the Chief Executive Officer's continuing search for adequate permanent premises in New York, an issue which was a priority.

29. The Board would submit a paper to the Standing Committee in 2003 regarding the direct deduction of after-service health insurance premiums, a programme which involved an ever-growing number of participants. It had decided not to recommend that the General Assembly approve the additional resources requested by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) for the biennium 2002-2003 to cover internal auditing. It would instead ask the Chief Executive Officer to prepare a study in 2003 on alternative internal audit arrangements for the Fund, including the possible establishment of a unit within the Fund's secretariat or the outsourcing of the function to an entity other than OIOS.

30. The Board had analysed all possible remedial action for former participants from the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and, in the light of more recent developments, it had decided not to pursue any of the options considered. It had decided to ask the Secretary-General to continue to seek a satisfactory and comprehensive solution to the problem.

31. The Pension Board had examined the initial recommendations of the Working Group undertaking a fundamental review of the Fund's benefit provisions and had decided to approve a reduced package of benefit modifications which promoted the new human resources framework adopted by the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) and the General Assembly. In particular, the Board recommended that cost-of-living adjustments should be applied to deferred retirement benefits as from age 50, cost-of-living differential factors for deferred retirement benefits should be applicable as from the date of separation; and the limitation on the right to restoration of prior service should be eliminated. The total actuarial cost of the package approved by the Board was 0.54 per cent of pensionable remuneration.

32. The Board had concurred with ICSC that the common scale of staff assessment should continue to

apply and should be re-examined at the time of the next comprehensive review of pensionable remuneration, in 2004.

33. The Board had recommended amendments to the Regulations of the Fund with respect to the commutation of the minimum benefit and extended leave without pay. The proposed changes had no appreciable actuarial impact.

34. Other matters considered included the review of the size and composition of the Board and the Standing Committee. The Board recommended that its membership should be increased from 33 to 36, with the three additional seats being allocated to the United Nations. If that proposal was approved, the number of Board seats reserved for General Assembly representatives would increase from four to five, with the number of alternates remaining at four. The Board recommended maintaining the size and composition of the Standing Committee unchanged.

35. The Board authorized its Standing Committee to consider a possible formal application for membership of the Fund from the International Criminal Court in 2003.

36. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the report of ACABQ on the United Nations pension system (A/57/490), said that the twenty-sixth actuarial valuation of the Pension Fund had shown an actuarial surplus of 2.92 per cent of pensionable remuneration, or $4,284.4 million in dollar terms, an outcome that continued the trend of the previous evaluation. The Advisory Committee agreed with the cautious approach adopted by the Committee of Actuaries and the Pension Board, which considered that the trend observed thus far did not call for a radical change in terms of either benefit improvements or a reduction of the contribution rate. The Advisory Committee recalled the importance of complying with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 53/210, which stipulated that the evolution of the actuarial valuation should continue to be monitored closely and that no changes should be made to the rate of contributions or other features unless and until a pattern of surpluses emerged in future evaluations.

37. The market value of the Fund’s assets had decreased by more than 16 per cent because of volatile financial markets and negative returns on investments. That situation seemed to have affected the discussions in the Pension Board on issues relating to the investment of the Fund’s assets; the Advisory Committee shared the Board’s view that there should be no confusion of roles with respect to those issues. It also stressed that the fiduciary responsibility of the Secretary-General, under article 19 of the regulations of the Fund, should under no circumstances be affected by the results of reviews or studies.

38. The Advisory Committee noted that the Board had requested a review of the Investment Management Service and an independent external performance review of the investment of the Fund. In paragraph 10 of its report, the Advisory Committee called for further clarification of the basis for those requests.

39. The Advisory Committee’s comments on the report of the Board of Auditors on the financial statements and accounts of the Fund were contained in paragraphs 13 to 18 of its report: the Advisory Committee stressed the need to implement the recommendations made by the Board of Auditors; in case of disagreement, a satisfactory explanation should be given to the Board of Auditors and reported in the relevant documents submitted to the Joint Staff Pension Board and the General Assembly.

40. Regarding administrative matters (A/57/490, paras. 21-26), the Advisory Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Pension Board not to authorize the additional posts requested for 2002-2003 for internal audit services. It also recommended that additional requests identified by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) should be discussed with the Chief Executive Officer of the Fund in time for him to submit his proposals to the Pension Board in the context of the proposed budget of the Fund for 2004-2005.

41. As to the study requested by the Pension Board on alternative arrangements that could be considered for the performance of the internal audit function for the Pension Fund, including the possible establishment of a separate unit within the Fund secretariat (A/57/490, para. 26), the Advisory Committee considered that it had not been provided with any compelling evidence in support of a decision to change the current arrangements, whereby the internal audit services for the Fund were provided by OIOS, and cautioned against a hasty decision on the matter.

