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COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND CO-ORDINATION
Twenty-ninth session
8 May-2 June 1989
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Provisional agenda

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 - (b) Statements of programme budget implications;
 - (c) Evaluation;
 - (d) Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations information activities in the area of disarmament;
 - (e) Report of the Secretary-General on mailing lists and registers maintained by the United Nations.
5. Co-ordination questions:
 - (a) Rationalization of co-ordination instruments;
 - (b) Cross-organizational programme analyses;

- (c) Reports of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and preparations for the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination.
6. Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit.
 7. Provisional agenda for the thirtieth session of the Committee.
 8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its twenty-ninth session.

Annotations

1. Election of officers

At its twenty-eighth session, the Committee elected a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur. At its twenty-fourth session, the Committee decided that, henceforth, the post of Chairman, as well as the other posts on the bureau, should rotate annually among the regional groups. At its twenty-fifth session, the Committee reaffirmed its decision and adopted the following pattern of rotation for the post of Chairman: (a) Group of African States; (b) Group of Eastern European States; (c) Group of Latin American States; (d) Group of Western European and other States; and (e) Group of Asian States. The Committee decided that rotation according to the above pattern had begun in 1984 with the Group of African States. However, it agreed, on an exceptional basis, to select the Chairman of the Committee in 1986 from the Group of Western European and other States, in 1978 from the Group of Asian States and in 1988 from the Group of Latin American States. At its twenty-ninth session, the Committee may wish to elect the Chairman of the Committee from the Group of African States in accordance with the agreed pattern of rotation for the post of Chairman. The Committee also agreed that each year the post of Rapporteur should be occupied by a member of the regional group that occupied the post of Chairman the previous year.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Pursuant to paragraph 2 (e) of Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/41 and paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 34/50, the Committee submitted to the Council and the Assembly for their review the provisional agenda for its twenty-ninth session, together with the list of documentation requested. The present provisional agenda and list of documentation also take into account decisions taken by the Council and the Assembly since the last session of the Committee.

3. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

In resolution 41/213, the General Assembly decided that the recommendations as agreed upon and as contained in the report of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations, 1/ should be implemented by the

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Secretary-General and the relevant organs and bodies of the United Nations in the light of the findings of the Fifth Committee and as specified in that resolution. In resolution 43/213, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General and the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination to report to the Assembly on the implementation of Assembly resolution 41/213 in accordance with recommendation 71 of the Group, taking into account the views expressed in the Fifth Committee. According to recommendation 71, the Secretary-General and the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination should report to the Assembly at its forty-fourth session on the implementation of all the recommendations contained in the report of the Group and approved by the Assembly.

In its resolution 43/213, the General Assembly reiterated that further implementation of its resolution 41/213 on the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations should be carried out in a balanced way and with flexibility so as to improve the structure and composition of the Secretariat.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

4. Programme questions

(a) Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991

Pursuant to its term of reference (Council resolution 2008 (LX), annex), the Committee will consider the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991. In accordance with the Regulations Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, 2/ the Secretary-General shall provide the Committee and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions with advance copies of the proposed programme budget by the end of April of the year preceding the budgetary period; the Committee shall prepare a report on the proposed programme budget, containing its programme recommendations and its general assessment of the related resource proposals; and it shall receive a statement by the Secretary-General on the programme budget implications of its recommendations.

It will be recalled that in accordance with the new budget process established by the General Assembly in resolution 41/213, the Committee, at its twenty-eighth session, considered an outline of the proposed programme budget and submitted conclusions and recommendations to the Assembly. In resolution 43/214, the Assembly decided on a preliminary estimate of resources for the budget and the size of the contingency fund. The Assembly affirmed that the outline of the budget was in a developmental period, that the methodology required improvement and that the whole exercise should be applied with flexibility in accordance with Assembly resolutions 41/213 and 42/211.

Also in resolution 43/214, the Assembly stressed the importance of indicating in the outline priorities reflecting general trends of a broad sectoral nature,

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endorsed the Committee's recommendations in that regard and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on all aspects of priority setting in future programme budget outlines to the Assembly at its forty-fourth session through the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination.

