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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 112: Programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 *(continued)*

Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on support costs related to extrabudgetary activities in organizations of the United Nations system (A/57/442 and A/57/442/Add.1 and A/57/434, paras. 5 and 6)

Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the results approach in the United Nations: implementing the United Nations Millennium Declaration (A/57/372)

1. **Mr. Kuyama** (Joint Inspection Unit), speaking via videoconference, introduced the report by the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) on support costs related to extrabudgetary activities in organizations of the United Nations system (A/57/442). The report was unique in that it had been produced in close collaboration with many organizations. The two interagency meetings held concerning the report were a testament to the importance attached to the matter. The annex to the report had been included in response to paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 56/245 that requested the inclusion of comments by participating organizations.

2. The beginning of the Executive Summary stated that the objective was to harmonize support-cost policy throughout the United Nations system. The table on pages 12 and 13 showed the range of support-cost rates in United Nations system organizations. The 13 per cent rate had been adopted in the 1970s, and its validity was increasingly questioned by donors. Almost all organizations favoured measuring support-cost harmonization policy, rather than at the level of support-cost rates.

3. As stated in paragraph 3, extrabudgetary resources were not simply voluntary contributions, but were “extra” or “supplementary” when compared with the resources central to the budget review and approval process.

4. The report covered the formulation, application and harmonization of support-cost policies. As far as policy formulation was concerned, the utilization of extrabudgetary resources had increased in the light of the freeze on spending. However, the use of such resources was not approved or reviewed by the relevant bodies, and therefore did not always correspond to

United Nations priorities. He drew the Committee’s attention to Recommendation 1 in that regard.

5. The cost-measurement study carried out in the 1970s had advocated a full costing approach, and an average support cost of 23 per cent (compared with 13 per cent subsequently). Most organizations attempted to recover incremental support costs. An incremental approach to the calculation of support costs assumed that an organization had core functions that should not be financed from extrabudgetary resources. Recommendations 2 and 3 were relevant in that connection, and he hoped that Recommendations 4 and 5 were self-explanatory.

6. With reference to the application of support-cost policies, it was vital to define direct costs as costs that could be attributed to individual activities, while indirect costs could not. Organizations were recovering support costs as direct or internal components, and Recommendation 6 was relevant in that context. Recommendation 7 was addressed to the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), although it might also interest the General Assembly. He hoped that Recommendation 8 was clear.

7. As for harmonization of policy principles, Member States welcomed the transparent approach advocated in Recommendations 9 to 12. Recommendations 10 and 12 also called for more effective management.

8. **Mr. Jaime Sevilla** (Principal Inter-Agency Officer of the Secretariat of the Chief Executives Board for Coordination) introduced the note transmitting the comments of the Secretary-General and those of the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (A/57/442/Add.1). The report differed from earlier studies in that it focused on the prevailing policy environment and recent trends, rather than on the mechanics of costs measurement and the calculation of support-cost rates to be applied to all organizations.

9. Members of CEB welcomed the report, and noted the useful compilation of background information showing the similarities and differences between United Nations organizations. The report provided a practical framework for revising policy, given that many of the issues involved were complex and politically sensitive.

10. Members of CEB agreed that the previous method of applying a single support-cost rate no longer responded to the fast-changing needs of the organizations concerned, and noted that Executive Heads were frequently compelled to grant derogations from the various rates. CEB members unanimously supported the proposal for a new policy framework to take account of diverse services and encourage flexibility in order to react to unforeseen demands, while ensuring the necessary level of support-cost income.

11. As far as the recommendations were concerned, CEB members generally found them acceptable, although they expressed reservations regarding parts of Recommendations 1(a) and 10, and stated that further clarification was needed before a decision was taken on Recommendations 1(b) and 6.

12. In the light of the strong willingness to engage in system-wide consultation, CEB members intended to consider suitable mechanisms at the working level under the auspices of the two high-level committees. Such mechanisms would include the framework for the consultation process and for monitoring follow-up actions to the Joint Inspection Unit's recommendations.

