



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 48th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. OKEYO (Kenya)

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

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Distr. GENERAL  
A/C.5/43/SR.48  
19 December 1988

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

The meeting was called to order at 12.10 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 114: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1988-1989 (continued)

Revised estimates under section 2A: Question of Western Sahara (A/C.5/43/59)

1. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Security Council, in its resolution 621 (1988), had authorized the Secretary-General to appoint a Special Representative for Western Sahara and had requested the Secretary-General to transmit to it a report on the holding of a referendum for self-determination for the people of Western Sahara and on ways and means to ensure the organization and supervision of such a referendum by the United Nations in co-operation with the Organization of African Unity (OAU). That resolution had been adopted by the Security Council after hearing a statement by the Secretary-General on the agreement reached on 30 August 1988 between Morocco and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (Frente POLISARIO) on proposals for a peaceful settlement put forward by the Secretary-General and the Chairman of OAU. The objectives and manner of implementing the proposals were detailed in paragraphs 3 to 7 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/43/59).

2. The peace proposals would be implemented under the guidance of the Special Representative, assisted by a support group of civilian and military personnel large enough to enable him to perform his organizational and supervisory functions. The peace proposals called for the deployment of United Nations military personnel to verify, confirm and supervise the cease-fire.

3. As indicated in paragraph 8 of the report, the peace proposals would be implemented in two phases, the financial implications detailed in the Secretary-General's report relating to the implementation of the first phase. Estimates in respect of the second phase would be submitted to the Assembly following the completion of phase I and the submission by the Secretary-General of a report to the Security Council seeking further authority to proceed with phase II.

4. The Advisory Committee had taken the view that implementation of both phases would require larger sums than those so far requested, although it might be felt that there had been some over-estimation by the Secretariat with respect to some items, such as travel on official business. Nevertheless, the Advisory Committee had not thought it wise to reduce the Secretary-General's estimates. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee endorsed the Secretary-General's requests, on the understanding that any savings under phase I would be used to offset expenditure under phase II, if implemented in the biennium 1988-1989.

5. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Fifth Committee, on the basis of the Advisory Committee's recommendations, wished to recommend to the General Assembly that it should approve an additional non-recurrent appropriation of \$687,900 under section 2A of the programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989.

6. It was so decided.

7. Mr. KINCHEN (United Kingdom) said that his delegation had joined in the consensus on the Advisory Committee's recommendations but had reservations concerning the scale of expenditure involved. While the United Kingdom welcomed the Secretary-General's endeavours to secure a settlement of the question of Western Sahara, its support was political and did not mean that it favoured giving the Secretariat a blank cheque. The time-frame indicated in the Secretary-General's report should have been more specific and a more detailed justification of the size of the support group should have been provided. In particular, his delegation had reservations concerning travel costs; the provision for three trips to New York seemed excessive. While the Organization's peace-keeping endeavours were important, due regard must be paid to cost-effectiveness. His delegation noted the Advisory Committee's comment that some elements of expenditure might have been over-estimated, and urged the Committee to pay particular attention to that aspect.

AGENDA ITEM 49: REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS (continued) (A/43/16 (Part I) and Add.1 and (Part II) and Add.1, A/43/324, 524 and 929)

8. Mr. GITSOV (Bulgaria), speaking on behalf of the Eastern European States, said that they regretted the time constraint imposed on the Committee in its consideration of the item before it. The Secretary-General, in his report (A/43/524), had made a fair attempt to produce a concise and transparent programme budget outline for the biennium 1990-1991, although it would have been preferable for the report to have contained an indication of programme priorities, a matter on which agreement should be reached at the next session of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC).

9. The budget outline suggested a modest decline in real terms from the current budget, although the Eastern European countries were concerned that, for the first time, the overall level would be close to \$2 billion. The Eastern European countries concurred with the Secretary-General's proposal that, with respect to the contingency fund, a rate of 0.75 per cent should be adopted for the biennium 1990-1991, and with the Advisory Committee that the contingency fund should remain at the level set in the budget outline, with the understanding that the amount so approved was a ceiling, which need not be reached but could not be exceeded.