The attention of the Committee is also drawn to General Assembly resolution 43/213 on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/213.

Documentation

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 (in fascicle form)

Report of the Secretary-General on priority setting in future outlines of the proposed programme budget (A/44/)

(b) Statements of programme budget implications

At its twenty-sixth session, the Committee recommended that the Economic and Social Council, starting with its first regular session of 1987, should, for a trial period of two years, be provided with statements of programme budget implications of the draft resolutions before the Council in the format established for such statements submitted to the General Assembly. The Secretary-General was requested to report to the Assembly at its forty-fourth session, through the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its twenty-ninth session, on the experience gained during the two-year period in order for the Assembly to review the situation. In its resolution 1986/51 the Economic and Social Council welcomed the recommendation of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination in that regard.

At its twenty-eighth session, the Committee, when considering the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan, recalled section II, paragraph 7, of General Assembly resolution 38/227 A, containing guidelines for the provision of statements of programme budget implications. The Committee requested the Secretary-General to present a report to the Committee at its twenty-ninth session on how the full application of those guidelines would operate, including methodology and the implications.

The Secretary-General will submit a single report that will cover both the experience gained in the submission of statements of programme budget implications to the Council and the methodology for and the implications of the full application of the guidelines for the provision of such statements.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on statements of programme budget implications of draft resolutions (A/44/)

(c) Evaluation

At its twenty-fourth session, the Committee adopted a timetable for evaluation (A/39/38, para. 364), according to which it will review at its twenty-ninth session an in-depth evaluation of the human rights programme.

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At its twenty-eighth session, the Committee agreed that the in-depth evaluation of the development issues and policies programme should also be submitted to it at its twenty-ninth session.

It will be recalled that at its twenty-second session, the Committee decided to establish triennial reviews, whereby three years after it considered an in-depth evaluation, it would review the implementation of its recommendations thereon. Accordingly, the Committee will review the implementation of its recommendations on the population programme, which was evaluated at the twenty-sixth session.

In addition, the Committee will have before it a progress report on the in-depth evaluation of the disarmament programme. At its twenty-eighth session, the Committee agreed that the in-depth evaluation of the major programme on political and Security Council affairs scheduled for evaluation in 1991 should focus on the disarmament programme.

In its resolution 43/219, the General Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination contained in paragraphs 86 and 87 of the report on its twenty-eighth session (A/43/16, part I) and requested the Secretary-General to present a timetable for implementing the recommendations on self-evaluation contained in his report on the application of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives (A/43/179), as well as for completing initial evaluation training and providing central evaluation services. Such information has been incorporated in the progress report on the implementation of section III of Assembly resolution 43/219, which is listed for consideration under agenda item 6.

The Committee will recall that at its twenty-sixth session, it decided to add to its timetable for evaluation, which covered the years 1986-1992, an in-depth evaluation of the social development programme for consideration in 1994. The Committee may wish to consider selecting a programme for in-depth evaluation in 1993.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the human rights programme (E/AC.51/1989/2)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee on the evaluation of the population programme (E/AC.51/1989/3)

Report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the development issues and policies programme (E/AC.51/1989/4 and Add.1 and 2)

Progress report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the disarmament programme (E/AC.51/1989/5)

Note by the Secretary-General on the timetable for in-depth evaluations (E/AC.51/1989/6)

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(d) United Nations information activities in the area of disarmament

Pursuant to a recommendation made by the Committee at its twenty-seventh session, the Secretary-General will submit a report on United Nations information activities in the area of disarmament.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations information activities in the area of disarmament (E/AC.51/1989/7)

(e) Mailing lists and registers maintained by the United Nations

At its twenty-sixth session, the Committee recommended that the Secretary-General draw up new guidelines to ensure a balance between the need to maintain mailing lists and registers and the rights of individuals; it requested the Secretary-General to report further in that regard to the Committee at its twenty-seventh session. Consideration of the report of the Secretary-General has been deferred until the twenty-ninth session.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on mailing lists and registers maintained by the United Nations (E/AC.51/1987/8)

