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## Fifth Committee

### Summary record of the 52nd meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 19 May 2003 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 151: Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo** (A/57/682, A/57/683 and Add.1, A/57/756 and A/57/772/Add.10)

**Agenda item 134: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone** (A/57/680, A/57/681 and A/57/772/Add.3)

1. **Mr. Halbwachs** (Controller) said that the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) was difficult, complex and constantly evolving. The performance report on the budget of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 (A/57/682) showed apportioned financial resources of \$450 million and actual expenditure of \$388.8 million. The difference between the two figures had been caused by military contingent savings (slower than forecast deployment), recruitment delays (for national and international staff), ground transport savings (vehicles had been taken from stocks at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi (UNLB) rather than purchased), air transport savings (the air services contract had been revised) and communications savings (the Mission's own network had been set up faster than expected, thereby reducing reliance on commercial services).

2. The budget of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 (A/57/683) had been on the point of completion when the Security Council adopted a resolution extending its mandate, and an addendum (A/57/683/Add.1) had been issued. As he had pointed out when presenting the overview of the financing of peacekeeping operations (A/57/723), the situation was likely to change further and more details would be provided to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session. Despite shifting needs, the Mission needed a budget to continue operating and the situation on the ground demanded some flexibility in financing.

3. The progress report on the status of the airfield services contract for the Mission (A/57/756) had been produced in response to the General Assembly's request to the Secretary-General, in its resolution 56/252 C, for a further report on the status of the air services contract for MONUC to be presented at its fifty-seventh session. A request for proposals had been issued to 46 firms. The four proposals received by the

closing date had been evaluated by representatives of MONUC and the Logistics Support Division and transmitted to the Headquarters Committee on Contracts. A contract had been concluded with the recommended vendor and the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) had been kept apprised of developments.

4. The performance report on the budget of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 (A/57/680) showed apportioned financial resources of \$692 million and actual expenditure of \$617.6 million. The difference between the two figures had been caused by departure from the custom of rotating troop contingents twice a year (some troop-contributing countries had done so only once), delays in the recruitment of international civilian staff and United Nations Volunteers, use of prefabricated buildings, and lower than projected lower demand for flight hours.

5. The budget of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 (A/57/681) reflected the drawdown in the military component from 17,240 to 12,740, although the number of civilian police was being increased from 60 to 170. The number of national and international staff, United Nations Volunteers and operational costs were all being reduced. The Security Council had authorized a further reduction in troop numbers, from 13,500 to 11,500, after the budget had been issued. The resulting reduction in the budget was \$34 million. No revised budget had been issued, but the information had been conveyed to the Advisory Committee to be taken into account when that Committee reported to the General Assembly.

6. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the comments which the Advisory Committee had made in its overall report on the agenda item (A/57/772) regarding presentation, budget classification, operational expenditure and justification of resources applied, wherever appropriate, to MONUC and UNAMSIL. He had requested the Secretariat to circulate to the members of the Committee the text of the oral presentation he was about to give.

7. The Advisory Committee had faced many difficulties in examining budget estimates for MONUC. There was no need to describe them in detail, as the report of the Advisory Committee in document

A/57/772/Add.10 was provisional, pending the submission of a new budget for consideration by the end of 2003. As it had explained in paragraph 3 of that report, the Advisory Committee had decided to omit detailed recommendations on all proposed military and civilian posts from the main body of the document and to attach as an annex a number of observations to be taken into account when preparing the new 2003-2004 budget for the Mission.

8. In the light of the new situation, the Advisory Committee had recommended that \$582 million should be appropriated and assessed and that all proposed posts should be justified in terms of the Mission's new concept of operation, organizational structure and workload. The staffing table for military commanders and civilian personnel should be reviewed and justified, taking into account the Advisory Committee's remarks in paragraph 34 of the annex to its report as well as the view it had expressed in previous reports (A/55/874, para. 39, for example) that, although it recognized that the Secretary-General must be given flexibility to manage staffing tables for peacekeeping missions, it wished to warn the Secretariat that the General Assembly would not necessarily approve the use of vacant posts from a preceding budgetary period to fill posts in the proposed estimates for a later period.

9. With regard to UNAMSIL, the comments in paragraphs 18, 21, 36, 37 and 38 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/57/772/Add.3) related to management issues which could result in savings and should therefore be reflected in the performance report for the Mission.

10. The budget estimates for 2003-2004 based on a troop strength of 12,740 had been prepared prior to the Secretary-General's report to the Security Council indicating a further reduction in troop strength to 11,500 by November 2003.