13. **Ms. Afifi** (Morocco), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that consideration and implementation of results-based budgeting should be carried out in conformity with General Assembly resolution 55/231 and the relevant rules and regulations. The results-based approach was a technical mechanism for improving evaluation of programmes rather than an end in itself. As such, it should be regularly reviewed for improvement.

14. She noted with appreciation that JIU drew a clear distinction between the application of the results-based approach at national level and within international organizations. However, the Group of 77 did not agree with the implication in paragraph 30 of the report that Member States interfered through micromanagement.

15. Extrabudgetary resources for non-core activities should be utilized in line with the broad programmatic prioritization approved by legislative organs, rather than on the basis of subjective judgement. Clarification was also requested on paragraph 47 of the report concerning legislative contradictions in policies applied by United Nations system organizations.

16. **Ms. Nakian** (United States of America) said that her delegation concurred with the Advisory Committee's recommendation, in paragraph 6 of its report (A/57/434), that the General Assembly should endorse the recommendations of JIU. In particular, it supported Recommendation 11, which called for CEB to take a more active role in establishing and monitoring support-cost policies. It also agreed with the Advisory Committee that the introduction to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 should contain information on policy changes with regard to support costs that needed to be made in order to implement the relevant recommendations of JIU. It was frustrated, however, with the complicated and convoluted nature of the Unit's report, which made it difficult for the Fifth Committee to understand fully and act appropriately on its recommendations.

17. The report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the results approach in the United Nations: implementing the United Nations Millennium Declaration (A/57/372) was both interesting and timely. However, its scope was too broad and its content too academic, and it failed to provide feasible and concrete recommendations for intergovernmental bodies, including the Fifth Committee, to consider. It was not clear why the report had been prepared in two parts or what would become of part two, since only the first part came within the Committee's purview. It was regrettable that the Inspectors had failed to heed previous General Assembly resolutions calling for more concise, narrowly focused JIU reports that contained practical and action-oriented recommendations. Lastly, she asked what the full cost of producing the two JIU reports had been.

18. **Mr. Obame** (Gabon), speaking on behalf of the African Group, said that the Group fully associated itself with the statement made by the representative of Morocco on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. It wished to reaffirm the important role of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the continuing relevance of the medium-term plan to the intergovernmental process of planning, programming, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation, for which clear targets and performance indicators should be developed. The Committee for Programme and Coordination should continue its ongoing discussions aimed at improving its working methods and the Secretary-General should submit proposals in that

regard to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.

19. Current development challenges required the Organization and Member States to assume their responsibilities and adopt strategies that were responsive to their needs. Given the difficulty of establishing specific targets in the context of the biennial budget, a results-based approach should be followed in the medium-term plan in order to achieve the objectives set. Clear targets and time frames should be established in order to ensure an efficient allocation of resources for the implementation of mandated programmes and to provide an opportunity to assess their impact in accordance with the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation, and the Methods of Evaluation (PPBME).

20. **Ms. Daes** (Greece), speaking on behalf of the European Union, asked how the inspectors proposed to react to the reservations and dissenting views that had been expressed by participating organizations with regard to the recommendations and related findings of JIU. It would also be helpful to know whether, during the drafting of the report, JIU had discussed the policy principles relating to approximation before taking up the question of harmonization.

21. **Mr. Kuyama** (Joint Inspection Unit), responding to questions raised, said that the reservations and dissenting views of organizations had been included in an annex to the report on an experimental basis, in keeping with the request in paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 56/245. The reservations and dissenting views were of marginal significance and CEB members had generally accepted most of the recommendations of JIU. The Committee had requested JIU the previous year to make additional proposals on how to deal with the comments of CEB and organizations and the matter would be considered further at the next session of JIU.

