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38/237	Unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 1984-1985 (A/38/760)	109	20 December 1983	260
38/238	Working Capital Fund for the biennium 1984-1985 (A/38/760)	109	20 December 1983	260
38/239	Pension scheme for the members of the International Court of Justice (A/38/760)	109	20 December 1983	261

38/30. Financial reports and audited financial statements and reports of the Board of Auditors

The General Assembly,

Having considered the financial reports and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 1982 of the United Nations Development Programme,² the United Nations Children's Fund,³ the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East,⁴ the United Nations Institute for Training and Research,⁵ the voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees⁶ and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities,⁷ the audit opinions of the Board of Auditors⁸ and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,⁹

Taking into account the views expressed by delegations during the debate in the Fifth Committee,¹⁰

1. *Accepts* the financial reports and audited financial statements and the audit opinions of the Board of Auditors;

2. *Concurs* with the observations and comments made by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its report;

3. *Requests* the Board of Auditors and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to continue to give greater attention to areas regarding which they have made observations and comments, including the problems relating to the use of experts and consultants, where appropriate;

4. *Requests* the executive heads of the organizations and programmes concerned within the United Nations system to take such remedial action in areas falling within their competence as may be required by the observations and comments made by the Board of Auditors in its reports;

5. *Invites* the governing bodies of the organizations concerned to consider each year at their regular sessions the remedial action taken by the respective executive heads in response to the observations and comments made by the Board of Auditors in its reports.

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² *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 5A (A/38/5/Add.1).*

³ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 5B (A/38/5/Add.2).

⁴ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 5C (A/38/5/Add.3 and Corr.1).

⁵ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 5D (A/38/5/Add.4 and Corr.1).

⁶ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 5E (A/38/5/Add.5).

⁷ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 5G (A/38/5/Add.7).

⁸ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 5A (A/38/5/Add.1), sect. IV; *ibid.*, Supplement No. 5B (A/38/5/Add.2), sect. III; *ibid.*, Supplement No. 5C (A/38/5/Add.3 and Corr.1), sect. II; *ibid.*, Supplement No. 5D (A/38/5/Add.4 and Corr.1), sect. III; *ibid.*, Supplement No. 5E (A/38/5/Add.5), sect. II; and *ibid.*, Supplement No. 5G (A/38/5/Add.7), sect. IV.

38/31. Administrative and budgetary co-ordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency

The General Assembly

1. *Notes with appreciation* the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the administrative and budgetary co-ordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency;¹¹

2. *Refers* to the organizations concerned the report of the Advisory Committee as well as the comments and observations made in the course of its consideration in the Fifth Committee;¹²

3. *Transmits* the report of the Advisory Committee to the Board of Auditors, the Panel of External Auditors, the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Joint Inspection Unit for their information;

4. *Invites* the Advisory Committee to continue, in odd-numbered years, to conduct special studies and report thereon, as necessary, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 5 (b) of General Assembly resolution 36/229 of 18 December 1981.

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38/32. Pattern of conferences

A

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Committee on Conferences,¹³

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Committee on Conferences;

2. *Approves* the calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for 1984-1985 as submitted by the Committee on Conferences,¹⁴ subject to any amendments as a result of subsequent decisions taken by the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all appropriate measures with a view to achieving maximum efficiency and effectiveness in the use of conference resources when

⁹ A/38/433.

¹⁰ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Fifth Committee, 5th-8th meetings*; and *ibid.*, Fifth Committee, *Sessional Fascicle*, corrigendum.

¹¹ A/38/515 and Corr.1.

¹² See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Fifth Committee, 24th and 33rd meetings*; and *ibid.*, Fifth Committee, *Sessional Fascicle*, corrigendum.

¹³ *Ibid.*, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 32 (A/38/32).

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, annex II.

implementing the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1984-1985.

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B

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3351 (XXIX) of 18 December 1974, 32/72 of 9 December 1977 and 35/10 A of 3 November 1980,

Requests the President of the General Assembly, after consultations with the chairmen of the regional groups, to appoint twenty-two Member States, on the basis of an equitable geographical balance, to serve on the Committee on Conferences for a three-year term.