11. The Advisory Committee's recommendations were contained in paragraphs 46 and 47 of its report. For 2003-2004 it recommended an appropriation of \$520,053,600, but the amount assessed should not exceed \$486 million gross because of the further reduction in troop numbers to 11,500 and the projected cost saving of \$34 million referred to in paragraph 14 of the report.

**Agenda item 126: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations** (*continued*)

*Review of the rates of reimbursement to the Governments of troop-contributing States* (A/57/774)

*Peacekeeping Reserve Fund* (A/57/798)

*Report on the write-off of contingent-owned equipment at liquidated missions* (A/57/788)

*Updated financial position of closed peacekeeping missions as at 30 June 2002* (A/57/789)

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**Agenda item 131: Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission and the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola** (A/57/796)

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**Agenda item 150: Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic** (A/57/631 and A/57/795)

12. **Mr. Halbwachs** (Controller), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on review of the rates of reimbursement to the Governments of troop-contributing States (A/57/774), said that the post-Phase V Working Group had failed to agree on a methodology for reimbursement of troop costs and, in its resolution 55/274, the General Assembly had therefore requested the Secretary-General to submit for its approval a methodology to be applied to troops and formed police units and a questionnaire for troop contributors. The report of the Secretary-General had taken into account the views of the Member States, as reflected in the proposals of the Working Group. The considerations at the root of the proposed methodology

were the direct costs incurred by troop contributors and the need to simplify data collection and analysis and to make the reimbursement process more efficient.

13. The general principles to be taken into consideration in the reimbursement of troop costs should be built into the Organization's agreements with troop contributors. The report proposed that the troop-cost component covered under the current methodology should be maintained and that post-deployment medical costs and peacekeeping training costs should be added. The methodology for the survey of former and current troop contributors should also be maintained. The questionnaire, which the Committee was being asked to review and approve, would be altered to reflect items of personal clothing, personal gear and equipment, as provided for in the memorandums of understanding between the Organization and troop contributors.

14. Part B of the report contained further details of the proposed methodology. As an alternative to the proposal from the post-Phase V Working Group to exclude the lowest and highest 25 per cent of survey responses, the report was proposing that only the lowest and highest 5 per cent of valid responses should be excluded, thus ensuring a more representative sample. Surveys had been conducted at random intervals in the past. However, should the Committee decide that they should be conducted instead at regular intervals, a five-year cycle would be appropriate.

15. The Committee was being asked to review and approve the proposed methodology and questionnaire and to consider the possibility of conducting the survey of troop contributors at regular intervals.

16. Introducing the note by the Secretary-General on the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund (A/57/798), he noted that the initial level of the Fund had been set at \$150 million and that the Fund was to be used only for the start-up phase of new peacekeeping missions, the expansion of existing missions and for unforeseen and extraordinary expenditures related to peacekeeping. The Fund was currently \$33.25 million over its authorized level and the General Assembly should consider returning that balance to the Member States and applying it to the financing of requirements for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004.

17. The report on the write-off of contingent-owned equipment at liquidated missions (A/57/788)

summarized the status of the processing and settlement of contingent-owned equipment written off at liquidated missions. All cases had been processed and Member States had been asked to agree to the reimbursable amounts. The Secretariat was awaiting the agreement of five Member States for a total sum calculated at \$3,861,455 and a further sum of \$1,047,403 was awaiting funding.

18. The report of the Secretary-General on the updated financial position of closed peacekeeping missions as at 30 June 2002 (A/57/789) covered 10 missions. In paragraph 15 of the report, the Secretary-General had pointed out that the amount of \$127,379,954 incurred by the United Nations Peace Forces (UNPF) for goods and services that should have been provided without cost under the terms of agreements with the host Governments had not been reimbursed.

19. Introducing the Secretary-General's updated performance report of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) (A/57/793), he noted that the Secretary-General was requesting that the return of cash available for credit to Member States should be suspended until the Organization's financial situations improved. He would explain the reason for that request later, as it was relevant to most of the reports now being introduced to the Committee.

20. In the final performance report of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM) and the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (MONUA) (A/57/796), the Secretary-General recommended that the amount of \$12,458,000 should be retained from the balance of appropriations to meet the cost of outstanding Government claims and that the return of cash available for credit to Member States should be suspended until the Organization's financial situation improved.