22. The problem of the harmonization of support costs was a long-standing one. As far as future prospects were concerned, there had been strong support at the inter-agency meeting held the previous year for proceeding in a harmonious manner and he hoped that the question would be given further consideration, leading to tangible improvements in the future.

23. On the question of the treatment of extrabudgetary resources, JIU had recommended that use of those resources should reflect the priorities set out in legislative mandates. Another of the recommendations of JIU addressed the contradictions in rules and procedures, which he hoped the Secretariat would resolve in the near future.

24. **Ms. Bertrand** (Joint Inspection Unit), introducing the report of JIU on the results approach in the United Nations: implementing the United Nations Millennium Declaration (A/57/372), said that the introduction of the results concept in the budgeting and planning exercise had created further momentum for change in the management culture of the Organization and encouraged healthy self-assessment. The report offered an opportunity to revisit the way in which the United Nations was trying to accomplish its mission.

25. The results approach, however, must serve the ultimate purpose for which it had been established and be made relevant to programme managers so that they could demonstrate to public opinion that their work was useful to the international community. Programme managers should therefore be able to see the value of the results approach, the essence of which was ongoing self-evaluation accompanied by constant feedback from Member States. In preparing future programme budgets and medium-term plans, it was therefore important to reconsider approaches and whether they were suited to the nature of United Nations activities and programmes.

26. A "one size fits all" approach was not possible. The nature of the programme must be taken into account when adopting a results approach. There were currently some 864 achievement indicators, some of which duplicated others, and those must be adapted to fit the nature of the programme. Adaptation and flexibility were critical in generating support for and enhancing the credibility of the approach.

27. The first part of the report dealt with the experience of results-based budgeting and planning and its shortcomings and explained how it could be improved. The second part described the new instruments and the new process, which could enable the United Nations system to adopt a meaningful and realistic results approach and provide Member States with other important tools with which to monitor progress towards the Millennium Declaration goals. While there were other equally important mandates,

such as those emanating from the major global conferences, she had used the Millennium Declaration as an example because it encapsulated the mandates of the international community and would show how the results approach served the aims of Member States. There was a logical linkage between the two parts and she regretted that the Committee's mandate was to consider only the first part.

28. On the question of the report's cost, she had done all the related work, including research, herself and had paid two visits to New York, each time travelling in economy class. Concerning the ambitious scope of the report, she hoped that it would accurately reflect the issues involved in adopting the results approach.

29. **Mr. Fareed** (United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination), introducing the note by the Secretary-General on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the results approach in the United Nations: implementing the United Nations Millennium Declaration (A/57/372/Add.1), said that the Unit had produced a wide-ranging study that touched on important issues relating to almost all aspects of the work of the United Nations system. Given the report's broad sweep, CEB members were of the view that, in the first instance, parts one and two should be taken up separately; that would enable a more in-depth assessment to be made of each part, leading to more coherent follow-up action to the report as a whole. Accordingly, the comments of CEB members were set out in two parts, reflecting the structure of the report itself.

30. Generally, members had found the results and main findings in part one of the report, which dealt with results-based budgeting and planning, very informative. They agreed that the concept of results should be clarified and that the application of results-based budgeting techniques needed to be refined. The recommendations made in part one were largely acceptable. However, the analysis of the effectiveness, strengths and weaknesses of results-based budgeting and planning would have been more helpful if due account had been taken of relevant experiences of organizations other than the United Nations and its funds and programmes in applying results-based methods. The CEB members strongly supported the recommendation calling for the creation of an enabling environment through staff training and the adoption of measures to engage the attention of programme managers.

31. Part two of the report contained proposals for the introduction of two new instruments to achieve a more effective results approach in the medium term and to provide Member States with enhanced mechanisms for monitoring progress towards the objectives of the Millennium Declaration. It was envisaged that the proposed common country review report and medium-term strategic review report would obviate the need for a successor to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 or, failing that, that the policy conclusions of the two new instruments for United Nations programmes and activities would be taken into account in the next medium-term plan. Board members took the view that the structural and administrative changes proposed by the Inspectors would be more appropriately considered once sufficient experience had been gained of the application of the results approach in the United Nations system.