10. The treatment of currency fluctuations and inflation still presented difficulties. Although the problem was complex, there was no need for further postponement of a decision on the matter. The Eastern European States supported the Advisory Committee's proposal for the establishment of a reserve to cover currency fluctuation, non-staff costs inflation, and statutory cost increases for staff, as well as the means proposed for its operation. The Secretary-General should submit proposals thereon at the forty-fourth session.

11. While supporting the general thrust of the Secretary-General's proposals and the Advisory Committee's recommendations, the Eastern European States reserved their position with regard to the level of resources provided for in the outline pending the results of the informal consultations on the interrelated elements of

(Mr. Gitsov, Bulgaria)

the new budgetary process established by General Assembly resolutions 41/213 and 42/211. Lastly, Member States had worked hard to improve the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the Organization, and the Eastern European States trusted that, in what was the final stage of the reform process, the Committee would be in a position to take a decision on the item by consensus.

12. Mr. LI Yong (China) said that, in common with other delegations, his delegation attached great importance to reform of the budgetary process. In that regard, the Organization's programme activities and the level of budgetary resources should reflect its increasingly important role in safeguarding world peace and promoting international co-operation. Obsolete programme activities should be cut, the staff rationalized and strict economy practised, although there should be no one-sided emphasis on reducing programme activities at a time when the international community was increasing its demands for a stronger United Nations.

13. Given that the preparation of the programme budget outline was a new exercise, which would take some time to perfect, a measure of flexibility should be demonstrated both in the methodology employed and in the components of the outline. It was essential, once the budget for the biennium 1990-1991 was approved, for the sources of all appropriations to be guaranteed. All Member States must fulfil their obligations and pay assessed contributions in full and on time, without which reform would not proceed smoothly and the functioning of the Organization would be seriously impaired.

14. On the proposal of the Secretary-General, the Advisory Committee had recommended a preliminary estimate for 1990-1991 at 1990-1991 rates of \$1,982,500,000. That amount was equivalent to \$1,767,000,000 at 1988 rates, a figure that was slightly lower than the initial appropriations for the current biennium. The final figure would probably be somewhat different in view of the need for further consultations on staffing and the contingency fund, inflation and currency fluctuations, but the estimates recommended by the Advisory Committee provided a sound basis for further consultation.

15. With regard to staffing tables, Member States now had three options before them: a reduction of 13.02 per cent, proposed by the Secretary-General; a reduction of 12.1 per cent, recommended by CPC; and a reduction of 12.57 per cent, recommended by the Advisory Committee. In that connection, account should be taken of General Assembly resolutions 41/213 and 42/211.

16. In establishing staffing tables, a negative impact on programme activities and on the structure and composition of the Secretariat should be avoided. A reduction of 13.02 per cent would have an adverse effect on programme activities and would seriously weaken the Department of Conference Services. Accordingly, his delegation supported the view of CPC that there should be a total staff reduction of 12.1 per cent by the end of 1989, with only a 10 per cent cut for the Department of Conference Services. With respect to the offsetting measures proposed by the Advisory Committee, and the view of the Secretariat that any further reduction in resources would have a negative impact on programmes, his delegation believed that the Secretary-General should strictly adhere to the basic principle of not adversely affecting mandated programmes and activities.

(Mr. Li Yong, China)

17. The rate of 0.75 per cent proposed for the contingency fund was acceptable. Nevertheless, that figure should not be taken as unchangeable or as constituting a precedent, and should be reviewed carefully at the end of the first year, at which time the Advisory Committee should report on whether it considered the rate to be appropriate. A suitable level for the fund was closely related to the overall level of resources, so that his delegation's final position depended on the decision taken on the latter issue.

18. The methodology for dealing with inflation and currency fluctuations was an important part of the budgetary process. A conservative approach should be taken so as to minimize the Organization's potential losses as a result of those two factors. The Advisory Committee had considered whether to maintain the present method or to establish a reserve fund. With regard to the latter possibility, a number of questions remained unanswered, such as whether a funded or unfunded reserve fund would be preferable; whether there should be a ceiling on the components of the fund and on the fund as a whole; what should be done if such a ceiling was exceeded; and what the relationship should be between any such fund and the Working Capital Fund. Further study of the question was necessary, and the Advisory Committee might report on the matter at the forty-fourth session. In the mean time, the present system should be continued.

19. His delegation agreed with the Advisory Committee that the vacancy rate for Professional and higher-level posts should be increased from the 3 per cent proposed by the Secretary-General to 5 per cent, and that the preliminary estimates for 1990-1991 should be readjusted accordingly.