21. In the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT) (A/57/89), the General Assembly was requested to take note of the final disposition of the assets of the Mission. In the final performance report of the Mission (A/57/792), the General Assembly was requested to appropriate an additional \$46,000 for the period from 1 July to 30 September 2000 to offset the apportionment of the additional \$46,000 against the unencumbered balance

of \$17,133,000 and to suspend the return of cash available for credit to Member States.

22. In the final performance report of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) (A/57/794), the General Assembly was requested to suspend the return of cash available for credit to Member States until the financial situation improved.

23. In the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) (A/57/753), the General Assembly was requested to take note of the final disposition of the assets of the Mission, to approve the donation of assets with an inventory value of \$12,581,000 to the Government of Rwanda and to approve the donation of assets with an inventory value of \$79,200 to the Medical Unit of a Member State. In the final performance report of the United Nations Observer Mission in Uganda-Rwanda (UNOMUR) and UNAMIR (A/57/791), the General Assembly was requested to suspend the return of cash available for credit to Member States until the financial situation improved.

24. In the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (MINURCA) (A/57/631), the General Assembly was requested to take note of the final disposition of the assets of the Mission. In the final performance report of the Mission (A/57/795), the General Assembly was requested to approve the suspension of financial regulations 5.3, 5.4 and 5.5 in respect of the liabilities and fund balance of \$36,253,000.

25. The Secretary-General had recommended to the General Assembly that the return to the Member States of available cash from any of the closed peacekeeping missions in question should be suspended until the Organization's financial situation improved. Closed peacekeeping missions provided the only source of cash when active peacekeeping missions, the regular budget or the budget of the International Criminal Tribunals ran short of funds. The General Assembly had directed that funds should not be borrowed from active peacekeeping missions, and had restricted the use of the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund. Available cash in closed peacekeeping missions amounted to \$168.9 million and the figures would be provided in tabular form for ease of consideration. If the balance were returned to the Member States, the sum available for

temporary borrowing would be \$170 million, which represented less than half of the Organization's average monthly disbursements. It was not prudent to operate with that reduced level of cash available to meet potential shortfalls. The Organization's cashflow would also be affected by the fact that the scale of assessments for 2004 had not been approved and was not expected to be approved before December 2003. Some peacekeeping operations had mandates going beyond 2003, but no assessments could yet be made for 2004.

26. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that he had requested the secretariat to circulate to the members of the Committee the text of the oral presentation he was about to give. At the Committee's 46th meeting, he had referred to 15 reports that the Advisory Committee had not considered before adjourning its session in March 2003. At the Committee's 51st meeting, he had stated that the Advisory Committee would not be submitting reports on 3 of those 15 reports (A/57/765, A/57/774 and A/57/798) at the current part of the Assembly's resumed session. He would therefore now be reporting orally on the other 12 reports.

27. The Advisory Committee agreed with the Secretary-General's proposal in paragraph 3 of his report on the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund (A/57/798) that the \$33.25 million in the Fund should be used to finance the support account for peacekeeping for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004. That action would restore the Fund to its approved level of \$150 million, whose use the General Assembly in its resolution 49/233 had restricted to the start-up phase of new peacekeeping missions, expansion of existing missions and unforeseen and extraordinary expenditure related to peacekeeping.

28. The Advisory Committee had commented on the write-off of contingent-owned equipment in liquidated missions in paragraphs 60, 74 and 75 of its general report on the administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (A/57/772). The report of the Secretary-General (A/57/788) provided the latest information on amounts awaiting the concurrence of Member States and the amounts under certification or in accounts payable.

29. The reports on the disposition of assets of closed missions had been prepared in accordance with the guidelines established by the General Assembly in its resolution 49/233 and the related recommendations of the Advisory Committee (A/49/664). The Advisory Committee was therefore recommending that the General Assembly should take note of the reports on disposition of assets of closed missions, as proposed by the Secretary-General in his reports (A/57/631 (para. 6), A/57/89 (para. 7) and A/57/753 (para. 5 (a))), and approve the donation of assets, as proposed by the Secretary-General in paragraphs 5 (b) and (c) of his report contained in document A/57/753.

30. The remaining reports of the Secretary-General contained information on the performance and financial situation of closed missions. The main recommendation of the Secretary-General was that, in view of the anticipated cash difficulties at the end of 2003, the relevant financial regulations should be suspended to allow the Secretary-General to retain cash balances that would otherwise have been credited immediately to Member States. The request to suspend the return of cash balances had also been made in the report on improving the financial situation of the United Nations (A/57/498/Add.1, para. 24). At the Committee's 46th meeting, he had said that suspension of the relevant financial regulations would result in the retention of \$142.4 million and the Committee had later been given a revised amount of \$168.9 million.