32. Concerning the proposed common country review report, CEB members supported the basic aim of easing the burden placed on national Governments by enhancing coordination, streamlining and consolidation of reporting at the country level. They also welcomed the analysis of the existing mechanisms for integrating system-wide actions towards the attainment of the objectives of the Millennium Declaration. However, they did not believe that a single document could adequately capture the totality of the work of the United Nations system at the country level, or replace existing reports, which served both as programming instruments and as reporting modalities for individual legislative bodies. Indeed, the proposed new instrument would most likely introduce an additional layer of reporting, rather than simplify the existing processes. Another disadvantage would be the long reporting cycle.

33. Generally, CEB members found that part two of the report, while conceptually engaging, did not root its recommendations in sufficient analysis of the operational and practical realities at the country level and the organizational, political, legal, financial and administrative issues that would need to be addressed in moving towards the new system proposed by the Inspectors. Those comments did not, however, diminish the value of the conceptual contribution made by the report and the many insights it offered.

34. **Ms. Daes** (Greece), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta,

Poland and Slovakia and the associated countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey, said that the European Union had consistently argued in favour of results-based management. Public opinion demanded responsiveness and accountability; it wanted evidence that the United Nations was responding to the challenges facing it in an efficient, cost-effective and transparent manner, and that it was achieving the results expected in its various areas of work.

35. Refining the process of results-based management was not an end in itself. The aim was to help the Member States attain the goals which the international community had set. The programme budget for 2002-2003 was an important first step towards a "results culture", but there was still much room for improvement. The JIU report (A/57/372) provided a useful analysis of how to enhance the effectiveness of the present results-based programme budget and medium-term plan, and how to gauge whether they met the expectations of the Member States. Effective monitoring and evaluation would be possible only through clearer, more precise objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement.

36. There could be no "one size fits all" results-based approach, as such methods needed to be continuously adapted, reformed and refined. The report of the Joint Inspection Unit had stressed that the United Nations too must take specific characteristics into account; that would be a challenge for the Secretariat and the Member States.

37. Provided that it was further developed, the medium-term plan could be used as a tool of results-based management, to enable the Member States to assess whether United Nations strategies and corresponding activities were coherent and relevant to reaching the Millennium Declaration and other international goals. It should be brought more closely into line with the Millennium Declaration goals and the action plans of United Nations conferences, as the Joint Inspection Unit had emphasized.

38. Although the Committee was considering only part one of the Joint Inspection Unit report, part two of the report took a system-wide view which deserved attention, particularly from the appropriate intergovernmental forum.

39. **Mr. Sabbagh** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement made

by Morocco on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. It appreciated the efforts of the Joint Inspection Unit, but stressed that its recommendations should be clearer and more practical. If recommendations or the proposed implementation of such recommendations were ambiguous, their usefulness could be called into question and the General Assembly might simply take note of the report rather than deriving real benefit from its content.

40. **Mr. Tankoano** (Niger) requested clarification of Recommendation 4 in part two of the JIU report on the results approach, which called for "a coordinated, coherent, if not common, strategic framework for the United Nations system, the Bretton Woods institutions and other major players, that would assist Member States in reaching the Millennium Declaration Goals". He asked about the scope of coordination with the Bretton Woods institutions, and whether there was duplication in the many documents, such as Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), which developing countries were required to submit to those institutions and to the United Nations.

41. **Ms. Afifi** (Morocco) said that there was no substitute for results-based management as a tool for attaining the goals of the international community. For that reason, she was puzzled by the many references in the JIU report (for example, in paragraphs 26, 27, 28, 30, 31 and 32) to shortcomings in the use of that concept. She asked whether those shortcomings and the reasons for the malaise discussed in part one, section E, of the report indicated an ambiguity. She wished to know whether the ground had been properly prepared for results-based management, whether staff had been suitably trained and motivated, whether Member States had been well informed and whether suitability indicators had been established.