42. The Advisory Committee believed that, rather than calling on the Chief Executive Officer of the Fund

or OIOS to carry out the study in question, a request could be made to the Board of Auditors, which had, from time to time, carried out evaluations of the internal audit services of the administrations under the Board's audit scope. The Advisory Committee noted that the Board of Auditors, in its recent audit reports on the Fund (A/57/9, annex XII) and on the United Nations (A/57/5, paras. 179-192), had not addressed the specific request referred to in paragraph 26 of the report; the Advisory Committee recommended that an assessment should be carried out of the capacity and professional expertise required by OIOS to provide internal audit services to the administrative and investment activities of the Pension Fund, in accordance with commonly accepted industry standards for the audit of pension funds. The Advisory Committee, recalling its comments in paragraph 13 of its report A/57/439, indicated that the Board of Auditors might wish to have recourse to outside expertise for that assessment.

43. Lastly, in paragraph 28 of its report, the Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly should review the manner in which members and alternate members representing the Assembly were elected to the United Nations Staff Pension Committee under article 6 of the Regulations of the Fund.

44. **Mr. Ouma** (Director of the Investment Management Service), introducing the report on the investments of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (A/C.5/57/11), said that the report, which was very brief because of the restrictions on the length of documents, covered the period from 1 April 2000 to 31 March 2002. The economic and investment environment was discussed in section II, investment returns in section III, the diversification of assets in section IV and investments in developing countries in section V.

45. The market value of the Fund's assets had declined from US$ 26,056 million on 31 March 2000 to $21,789 million on 31 March 2002, a decline of $4,267 million, or 16.4 per cent. The rates of return on investments for the years ending 31 March 2001 and 31 March 2002 had been negative 15 per cent and positive 0.7 per cent respectively. Those results were mainly attributable to the poor performance of equities, reflecting a broad correction in global equity markets since the peak in March 2000. For the years ending 31 March 2001 and 31 March 2002, there had been returns on the equity portfolio of the Fund of negative 24.2 per cent and negative 1.3 per cent respectively. Those negative returns had been partially offset by positive performance in all other asset classes. Tables 2 and 3 of the report showed the annual rate of return over the long term.

46. Since 31 March 2002, the financial markets had remained very volatile. As at 30 September 2002, the Fund's market value had declined by US$ 1,883 million to US$ 19,906 million, a decline of 8.6 per cent.

47. A comparison of investment returns revealed that, during the year ended 31 March 2001 and during the year ended 31 March 2002, the Fund had outperformed its benchmark, which was composed of a combination of the Morgan Stanley Capital International World Index and the Salomon Brothers World Government Bond Index. The Fund's long-term objective was to achieve a real, or inflation-adjusted, rate of return of 3.5 per cent; that objective had been attained in 8 out of the past 10 years. Since September 2002, the Fund had performed relatively better than its benchmark, especially in its United States dollars equity portfolio. The bond portfolio, however, had underperformed its benchmark.

48. As shown in figure 3 and table 4 of the report, the Fund had had a better risk return profile than its benchmark. Its return had been slightly lower (12 per cent compared to 12.7 per cent), but it had had a lower volatility (11.3 per cent compared to 13.9 per cent). The better profile was attributable to a well-diversified portfolio that included all major asset classes and a high concentration of holdings in blue-chip companies. Concerning the long-term risk return profile of the various asset classes, it would be noted that equities had a return of 9.3 per cent and a volatility of 14.6 per cent, bonds had a return of 6 per cent and a volatility of 6.9 per cent, real estate had a return of 6.6 per cent and a volatility of 5 per cent, and short-term investments had a return of 6.3 per cent and a volatility of 4.7 per cent.

49. The Fund's policy of broader diversification of investments, by currency, type of asset and geographical area, continued to be the most reliable method of reducing risk and improving returns over the long term. In March 2000 and March 2002, the portfolio had been composed of 69.4 per cent and 57.1 per cent equities, 21.1 and 27.9 per cent bonds, 3.6 per

cent and 5.5 per cent real estate, and 6 per cent and 9.7 per cent short-term investments respectively.

50. During a period characterized throughout by highly volatile financial markets, the Fund's market value as at 5 November 2002 had increased to US$ 20,807 million, with an asset allocation of 49.1 per cent equities, 32.6 per cent bonds, 6 per cent real estate and 12.3 per cent short-term investments. In such a context, management of the Fund's investments would continue to be guided by the criteria of safety, profitability, liquidity and convertibility.

