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## Fifth Committee

### Summary record of the 66th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 30 June 2006, at 7.35 p.m.

*Chairman:* Mr. Ashe . . . . . (Antigua and Barbuda)  
*Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative  
and Budgetary Questions:* Mr. Saha

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*The meeting was called to order at 7.35 p.m.*

1. **The Chairman** drew attention to a list of corrections and adjustments to the existing texts of draft resolutions A/C.5/60/L.46, L.49, L.50, L.51, L.52, L.54, L.56, L.58, L.59 and L.60, which were before the Committee at the current meeting. The corrections and adjustments would be reflected in the Committee's report to the General Assembly.

**Agenda item 136: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations** (*continued*)

*Cross-cutting issues* (*continued*) (A/C.5/60/L.60)

*Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.60*

2. *Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.60 was adopted.*

*Financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy* (*continued*) (A/C.5/60/L.59)

*Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.59*

3. *Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.59 was adopted.*

*Support account for peacekeeping operations* (*continued*) (A/C.5/60/L.62)

*Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.62*

4. *Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.62 was adopted.*

*Note by the Secretary-General on financing of the support account for peacekeeping operations and financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy* (A/C.5/60/31)

5. **The Chairman** drew the Committee's attention to the note by the Secretary-General contained in document A/C.5/60/31, which, in accordance with the prorating procedures approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/221 B, indicated the amounts to be apportioned for each peacekeeping mission, including the prorated share for the support account and for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi.

6. **Ms. Pollard** (Director of the Peacekeeping Financing Division) said that the note by the Secretary-General indicated how resources would be apportioned

among the budgets of active peacekeeping operations, taking into account the use of resources from the excess balance of the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund. The amounts would be reflected in the draft resolutions on the individual peacekeeping missions and, following their adoption by the General Assembly, the Secretary-General would issue a note on the total approved budget for the financial year 2006/07.

7. **The Chairman** said he took it that the Committee wished to take note of the information contained in the note by the Secretary-General.

8. *It was so decided.*

**Agenda item 137: Financing of the United Nations Operation in Burundi** (*continued*) (A/C.5/60/L.53)

*Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.53*

9. *Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.53 was adopted.*

**Agenda item 138: Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire** (*continued*) (A/C.5/60/L.55)

*Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.55*

10. *Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.55 was adopted.*

**Agenda item 139: Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus** (*continued*) (A/C.5/60/L.49)

*Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.49*

11. *Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.49 was adopted.*

**Agenda item 140: Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo** (*continued*) (A/C.5/60/L.56)

*Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.56*

12. *Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.56 was adopted.*

**Agenda item 142: Financing of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor** (*continued*) (A/C.5/60/L.57)

*Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.57*

13. *Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.57 was adopted.*

**Agenda item 143: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea** (*continued*)  
(A/C.5/60/L.61)

*Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.61*

14. *Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.61 was adopted.*

**Agenda item 144: Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia** (*continued*)  
(A/C.5/60/L.50)

*Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.50*

15. *Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.50 was adopted.*

**Agenda item 145: Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti** (*continued*)  
(A/C.5/60/L.58)

*Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.58*

16. *Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.58 was adopted.*

**Agenda item 146: Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 687 (1991)** (*continued*)

**(a) United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission** (*continued*) (A/C.5/60/L.45)

*Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.45*

17. *Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.45 was adopted.*

**Agenda item 147: Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo** (*continued*) (A/C.5/60/L.51)

*Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.51*

18. *Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.51 was adopted.*

**Agenda item 148: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia** (*continued*) (A/C.5/60/L.52)

*Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.52*

19. *Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.52 was adopted.*

**Agenda item 149: Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East** (*continued*)

**(a) United Nations Disengagement Observer Force** (*continued*) (A/C.5/60/L.54)

*Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.54*

20. *Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.54 was adopted.*

**(b) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon** (*continued*) (A/C.5/60/L.42)

*Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.42*

21. **The Chairman** drew the Committee's attention to draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.42, which had been introduced by the representative of South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China at the Committee's 64th meeting.

22. **Ms. Lock** (South Africa), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the sponsors wished to make two oral revisions to the text of draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.42, reflecting the agreement reached in informal consultations to refer, in each of the peacekeeping financing resolutions, to the resolution on cross-cutting issues, just adopted by the Committee as A/C.5/60/L.60. Thus, in paragraph 1 of draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.42, the words "and resolution 60/— of —" should be inserted after the words "General Assembly resolution 59/296 of 22 June 2005". Similarly, paragraph 12 of draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.42 should read, "Reaffirms its resolution 59/296, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of its relevant provisions and the relevant provisions of its resolution 60/—". In both cases, "resolution 60/—" would refer to the final form of draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.60.