20. As requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213, the Secretary-General had indicated priorities reflecting general trends of a sectoral nature by actual increases in resources under various sections of the budget. His delegation did not believe that such an approach could fully indicate programme priorities; neither could it see how the method adopted by the Secretary-General was linked to the priorities established in the medium-term plan. His delegation intended to propose, at the resumed session of CPC, that the Secretary-General should submit a report on how to establish priorities in future programme budgets.

21. Mr. RALLIS (Greece), speaking on behalf of the 12 States members of the European Community, said that the new budget procedure mandated by General Assembly resolution 41/213, of which the outline mechanism was a basic element, represented an important step towards strengthening the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations. Budgetary reform, meanwhile, was based on a recognition of the need for involvement by Member States in the preparation of the budget from its early stages and throughout the process.

22. It was disappointing that the Secretary-General had so far been unable to propose priorities for consideration by CPC, and the Twelve therefore looked forward to the consideration in 1989 of the Secretary-General's report on the setting of priorities of a broad sectoral nature, as well as his concrete proposals in the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991. It was also regrettable that there should be a discrepancy between the views of the Secretary-General and those

(Mr. Rallis, Greece)

of the Advisory Committee with respect to the putative reduction in real growth of resources over the current biennium. The Twelve had expected, on the basis of their understanding of the budgetary process as set out in General Assembly resolution 41/213, that the level of resources indicated in the Secretary-General's proposal would be all-inclusive. While recognizing that an exceptional procedure was necessitated by the lack of any precedent for the new process, they believed that in the future the Secretary-General's proposal should be of an all-inclusive nature.

23. The Twelve agreed with the Advisory Committee's recommendations to retain the standard 5 per cent vacancy rate for Professional and higher categories and to allow a net addition of 50 posts. The recommendation that the total preliminary estimate for the coming biennium, at 1990-1991 rates, should amount to \$1,982,523,700 was also acceptable. With regard to the contingency fund, the Twelve could accept the Secretary-General's recommendation that the level of the fund be set at 0.75 per cent of the preliminary estimate at 1990-1991 rates. They agreed with the Advisory Committee that the fund should remain at the level set in the outline, on the understanding that that level was a ceiling, and wished to stress that the size of the fund for any biennium must not be subject to change once it had been adopted by the General Assembly. It was important that the General Assembly should, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 41/213, adopt at the current session an overall level of resources which should not be subject to any subsequent modification.

24. Since the Twelve were not in favour of maintaining the current system for dealing with additional expenditures caused by inflation and currency fluctuations, they believed that the Advisory Committee's proposal to establish a new reserve fund deserved serious consideration.

25. Mr. GREGG (Australia) said that the concept of an agreed budget outline was one of the most significant aspects of the reformed budgetary process mandated in the annex to General Assembly resolution 41/213. The outline should provide Member States with a reliable indication of their prospective financial obligations to the Organization, end the unfortunate practice of adding on all items of unforeseen expenditure and constitute an important first step towards the effective setting of priorities. If Member States were to agree on an overall level of resources for the forthcoming biennium before the budget was formulated, the Organization would enjoy a much greater level of financial support. However, in order to work properly, the outline must encompass all foreseeable costs, including those which could not yet be quantified.

26. His delegation had explained in the course of discussions in CPC the reasons why it found the Secretary-General's initial outline unacceptable but was pleased to say that most of its major concerns had been addressed by the Advisory Committee, with the result that it could fully support all that Committee's recommendations. An overall budget outline of \$1.98 billion for the next biennium, at 1990-1991 rates, would be acceptable provided that figure was regarded as firm. The amount should, if properly allocated, allow for full implementation of all mandated programmes. While fully recognizing the difficulties inherent in any

(Mr. Gregg, Australia)

attempt to solve the problem of additional and unforeseen expenditures, his delegation could not support continuation of the present system. In the belief that a reserve fund, to cover not only currency and inflation costs but also statutory cost increases for staff, would remove the element of unpredictability and facilitate a wider level of support for future United Nations budgets, his delegation hoped that agreement would be reached within the next few days on a decision to proceed along the lines suggested in paragraphs 27 to 30 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/43/929).