42. **Ms. Bertrand** (Joint Inspection Unit) said that the introduction of results-based budgeting and a "results culture" had been no small task. National Governments had begun introducing the method in the early 1990s, and were still adapting it to their individual circumstances; in fact, making adjustments was an inherent feature of the process.

43. Her report had been completed one year previously, and her observations reflected the views of programme managers consulted at that time. They had come to believe that the results-based approach suited

their need to prove the relevance and usefulness of their action to the Member States.

44. Little research had been conducted into the adoption of national methods by international organizations, so the task of adapting those methods was continuous. The interim report of the Secretary-General on results-based budgeting for the biennium 2002-2003 (A/57/478) had referred to “learning by doing”, anticipating the recommendations of her report.

45. Where the recommendation for coordination of strategic frameworks was concerned, she had been reminded by her own recent experience in the field that strategy requirements were often “imposed” by donors in connection with debt relief and other programmes; the multiplicity of demands weighed heavily on developing countries. More account should be taken of the countries’ capacities and of their ownership of programmes.

Agenda item 116: Pattern of conferences (*continued*)
(A/C.5/57/L.54)

Draft resolution A/C.5/57/L.54

46. **Mr. Ho** (Singapore), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/57/L.54, said that, in the fourth line of paragraph 12 of section II B, the word “should” should be inserted after the word “they”, and in the sixth line of the same paragraph, the word “or” should be replaced by the words “and not negatively affect”. The draft resolution was the product of many months of hard work by delegations and the Secretariat, and he called for its adoption without a vote.

47. **Ms. Afifi** (Morocco), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, noted that section III, paragraph 30, reiterated the provisions of General Assembly resolution 54/249, section I, paragraph 20. The Group of 77 and China was prepared to join the consensus on the draft resolution on the understanding that the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 would include the resources necessary for the implementation of paragraph 20 and that the programme budget would be issued in final form only after its approval by the General Assembly, with the changes to the resource level incorporated therein.

48. **Mr. Sabbagh** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation wished to associate itself with the statement made by the representative of Morocco on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

49. **Ms. Silot Bravo** (Cuba) sought assurance that no restrictions were to be imposed on the length of documents submitted to the Secretariat by Member States.

50. **Mr. Repasch** (United States of America) said that his delegation supported the draft resolution and trusted that resources would continue to be made available for the implementation of resolution 54/249, section I, paragraph 20. The language of that paragraph represented a good compromise, and his delegation was satisfied with the practice of the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts since its adoption.

51. **Ms. Anagnostopoulou** (Greece), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the delegations in question were ready to adopt the draft resolution. They would examine, in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005, the proposals that the Secretary-General would put forward for addressing the issue raised in section III, paragraph 30.

52. **Ms. Lewis** (Chief, Central Planning and Coordination Service), replying to the question posed by the representative of Cuba, said that there were no restrictions, under the existing rules, on the length of submissions from Member States. There were, however, strict guidelines with respect to the length of documents originating in the Secretariat.

53. *Draft resolution A/C.5/57/L.54, as orally revised, was adopted.*

54. **Mr. Herrera** (Mexico), speaking also on behalf of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Spain, Uruguay and Venezuela, said that several months had passed since his delegation had expressed the views of the Spanish-speaking Member States regarding the quality of Spanish interpretation and translation. Since then, contacts between those countries and the Secretariat had become much closer. Discussions with the Secretariat, especially Mr. Stoby, Assistant Secretary-General in the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, and directly with the heads of Spanish translation and interpretation, had yielded tangible results and confirmed the staff’s professionalism and devotion to the Organization.

55. The improved communication between the Spanish-speaking delegations and the providers of Spanish interpretation and translation services had led to progress. That dialogue was inspiring a joint effort to provide better-quality conference services. Provision by delegations of prompt and accurate information about any errors they detected would enable the Secretariat to improve services which were vital to the work of all delegations.