31. In its reports on peacekeeping budgets for previous years and for 2003-2004, the Advisory Committee had regularly recommended that unencumbered balances and miscellaneous income from active peacekeeping missions should be credited to Member States in a manner to be determined by the General Assembly. Taking into account the nature and timing of the request for retention of balances and the large amounts of cash from closed missions, the Advisory Committee recommended that before a decision was taken on whether or not to suspend the relevant financial regulations, the Committee should receive more clarification and information in the context of its examination of the report on improving the financial situation of the United Nations (A/57/498/Add.1) and the performance reports on the closed missions.

32. **Mr. Zevelakis** (Greece), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia,

Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, the associated countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey, and, in addition, Iceland and Liechtenstein, said that, as the largest collective troop contributor to peacekeeping operations, the European Union fully supported the expansion of such operations, whether in terms of activities at Headquarters or in terms of new missions, particularly in Africa. Its focus was implementation of the recommendations of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations and improving the overall quality of peacekeeping.

33. Troop-contributing countries played an important role in peacekeeping and must have fair reimbursement. However, the report of the Secretary-General on the review of rates of reimbursement to the Governments of troop-contributing countries (A/57/774) fell far short of the request contained in paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 55/274. The report had not fully addressed the need for transparency, financial control, confirmed delivery of services and other factors, which had been specifically mentioned in the resolution. The European Union was not sure of the merits of adding isolated new variables to the methodology and looked forward to a more detailed explanation from the Secretariat during informal consultations.

34. In 2001, the Advisory Committee had recommended an overall review involving experts and interested Member States. The European Union wondered why no such review had been conducted. No decision on the methodology for reimbursements could be taken without comprehensive information on its financial implications. More exchange of information and views was therefore needed.

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

*Audit of the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (A/56/907)*

*Financial situation of the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (A/57/797)*

35. **Mr. Nair** (Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services), introducing the report of OIOS on the audit of the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement Women

(INSTRAW) (A/56/907), said that the report addressed the issue of the sustainability of INSTRAW, which, over the previous decade, had been the focus of several audits, evaluations and internal reports to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. The most recent audit of OIOS had identified a number of problems and had concluded that the difficulties that had been identified in the 1998 audit report continued to plague the Institute. INSTRAW had failed to achieve a number of its primary objectives and the goal of financing the Institute entirely through voluntary funding had not been achieved, leading to financial instability and to the need for a subvention, which the General Assembly had approved, to enable it to continue operating during 2001. The inability to attract adequate financing from donors continued to be one of INSTRAW's core problems.

36. The audit had also revealed that the Institute's Board of Trustees had failed to meet its fund-raising, oversight and advisory responsibilities. Moreover, the roles and responsibilities of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for INSTRAW had not been clarified. The direction and cost-effectiveness of the Institute's Gender Awareness and Information Networking System (GAINS) should be reassessed. OIOS had also identified a number of issues concerning the management and use of consultants engaged by INSTRAW and had made 13 recommendations, including a recommendation calling upon the Secretary-General to clarify the roles and responsibilities of his Special Representative. It had also recommended that the Secretary-General instruct his Special Representative to propose that the Working Group set up by the General Assembly should consider the option of closing INSTRAW in view of its financial difficulties; examine whether it was feasible for INSTRAW to continue as an autonomous body; make recommendations concerning the Institute's future operations; and consider various improvements to the Institute's Board of Trustees. OIOS had also recommended that the Secretary-General should propose to the General Assembly that it consider the need for continued temporary funding of INSTRAW from the regular budget until the Working Group had completed its assessment. Moreover, a number of recommendations in the report had called upon the interim Director of INSTRAW to address matters such

as evaluating and refocusing GAINS, formulating a business plan, and improving the management of consultants.

37. The Secretary-General had accepted all of the recommendations of OIOS and had forwarded them to the Working Group and to the interim Director of INSTRAW for further consideration. He had also agreed that the role of his Special Representative required clarification. For its part, the Working Group had accepted the recommendations of OIOS on the need to examine the feasibility of the Institute's autonomous status and, the reconstitution of its Board of Trustees, as well as the need to continue funding from the temporary budget. It had, however, disagreed with the recommendation to consider the option of closing the Institute. The recommendations to the interim Director of INSTRAW had all been accepted and had either been implemented or were in the process of implementation. As the Secretary-General had noted in his report on the financial situation of INSTRAW (A/57/797), the Institute's financial status remained precarious, since the resources available in the INSTRAW Trust Fund were sufficient to support its continued operation only through November 2003. OIOS would continue to monitor the implementation of its recommendations and would conduct a follow-up review at the appropriate time.