23. *A single recorded vote was taken on the fourth preambular paragraph and paragraphs 4, 5 and 17 of the draft resolution.*

*In favour:*

Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Gambia, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea,

Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

Australia, Canada, Israel, Palau, United States of America.

*Abstaining:*

Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay.

24. *The fourth preambular paragraph and paragraphs 4, 5 and 17 of draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.42 were adopted by 93 votes to 5, with 49 abstentions.\**

25. *A recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution, as orally revised, as a whole.*

*In favour:*

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bosnia and

Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zimbabwe.

*Against:*

Israel, Palau, United States of America.

*Abstaining:*

Australia.

26. *Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.42 as a whole, as orally revised, was adopted by 144 votes to 3, with 1 abstention.\*\**

27. **Mr. Sermoneta** (Israel) reiterated Israel's strong support for the important work of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). Israel had paid its full assessed contribution to UNIFIL on time and without conditions and would continue to do so. By

\* The delegation of Guyana subsequently informed the Committee that it had intended to vote in favour of the fourth preambular paragraph and paragraphs 4, 5 and 17 of the draft resolution.

\*\* The delegation of Viet Nam subsequently informed the Committee that it had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution as a whole, as orally revised.

contrast, some of the sponsors of the draft resolution just adopted had been consistently delinquent in paying their full UNIFIL assessments.

28. His delegation regretted the deliberate and inappropriate politicization of the item. Politically motivated, one-sided language had no place in a resolution on technical issues, compromised its intention and undermined its effectiveness and the credibility of the Committee's work. Moreover, the paragraphs in question violated the principle of collective responsibility for the Organization's expenses set out in Article 17 of the Charter. That was the only principle that was relevant to the issue of damages resulting from acts of self-defence, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 55/235.

29. There was no precedent for demanding that one Member State should bear sole responsibility for costs incurred when armed groups endangered United Nations peacekeeping forces. In all other such incidents in the past, regardless of the circumstances, expenses had been settled through the application of collective responsibility. The attempt to treat UNIFIL differently singled out Israel in an unfair and discriminatory manner.

30. While it had no objection to the technical aspects of the draft resolution, his delegation had voted against the paragraphs in question and the draft resolution — as orally revised — as a whole because of the politicization of the issue. It hoped that productivity, rather than politics, would guide the Committee's work in the future.

31. **Mr. Poulin** (Canada) said that a consensus resolution on the financing of UNIFIL had once again been prevented by the addition of inappropriate paragraphs on which a separate vote had been requested. The paragraphs in question undermined a long-held understanding that political considerations had no place in resolutions of a technical nature. Resolutions on the financing of peacekeeping operations must be neutral and procedural texts. Because neutrality was a core aspect of peacekeeping, every attempt to politicize such operations should be opposed vehemently. Moreover, in the case in question, it was inappropriate to target one party for criticism and non-compliance with United Nations resolutions. With that in mind, his delegation hoped that the proponents of the language in the resolution would re-evaluate their actions and withdraw the paragraphs in question in the future.

32. **Ms. Attwooll** (United States of America) reiterated her delegation's support for the important mandate of UNIFIL and its view that it was procedurally incorrect to use a General Assembly resolution on funding to pursue claims against a Member State. Her delegation opposed the current and previous resolutions, which had not been adopted by consensus and required Israel to meet costs stemming from the 1996 Qana incident. The correct procedure, which dated back almost to the Organization's inception, was for the Secretary-General to pursue settlement of the Organization's claims against a State or States. Using a resolution on financing to legislate such a settlement was inappropriate and politicized the work of the Committee. That practice should be avoided in the future.

33. **Ms. Stevens** (Australia) said that, while Australia strongly supported the continued existence of UNIFIL, it had, as in previous years, abstained in the vote on the draft resolution because of the continued incorporation of unwarranted political considerations which had distracted the Committee's attention from the budgetary issues that should rightly remain its focus.

34. **Mr. Elji** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation had joined the consensus on the draft resolution on the financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (A/C.5/60/L.54) and had voted in favour of the draft resolution on the financing of UNIFIL (A/C.5/60/L.42). That stance was based on the principle, repeatedly emphasized by his delegation, that responsibility for financing both forces should be borne by the aggressor party — Israel — pursuant to the principle contained in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963.

35. The aggressor continued to violate international law and Security Council resolutions. Two days earlier, Israeli aircraft had violated Syrian airspace above its Mediterranean beaches. Such acts of provocation and aggression had clear objectives and proved that Israel did not want to take the steps necessary for a just and comprehensive peace pursuant to the relevant United Nations resolutions.