5. Co-ordination questions

(a) Rationalization of co-ordination instruments

In resolution 1988/77 on the revitalization of the Economic and Social Council, the Council requested the Committee to submit to it at its second regular session of 1989, specific proposals on the rationalization of co-ordination instruments, such as cross-organizational reports, the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and reports of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and its subsidiary bodies, in order to enable the Council to carry out its co-ordination functions in an effective manner, based on the measures contained in the resolution. The Council decided that the specialized agencies should be invited to resume submission of analytical summaries of their annual reports, which had been discontinued in 1977, when they were replaced with cross-organizational programme analyses (Council resolution 2098 (LXIII)). The Council also decided, in resolution 1988/77, that cross-organizational programme analyses should be discontinued in their present form and be replaced by brief analyses on major issues in the medium-term plan, to be considered directly by the Council and that the Secretary-General should submit draft proposals on a multi-year programme for such analyses immediately after the Assembly adopted the medium-term plan.

At its resumed twenty-eighth session, the Committee decided to include the question of the rationalization of co-ordination instruments in the provisional agenda for its twenty-ninth session.

(b) Cross-organizational programme analyses

At its twenty-seventh session, the Committee decided to consider at its twenty-ninth session a cross-organizational programme analysis on activities related to the advancement of women, as recommended by the Economic and Social Council. The Committee emphasized that the part of the analysis dealing with women and development should provide data for verifying and monitoring the progress made towards the achievement of the objectives of the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development and should indicate the extent to which the 1988-1989 programmes, and where possible the 1990-1991 programme proposals, of the organizations of the United Nations system related to the plan.

At its twenty-seventh session, the Committee requested that, following consideration by the Commission on Human Settlements at its eleventh session of the comprehensive study of co-ordination in human settlements, the Committee should be provided with information, in the form of a synoptic table, regarding the implementation of its recommendations in the cross-organizational programme analysis of the activities of the United Nations system in human settlements. At its twenty-eighth session, having considered the note prepared by the Secretariat (E/AC.51/1988/8), the Committee expressed the view that the document did not fully respond to its request for information, in the form of a synoptic table. It therefore reiterated the request made at its twenty-seventh session for such a synoptic table, which it would consider at its twenty-ninth session.

Also at its twenty-eighth session, the Committee agreed that industrial development should be the topic of a cross-organizational programme analysis for consideration in 1990 and requested that a report on the proposed scope and general approach of the analysis be submitted to it for review in 1989.

At its twentieth session, the Committee recommended that in order to allow sufficient time for proper collection of data and in-depth analysis, a two-year lead time was needed for the preparation of cross-organizational programme analyses. The Secretary-General will submit proposals concerning possible areas for a cross-organizational programme analysis for 1991. In this regard, the attention of the Committee is drawn to the section on co-ordination of Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/77, in which the Council decided that in carrying out its co-ordination functions, it, inter alia, would consider the activities and programmes of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in order to ensure, through consultation with and recommendations to the agencies, that the activities and programmes of the United Nations and its agencies were compatible and mutually complementary, and would recommend to the General Assembly relative priorities for the activities of the United Nations system in the economic and social fields; for that purpose, cross-organizational programme analyses would be discontinued in their present form and be replaced by brief analyses on major issues in the medium-term plan, to be considered directly by the Council; immediately after the General Assembly adopted the next medium-term plan, the Secretary-General would submit to the Council draft proposals on a multi-year programme for such analyses.

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Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the cross-organizational programme analysis on the activities of the United Nations system related to the advancement of women (E/1989/19)

Revised synoptic table on the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the cross-organizational programme analysis of the activities of the United Nations system in the area of human settlements (E/AC.51/1989/8)

Report of the Secretary-General on the proposed scope and general approach of the cross-organizational programme analysis on industrial development (E/AC.51/1989/9)

Report of the Secretary-General on the subject of the cross-organizational programme analysis for 1991 (E/AC.51/1989/10)

(c) Reports of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and preparations for the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX), the Committee will have before it the annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination for 1988. At its twenty-eighth session, the Committee noted that future annual reports of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination would focus on a new critical analysis of such issues as the necessary improvements in co-ordination and of the problems faced by the various parts of the United Nations system in carrying out their functions. The Committee agreed on the need for greater efforts in following up recommendations made by the Administrative Committee, recommended that the Administrative Committee keep its subsidiary machinery under review and noted the continuing need for further improvements in the Joint Meetings of the two Committees.