27. Mr. VISLYKH (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, given the upward adjustment of the Secretary-General's preliminary estimate - due to recosting at 1990-1991 rates - by some \$215 million, it could hardly be said that predictability had been achieved with respect to United Nations expenditures. Nor had a major objective of the current reforms, namely, the achievement of the broadest possible consensus on the Organization's budget. In the opinion of his delegation, without a solution to the problem of additional expenditures caused by inflation and exchange rate fluctuations, the adoption of other elements of the budgetary reform process, such as the budget outline and the contingency fund, would be of limited practical value. The Advisory Committee, however, had proposed a simple, effective, and economical mechanism by which to address the problem. His delegation believed that the General Assembly should, at its current session, endorse that mechanism in principle and request the Secretary-General and ACABQ to work out its details with a view to a final decision by the Assembly at its forty-fourth session. His delegation's position on the other elements of the new budgetary process would depend on the nature of the decision on the reserve mechanism.

28. Despite certain reservations with respect to the methodology used to prepare the outline, his delegation was prepared to support the conclusion of CPC that the Secretary-General's report should constitute the basis for a decision by the General Assembly. It was its understanding in doing so that the level of resources envisaged in the outline would provide for the full implementation of all measures listed in General Assembly resolution 41/213, including recommendation 15 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations (Group of 18). If that principle were respected, it calculated that the Secretary-General's estimate could be reduced by \$25.8 million. It was also his delegation's understanding that the General Assembly would adopt the total preliminary estimate, recosted at 1990-1991 rates, only if agreement in principle was reached on the question of a mechanism to offset additional expenditures caused by inflation and exchange rate fluctuations.

29. Mr. MONTHE (Cameroon) said that any decision adopted by the Fifth Committee must take due account of the evolving world situation, the growing responsibilities of the United Nations and the unpredictability of certain factors governing formulation of the Organization's budget. It had been rightly emphasized that the new budgetary process was in a developmental period and should be applied with flexibility and that the outline of the proposed programme budget was a part of the process of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Organization in

(Mr. Monthe, Cameroon)

... serving the international community. A negative impact on the programmes to be included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 should be avoided. It was gratifying to note the unanimity of views - on the part of the Secretary-General, the Advisory Committee and CPC - to the effect that financing of the budget would be strictly observed once it had been approved and appropriated. However, as the Advisory Committee had indicated, neither budgetary problems nor the financial situation of the Organization as a whole could be solved until all Member States were prepared to pay their assessed contributions in full and on time.

30. His delegation supported the total preliminary estimate of \$1,982,523,700, as recommended by ACABQ, and also believed that the adjustment procedure suggested by the Secretary-General and endorsed by ACABQ in paragraphs 3 and 13 of document A/43/929 was appropriate. That support should be seen in the context of its initial observations and of the pertinent conclusions and recommendations of CPC and ACABQ. It must, however, be emphasized that the recommended level of resources and the contingency fund should not cover extraordinary and unforeseen expenditures, expenditures relating to peace-keeping operations, expenditures arising from statutory cost increases for staff or those arising from inflation and exchange rate fluctuations. Those categories should continue to be treated in the usual manner. In his delegation's view, the option mentioned in paragraph 26 of the Advisory Committee's report represented the least inconvenient way of dealing with changes caused by inflation and exchange rate fluctuations. It did not consider the alternative suggested in paragraphs 27 to 31 of the Advisory Committee's report to be appropriate, but believed that it would be consistent with paragraph 10 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 41/213 if the Committee were to accept as a lesser evil a solution which would amount to reimbursing Member States for any surplus resources arising from inflation or exchange rate fluctuations only at the end of each biennium, even if a decision must be taken on the percentage of resources to be left in the special fund.

31. With regard to the contingency fund, his delegation again believed in the need for flexibility in view of the importance of not jeopardising the United Nations growing responsibilities in the quest for universal peace, security and well-being. It therefore believed that the amount and procedures for use and operation of the contingency fund must be reviewed, notwithstanding paragraph 15 of General Assembly resolution 42/211, even earlier than the Assembly's forty-seventh session.

32. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) said that the proposed programme budget outline was a creditable basis for formulating the budget estimates for the next biennium. His delegation concurred with the CPC recommendations on the outline, and supported the Advisory Committee's recommendation for a staff turnover rate of 5 per cent. It agreed that the General Assembly should approve \$1,767,060,000 at 1988 rates as the overall level of the preliminary estimate of resources in order to provide for activities during the 1990-1991 period, subject to recosting to reflect the latest forecast of inflation and exchange rates when the budget was adopted. In preparing the draft budget outline, the Secretary-General should also take into account the latest developments and trends in the legislative bodies. Prior to final approval of the outline, consideration should be given to changes in programme activities



(Mr. Inomata, Japan)

approved in 1988 for implementation in the biennium 1990-1991. In that connection, his delegation would appreciate an account of the changes in programme activities which the Assembly had approved during the current session. In preparing future outlines, subsequent changes in programme activities should be anticipated, taking into account intergovernmental discussions of any proposals likely to modify existing mandates.

33. It was his delegation's understanding that unforeseen and extraordinary expenses, for the maintenance of peace and security, inter alia, should not be included in the preliminary estimate. Such expenses should instead be financed from special accounts. He wished to draw the Committee's attention to the fact that expenses for the United Nations Good Offices Mission Afghanistan/Pakistan (UNGOMAP) had been charged to the regular budget. The magnitude of that new appropriation - \$13 million - should be compared to the level of resources that might be available from the contingency fund.

34. His delegation concurred with the procedures for the use and operation of the contingency fund (document A/43/324), and to the proposed rate of 0.75 per cent for the biennium 1990-1991. It endorsed the Advisory Committee's recommendation that no appropriation should be approved for the fund as yet. It also shared the Advisory Committee's view that the contingency fund should remain at the level set in the budget outline, on the understanding that the amount approved was a ceiling.

35. Clearly, the current system for dealing with inflation and currency fluctuation had proved to be ineffective. The General Assembly must decide in principle at the current session to establish a mechanism which would bring about a comprehensive solution to the problem of all additional expenditures (General Assembly resolution 41/213, annex I, para. 10). In that connection, his delegation noted with appreciation the Advisory Committee's recommendations in paragraphs 27 to 30 of document A/43/524. It concurred with CPC's conclusion that the budget outline was predicated on full implementation of resolution 41/213 and strict compliance with the decisions on the financing of approved programmes under the 1990-1991 budget. A real solution to the problem of additional expenditures could not be found until the financial crisis was over. However, the United Nations recent experience had pointed up the necessity of establishing an effective mechanism to deal with increased costs deriving from inflation and currency fluctuations. The General Assembly should therefore request the Secretary-General to formulate and submit a complete set of procedures for the operation of the contingency fund, including any changes it might bring about in the financial rules and regulations, for approval at the forty-fourth session. It would be essential to strengthen the Organization's financial and accounting procedures. A more sophisticated approach would be needed to consider inflation-related cost increases on the basis of data broken down by object of expenditure rather than on the basis of an overall rate. The same would apply to increased costs of imported goods and services resulting from currency fluctuations. The integrated management information system (IMIS) should facilitate the preparation of the budget outline and the establishment of an accounting system which could identify variations between estimates and actual expenditures based on sophisticated inflation and exchange rate forecasts.

36. Mr. LADJOUZI (Algeria) emphasized the need for flexibility in considering the programme budget outline proposed by the Secretary-General for the biennium 1990-1991 and the related recommendations of ACABQ and CPC. The level of resources approved for the biennium 1988-1989 was no longer an appropriate basis for the outline, since the budget for that biennium had been transitional and, as implicitly recognized in General Assembly resolution 41/213, the outline was to reflect the major programmes of the medium-term plan rather than programmes under way during the transitional period. The estimate of resources in the outline was not intended to be final. Therefore, the provisional figures recommended by the Advisory Committee for the biennium 1990-1991 should be interpreted with flexibility.

37. Taking into account the impact which recommendation 15 of the Group of 18 would have and the high vacancy rates at the regional commissions, his delegation favoured the 3 per cent turnover rate proposed by the Secretary-General. The implementation of recommendation 15 had created uncertainties over the overall level of resources included in the outline. In his submission to CPC, the Secretary-General had not taken into account the revised estimates, while the Advisory Committee had, in calculating the total level of expenditures for the biennium 1990-1991, taken into account its own recommendations on revised estimates. The Secretary-General's proposal of an overall staff reduction of 12.1 per cent (10 per cent in the Department of Conference Services) was likely to win the support of almost all Member States. The estimate of resources should therefore be based on that figure. The Secretariat had indicated that normal operations might be disrupted even with a reduction of that magnitude. Unless the General Assembly was prepared to reduce the duration and number of the meetings of its subsidiary bodies and those of the Economic and Social Council, there was little justification for pressing for a 15 per cent reduction in Secretariat posts.