56. The Spanish-speaking delegations had valued the backing of other delegations which had identified with the Spanish speakers' concerns; they would continue to work constructively on issues which affected the work of all the Member States.

57. **Mr. Kelapile** (Botswana), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, noted with satisfaction that, as a result of the establishment of a permanent interpretation service at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, the number of meetings at which interpretation services had been provided had increased significantly. He sought assurance that the report requested in section II A, paragraph 5, which had first been requested in resolution 56/242, would be issued in a timely fashion. He trusted that the Secretariat would prepare a written report on utilization of conference facilities and services at the Office and that all meetings of Nairobi-based bodies would take place in Nairobi except as otherwise authorized by the General Assembly, in conformity with the headquarters rule.

58. **Ms. Silot Bravo** (Cuba) said that the draft resolution had the important merit of recognizing the role of the General Assembly in the consideration and adoption of administrative and budgetary reform measures. The report on the methodology used to measure the provision of conference services, which was requested by the General Assembly in section II A, paragraph 13, of the draft resolution, should include both formal and informal sources of the statistics used and take into account the concerns noted in General Assembly resolutions 56/254 D and 56/287 about the negative impact of the economy measures on the provision of conference services to regional groups throughout the system. Her delegation also hoped that the separate detailed report on the cost implications of providing more predictable and adequate conference services to the meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States would be submitted to the General Assembly at the second part of its resumed fifty-seventh session for consideration by the Assembly

in the context of its consideration of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.

59. In section II B, which dealt with the question of improving the performance of the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services, she wished to note that paragraph 3 did not authorize the proposed integration of the functions of the technical servicing secretariats of the Fifth and Sixth Committees of the General Assembly into the Department. Instead, it requested the Secretary-General to submit the proposal in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 for further consideration. A decision on the matter should await the decision of the General Assembly.

60. With reference to paragraph 12 of section II B, she hoped that the proposed reforms would lead to improvements in the conference services provided to Member States. In paragraph 13, the Assembly concurred with the observation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions that a pragmatic approach should be followed in order not to introduce unnecessary restrictions on the ability of an intergovernmental body or conference to reach a successful conclusion. With regard to the delay in the issuance of verbatim and summary records, she hoped that the measures which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to take in paragraph 17 of section III would improve the situation. On the issue of limits on the length of documents, her delegation welcomed the clarification by the representative of the Secretariat that there had been no changes and requested that the guidelines be disseminated to all staff of the Secretariat dealing with that issue with a view to harmonizing their implementation throughout the system.

Tribute to Mr. Joseph Acakpo-Satchivi, Secretary of the Committee, on the occasion of his retirement

61. **The Chairman, Ms. Afifi** (Morocco), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, **Mr. Zevelakis** (Greece), speaking on behalf of the European Union, **Mr. Kelapile** (Botswana), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, **Mr. Kommasith** (Lao People's Democratic Republic), speaking on behalf of the Group of Asian States, **Mr. Prica** (Bosnia and Herzegovina), speaking on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States, **Ms. Jackson** (Bahamas), speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, **Mr. Kennedy** (United States of America), **Mr. Adechi** (Benin), **Ms. Buchanan** (New

Zealand), speaking also on behalf of Australia and Canada, **Mr. Mumbey-Wafula** (Uganda), **Mr. Herrera** (Mexico), **Mr. Obame** (Gabon), **Mr. Pulido León** (Venezuela), **Mr. Sabbagh** (Syrian Arab Republic), **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) and **Mr. Halbwachs** (Controller) paid tribute to Mr. Joseph Acakpo-Satchivi, Secretary of the Committee, on the occasion of his retirement.

62. **Mr. Acakpo-Satchivi** (Secretary of the Committee) thanked the Chairman, the members of the Committee and Secretariat officials for their good wishes and their unfailing support.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.