In its resolution 1988/64, the Economic and Social Council decided that, in future, the Joint Meetings should be held in New York in conjunction with the autumn session of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, in order to facilitate the participation of the members of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at a high level as well as the participation of the executive heads of the specialized agencies and United Nations programmes, and that the duration of the Meetings should be sufficient to allow for an adequate exchange of views among participants. The Economic and Social Council also decided (a) that members of the two Committees should identify in advance the specific issues for discussion under each topic and hold a concrete exchange of views, focusing on practical measures to solve the co-ordination problems identified; (b) that the background papers prepared by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination should include appropriate action-oriented proposals, so as to assist the Joint Meetings in achieving concrete results; and (c) that steps should be taken to ensure effective follow-up at the intergovernmental and intersecretariat levels of the conclusions and recommendations of the Joint Meetings.

In the same resolution, the Council also decided that appropriate measures for effective intergovernmental and intersecretariat follow-up of the conclusions and recommendations of the Joint Meetings should be reported, through the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, to the Council at its second regular session in the following year.

At its organizational session for 1989, the Council decided that the Joint Meetings would be held on 17 and 18 October 1989 and requested the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, in consultation with the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, to agree on a topic for the Joint Meetings (decision 1989/103).

Documentation

Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination for 1988 (E/1989/18)

6. Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit

At its twenty-fourth session, the Committee decided that reports of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) would, in future, be reviewed first by the Committee as to programming aspects and that, to that end, the Committee should be authorized to examine them even without the written comments of the Secretary-General if they were not available. The comments of the Secretary-General could be made orally to the Committee. That decision was approved by the General Assembly in resolution 39/238. The Committee further decided that at its organizational meeting each year, it would select the JIU reports to be considered at its regular session of that year from a list of titles to be made available by the Secretariat, including the titles of reports projected for the following two years.

In General Assembly resolution 43/219, section III, concerning monitoring, evaluation and the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Reporting on the performance and results of United Nations programmes: monitoring, evaluation and management review components" (A/43/124), the Assembly stressed again the need for improving monitoring and evaluation in the United Nations. It requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session, through the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, a consolidated progress report containing (a) information on the methodological and practical aspects of the implementation of the JIU recommendation for a restructured programme performance report; (b) concrete proposals on the means of implementing the JIU recommendation on improved decision-making information; and (c) a timetable for implementing the recommendations of the Secretary-General on self-evaluation (see A/43/179), as well as for completing initial evaluation training and providing central evaluation services.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on monitoring, evaluation and management information (A/44)

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7. Provisional agenda for the thirtieth session of the Committee

Pursuant to paragraph 2 (e) of Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/41 and paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 34/50, the Committee will submit to the Council and the Assembly for their review the provisional agenda for its twenty-ninth session, together with the list of requested documentation.

The Committee's attention is drawn to Council resolution 1982/50. In paragraph 1 (j) of that resolution, all the subsidiary bodies of the Council were urged to exercise the utmost restraint in making requests of the Secretary-General for new reports and studies and to implement fully the provisions of the decisions of the Council and the General Assembly with respect to the control and limitation of documentation.

The attention of the Committee is also drawn to Council decision 1983/163 on the control and limitation of documentation, wherein the Council requested the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of intergovernmental and expert bodies, before decisions were adopted, any request for documentation that exceeded the ability of the Secretariat to prepare and process on time and within its approved resources. The Secretary-General was also requested to draw the attention of intergovernmental bodies to areas where duplication of documentation was likely to occur and/or where opportunities for integrating or consolidating documents that dealt with related or similar themes might exist, with a view to rationalizing documentation.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the draft provisional agenda for the thirtieth session of the Committee

8. Adoption of the report of the Committee

The report of the Committee on its twenty-ninth session will be submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1989 and to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 49 (A/41/49).

2/ General Assembly resolution 37/234, annex; see also the revisions adopted by the Assembly (resolution 42/215) on the recommendation of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination contained in Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/42/16), part two, para. 74, and the text on the contingency fund adopted by the Assembly in resolution 42/211.