38. His delegation shared the Advisory Committee's view that the contingency fund should be added to the preliminary estimate and must be included in the total amount of resources. At the twenty-seventh session of CPC and the forty-second session of the General Assembly, his delegation had expressed serious doubts about the Organization's ability to meet additional expenditures arising over a three-year period with a contingency fund set at 0.75 per cent. Moreover, that percentage had not been accepted by the General Assembly or CPC as yet. Further efforts should be made to reach the broadest possible agreement among Member States on a more appropriate level. If the Secretary-General's proposal was adopted, it might be desirable to combine the arrangement outlined in annex I to resolution 41/213 and the existing procedures for financing additional expenditures. Such an approach would ensure the necessary flexibility with respect to expenditures related to the Organization's vital new responsibilities, including those in the area of peace-keeping. In the interest of reaching a compromise at the earliest possible date, the 0.75 per cent rate might be adopted initially and reviewed in 1990-1991 in order to take account of new developments.

39. The negative rate of real growth of 9.6 per cent proposed in the outline would be acceptable only to the extent that it reflected the rate of post reductions alone.

(Mr. Ladjouzi, Algeria)

40. It was regrettable that neither the Secretary-General nor CPC was in a position to make concrete proposals on priorities reflecting general trends of a broad sectoral nature. Presumably, the question would be taken up in future discussions of the budget for the biennium 1990-1991. At that time, priorities should be established on the basis of the General Assembly mandates. Such priorities should include development and the economic situation in Africa in the economic sector; the anti-apartheid activities, Namibia and the self-determination of the Palestinian people, in the political sector; and human rights and the rights of peoples in the social sector. Some of the Advisory Committee's recommendations on the budget outline were acceptable to his delegation. They included the recommendation that prior to final approval of the outline, the Assembly should take into account any changes approved in 1988 to programme activities scheduled for implementation in 1990-1991. It also endorsed the Advisory Committee's recommendation on inflation and currency fluctuations (A/43/929, para. 26). The Advisory Committee's proposal to include inflation and currency rate estimates in the general level of estimated expenditures required further clarification.

AGENDA ITEM 121: PERSONNEL QUESTIONS (continued) (A/C.5/43/L.12)

41. Mrs. OLDFELT (Sweden), speaking as co-ordinator of the informal consultations on item 121, introduced the four draft resolutions and one draft decision on personnel questions contained in document A/C.5/43/L.12.

42. Draft resolution A, on the composition of the Secretariat, represented a careful balance of the objectives set by Member States with regard to equitable geographical distribution of staff in the Professional category and above, including staff in the upper echelons. The Secretary-General would be specifically requested to monitor the effects of the post reduction exercise on geographical distribution.

43. Referring to draft resolution B, on the administration of justice in the Secretariat, she said that based on its consideration of the reports of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee, the Assembly would recognize the considerable progress achieved in the administration of justice, particularly with regard to the backlog of cases. The draft resolution requested the Secretary-General to implement a fully revised internal justice system by 1989 and to complete improved disciplinary rules and procedures and revised appellate procedures at the earliest possible date.

44. Draft resolution C, on improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat, had also given rise to much debate during the informal consultations. The preamble affirmed the target of 30 per cent by 1990 for women in posts subject to geographical distribution. The resolution also requested the Secretary-General to continue or intensify his efforts to increase the number of women in the Secretariat, to ensure equitable representation of women from developing countries and to increase the percentage of women at the senior levels.

45. Draft resolution D encouraged staff members to make full use of existing language training facilities and invited Member States to make voluntary contributions to those facilities.

(Mrs. Oldfelt, Sweden)

46. The draft decision on amendments to the Staff Rules was routine. The provisional rules and amendments it referred to would enter into force on 1 January 1989.

47. Draft resolutions A, B, C and D and the draft decision contained in document A/C.5/43/L.12 were adopted without a vote.

The meeting rose at 2.10 p.m.