**Agenda item 122: Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services** (A/57/451)

51. **Mr. Nair** (Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services), introducing the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (A/57/451), said that the report was designed to provide a clear overview of the impact of the Office's activities on the Organization's programmes. As requested by the General Assembly in resolution A/56/246, the report contained a breakdown of statistics on the state of implementation of recommendations issued by the Office over the past three years. During the 12-month reporting period, the Office had issued 2,357 recommendations to improve internal controls and correct obstacles to the Organization's efficiency and effectiveness. Over 50 per cent of its recommendations had already been implemented. Some 30 per cent of those recommendations had been classified as critical. The Office had recommended actions, which, if implemented by programme managers, would save the Organization approximately US$ 56 million. In addition to highly focused audits and at the request of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, the Office had carried out a broader assessment of the following subprogrammes: General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs, Economic and Social Council support and coordination, and legal affairs.

52. Section II of the report provided a review of oversight results and assessments over the reporting period. He wished to highlight the following achievements. Seven of the Office's audits had resulted in reports to the General Assembly covering topics such as the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) and the Compensation Commission. The Office's management consultants were contributing to the comprehensive reform efforts by carrying out assignments on administrative duplication and human resources management reform. The implementation of the Office's recommendations concerning subsistence rates at peacekeeping missions had resulted in net projected annual savings of US$ 25.5 million. The Secretary-General's report on the Organization's programme performance for the biennium 2000-2001, produced by the Office with the help of the Integrated Monitoring and Documentation Information System, had been an important step towards implementing results-based reporting. An audit of contribution remittances by organizations members of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund revealed that the delays in the remittance of certain contributions had resulted in lost interest of more than US$ 400,000 for the Fund. The Office had carried out an investigation into the allegations of sexual exploitation of girls and women by humanitarian aid workers of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in refugee camps in West Africa; its findings were being presented in a separate report to the General Assembly. The Office was providing resident auditors for the UNHCR Repatriation and Reintegration Programme in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, which had a budget of US$ 270 million. The establishment of the Monitoring, Evaluation and Consulting Division, merging four oversight functions, promoted cross-disciplinary teamwork. Lastly, an investigations unit had been established in Geneva with the necessary audit capacity.

53. Section III of the report dealt with the Office's activities for the coming year. Among the initiatives designed to heighten the quality of its services, OIOS would apply a risk assessment methodology for its 2003 work programme and develop an organizational integrity strategy. Lastly, it had developed an internal career progression plan and a new management information system in order to monitor the performance of its divisions more effectively.

### Agenda item 126: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

*Letter dated 17 October 2002 from the Acting President of the General Assembly addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee* (A/C.5/57/15)

54. **Mr. Gilpin** (Chief of the Contributions Service) drew attention to the provisions of General Assembly resolution 55/235 on the scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations and those of resolution 55/236 on voluntary movements in connection with the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations. Since the question of States newly admitted to membership in the United Nations was not addressed in those resolutions or in the relevant report of the Secretariat (A/C.5/55/38), the General Assembly would have to decide on the level in which Switzerland and Timor-Leste, both admitted to membership in the United Nations in 2002, should be placed. On the basis of the criteria established in resolution 55/235, paragraph 10, Switzerland would be assigned to level D and Timor-Leste to level I. The Committee might therefore wish to recommend to the General Assembly that they should be placed accordingly.

55. In addition, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/217, Switzerland and Timor-Leste should contribute to the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund. It would also need to be established whether and how paragraph 10 of resolution 56/292 on the concept of strategic deployment stocks and its implementation would apply to those two States.

### Other matters

56. **Mr. Ho** (Singapore) mentioned various problems experienced by staff members and delegations as a result of strengthened security measures along the perimeter of the United Nations. In particular, he requested an explanation of the increased difficulty of access to the garage and to certain buildings and pointed out that the recruitment of 50 additional security guards was supposed to have facilitated that situation.

57. **Mr. McCann** (Chief of the Security and Safety Service) said that, in the current circumstances, it was essential not to relax security measures and to prevent any unauthorized entry into United Nations buildings, including public spaces; the Security and Safety Service endeavoured to achieve that goal with a minimum of inconvenience to all users. He mentioned a number of measures taken to that end and explained that the additional security guards were still being recruited and had not yet begun work. Implementation of the Capital Master Plan for the refurbishment of the premises should improve conditions of access to buildings.

58. **Mr. Farid** (Saudi Arabia) asked the Bureau to adjust the Committee's programme of work by changing the schedule of afternoon meetings so that members of the Committee could observe Ramadan if they so desired.

59. The representatives of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Syria, Egypt, Sudan, Jordan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Algeria, Morocco, Bangladesh and Indonesia associated themselves with the request made by the representative of Saudi Arabia.

60. **The Chairman** said that the Bureau would consider the matter and would seek to arrive at a solution that would satisfy all parties without jeopardizing the progress of the Committee's work.

*The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.*