38. **Mr. Halbwachs** (Controller), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation of INSTRAW (A/57/797), said that it was anticipated that the resources available in the INSTRAW Trust Fund would allow the operations of the Institute to continue at a minimal level until the need of November 2003. In order to sustain the Institute's operations through 31 December 2003, an additional \$100,000 would be required. It was proposed that the Secretary-General should report further on the financial situation of INSTRAW to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.

39. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), noted that in paragraph 6 of his report (A/57/797), the Secretary-General stated that an amount of \$481,900 was available and was sufficient to maintain INSTRAW operations, including the payment of salaries of eight staff members, until the end of November 2003. The Advisory Committee therefore recommended that the General Assembly should take note of the report of the Secretary-General and request

him to report further on the financial situation of the Institute to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.

40. **Ms. Afifi** (Morocco), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Advisory Committee's practice of orally presenting its reports without an accompanying published version was a matter of concern, as its reports were of great importance. It was a matter of particular concern at the current time, since matters related to INSTRAW were of particular interest to the Group of 77 and China. Although the Group had accepted the oral report on an exceptional basis, they nonetheless requested that informal consultations on the reports should be postponed until after the reports had been officially published and made available to delegations.

41. **The Chairman** asked the representative of Morocco to clarify whether her request for written documents concerned documents related only to INSTRAW or to all the other issues that had been discussed during the meeting.

42. **Ms. Afifi** (Morocco), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the request of the Group of 77 and China concerned all the issues that had been introduced during the meeting and that she had used the example of INSTRAW merely because it was a matter of particular importance to the Group. Although the constraints imposed upon all Committee members were understandable, reports should be made available in writing so that members could officially determine their position on questions of major importance.

43. **Mr. Zevelakis** (Greece), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that, like the Group of 77 and China, the European Union attached great importance to the written reports of ACABQ. However, for reasons of flexibility, the Advisory Committee often submitted its reports orally, a practice that often benefited the Fifth Committee.

44. **Mr. Fermín** (Dominican Republic) said that his delegation wished to associate itself with the statement of the representative of the Group of 77 and China. He was also concerned that the report of the Working Group on the future operations of INSTRAW (A/57/330) had not been made available at the current meeting and requested that it be made available when the topic was being discussed.

45. **Mr. Pulido León** (Venezuela) said that his delegation supported the statement of the representative of the Group of 77 and China. With reference to the remarks by the representative of the Dominican Republic concerning the report contained in document A/57/330, he noted that the report contained recommendations that had been adopted by the General Assembly and, more particularly, comments on the report of OIOS that had been introduced by the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services earlier in the meeting. It had previously been decided that both reports would be considered together during the informal consultations.

46. **Mr. Abelian** (Secretary of the Committee) noted that document A/57/330 had not been officially listed for the current meeting because it was not in fact allocated to the Fifth Committee. However, it was available in the conference room and would also be available during the Committee's informal consultations.

47. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that it was in keeping with established practice that the Chairman of the Advisory Committee should issue an oral report, which would subsequently be issued as an official document of the General Assembly. In the interim, the Committee would refer to the report by quoting the summary record of the meeting concerned.

48. **Ms. Afifi** (Morocco), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that she saw no reason why her request should not be granted. The Group of 77 and China therefore requested time to consult on the issue.

49. **The Chairman** suggested that the meeting be suspended to give the Group of 77 and China time to decide whether or not to pursue its request.

*The meeting was suspended at 11.25 a.m. and resumed at 11.45 a.m.*

50. **Ms. Afifi** (Morocco), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that, following their consultations, the Group of 77 and China still insisted upon their request that the report of the Advisory Committee should be officially published and circulated before it was discussed.

51. **Mr. Zevelakis** (Greece), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the European Union



would agree to postpone discussion of the report until after it had been published, but that a discussion should be held at a later date on the general issue of the oral submission of reports by the Advisory Committee.

52. **The Chairman** said that the secretariat would revise the Committee's programme of work for the current part of the resumed session in order to accommodate the request by the Group of 77 and China. He hoped that members would be understanding of any resulting programme changes.

53. **Mr. Zevelakis** (Greece), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the European Union wished to demonstrate flexibility with respect to the request of the Group of 77 and China, but did not wish the Committee to set a precedent in that regard.

*The meeting rose at noon.*