36. **Ms. Ziade** (Lebanon) said that those who complained about the politicization of the issue were the ones that were politicizing it. Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.42 addressed a purely financial issue that involved compensating the United Nations, not Lebanon. The General Assembly, based on a report

submitted by the Secretary-General at the fifty-first session, had asked the State responsible to compensate the United Nations.

37. Lebanon observed the principle that the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations was the collective responsibility of all Member States, as reaffirmed in General Assembly resolution 55/235. However, the principle of collective responsibility did not contradict the general principle of State responsibility for internationally wrongful acts, including compensation for material damage resulting from such acts. That principle was enshrined in the Charter and was implied in paragraph 1 (e) of General Assembly resolution 55/235, which stated that, where circumstances warranted, the Assembly should give special consideration to the situation of any Member States which were victims of, and those which were otherwise involved in, the events or actions leading to a peacekeeping operation. It was on that basis that nine previous General Assembly resolutions had requested the payment of compensation to the United Nations for the damage incurred as a result of the attack on the peacekeeping post at Qana. That request was reiterated in the fourth preambular paragraph and in paragraphs 4, 5 and 17 of draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.42.

38. **Mr. Weidinger** (Austria) said that the States members of the European Union had abstained in the vote on the fourth preambular paragraph and paragraphs 4, 5 and 17 of draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.42 because the text contained therein was inappropriate in the context of a resolution on the financing of UNIFIL. The broader political aspects of the incident at Qana had been debated by the General Assembly in April 1996, resulting in resolution 50/22 C of 25 April 1996. The European Union had stated its position on those political aspects at the meeting at which the Assembly had adopted that resolution. The European Union wished to underline, once again, that the Committee's consultations should have been confined to budgetary issues.

39. **Mr. Taula** (New Zealand) said that his delegation regretted the fact that, once again, a consensus resolution on the item in question had not been possible. The political elements contained in the paragraphs on which a separate vote had been taken should not have been included in a financing resolution. For that reason, his delegation had abstained in the vote on those paragraphs.

40. **Mr. Sermoneta** (Israel) said that he felt compelled to take the floor again in order to remind the Committee, in particular the Syrian delegation, that the reason there was a peacekeeping force in the Golan Heights was that in October 1973 Israel had been attacked by the Syrian Arab Republic, among others. It was mind-boggling to hear the Syrian representative, who spoke on behalf of one of the most repressive regimes in the region and perhaps in the world, preaching to the Israeli delegation. The Committee should bear in mind that the Syrian Arab Republic was involved in financing and harbouring terrorists. Indeed, it was the terrorist organization Hizbollah, sponsored by the Syrian Arab Republic, that had been responsible for the Qana incident. He had not intended to revisit past events, but the word "aggressor" was clearly being misapplied in the current discussion.

41. **Mr. Elji** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that Israel had attacked Arab States and occupied Syrian territories since 1967. The war referred to by the representative of Israel was a war of liberation, legitimized by international law and the right to self-defence, as well as the right to eject an occupier. Israel had been founded on terrorism, and its daily oppression against the Palestinian people was proof of its continued terrorism.

42. **Mr. Saleh** (Lebanon) said that Israel always talked about certain principles and then violated them. It complained about the politicization of the draft resolution on the financing of UNIFIL and then turned the dialogue into a political one. On several occasions Israel had referred to Hizbollah as a terrorist organization. In fact, Hizbollah had deputies in the Lebanese Parliament and ministers in the Lebanese Government. It had also led a very valuable resistance movement against a very aggressive Israeli force, which had invaded Lebanon and stayed there for 22 years. Without Lebanon's resistance, Israel would have stayed in its territory. All the comments made about Hizbollah were evidently a distortion of reality.

**Agenda item 150: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone** (*continued*) (A/C.5/60/L.47)

*Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.47*

43. *Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.47 was adopted.*

**Agenda item 151: Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan** (*continued*) (A/C.5/60/L.46)

*Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.46*

44. *Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.46 was adopted.*

**Agenda item 152: Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara** (*continued*) (A/C.5/60/L.48)

*Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.48*

45. *Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.48 was adopted.*

**Agenda item 124: Programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007** (*continued*)

*Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council* (*continued*) (A/C.5/60/L.63)

*Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.63*

46. *Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.63 was adopted.*

*Additional office accommodation in Geneva for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights* (*continued*) (A/C.5/60/L.65)

*Draft decision A/C.5/60/L.65*

47. *Draft decision A/C.5/60/L.65 was adopted.*

*Capital master plan* (*continued*) (A/C.5/60/L.66)

*Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.66*

48. *Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.66 was adopted.*

*The meeting rose at 8.25 p.m.*