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C

PATTERN OF CONFERENCES

The General Assembly

1. *Requests* the Committee on Conferences to examine the provisions of section I of General Assembly resolution 31/140 of 17 December 1976, as well as all other provisions relating to the pattern of conferences, and to report to the Assembly at its thirty-ninth session;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of the Committee on Conferences the summary of the discussion in the Fifth Committee during the current session on the item entitled "Pattern of conferences",¹⁵ including the text of all amendments proposed to draft resolution C recommended by the Committee on Conferences in paragraph 4 of its report.¹⁵

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D

SHORTENING OF SESSIONS OR ADOPTION OF A BIENNIAL CYCLE FOR SESSIONS OF UNITED NATIONS ORGANS

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 32/71, section IV, and 32/72 of 9 December 1977 and 35/10 A of 3 November 1980,

Concerned at the serious under-utilization of conference resources by United Nations organs,

1. *Takes note* of the proposals submitted by the Committee on Conferences designed to relieve the overloading of conference services;¹⁶

2. *Invites* the Committee on Conferences to pursue further its consultations with the officers of those organs which have over the past three years utilized 75 per cent or less of the conference resources made available to them, with a view to adjusting the length of their sessions accordingly;

3. *Requests* its subsidiary organs to consider, in the interests of greater efficiency, meeting and reporting on a biennial basis;

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, Thirty-eighth Session, Fifth Committee, 4th, 8th, 9th and 25th meetings; and *ibid.*, Fifth Committee, Sessional Fascicle, corrigendum.

4. *Requests* United Nations organs, especially those which have over the past few years under-utilized the meeting time allocated to them, to consider at their organizational sessions the question of improving the organization of their work in order to secure a more effective use of conference resources and to put forward concrete proposals on this matter, including, where feasible, the shortening of sessions;

5. *Invites* United Nations organs to hold informal consultations with the aim of reaching agreement on organizational questions as well as on the composition of the bureaux before the opening of their substantive sessions.

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E

CONTROL AND LIMITATION OF DOCUMENTATION

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2292 (XXII) of 8 December 1967, 2538 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969, 2732 (XXV) of 16 December 1970, 31/140, section II, of 17 December 1976, 33/56, section II, of 14 December 1978, 34/50 of 23 November 1979, 36/117 of 10 December 1981 and 37/14 C and D of 16 November 1982 and its decision 34/401 of 21 September, 25 October, 29 November and 12 December 1979,

1. *Recommends* to Member States that they take into consideration the aim of limiting to a minimum requests for the preparation of reports or the circulation of documents;

2. *Recommends* to Member States and specialized agencies that, when preparing their replies to questionnaires or submissions of organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, they take into consideration the aim of achieving maximum brevity in setting out their positions;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General, when sending out such questionnaires, to attach to them a reference to the present resolution;

4. *Invites* its subsidiary organs to include in their agenda an item on control and limitation of documentation with a view to ensuring the production of concise reports;

5. *Commends* the Secretary-General for his efforts in reducing the length and number of reports originating in the Secretariat and requests him to continue with these measures;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to examine ways of improving the drafting skills of Secretariat officials who are involved in the various phases of preparing final reports of United Nations bodies with a view to ensuring the production of more concise reports;

7. *Calls upon* its subsidiary organs not to reproduce in their reports the full text of earlier resolutions relevant to their work, but instead, as a frame of reference, to include a list of relevant documents in their reports, giving the exact titles and symbols;

8. *Decides* that the practice of reproducing statements *in extenso* as separate documents shall be discontinued for all its subsidiary organs that are entitled to summary records;

9. *Decides further* that any exceptions to this rule may be made by the body concerned only if the statements are

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 3, (A/38/32), paras. 13-25

to serve as bases for discussion and if, after hearing a statement of the relevant financial implications, the body decides that one or more statements *in extenso* may be included in the summary record, or reproduced as separate documents or as annexes to authorized documents;

10. *Requests* the Committee on Conferences to undertake a study of the feasibility of instituting an abbreviated form of summary record;

11. *Requests* the Committee on Conferences to examine the various causes of the late issuance of documents in the different official and working languages and to consider possible solutions to this problem;

12. *Urges* all treaty bodies to review their documentation requirements, with particular reference to the possible reduction of their need for summary records;

13. *Invites* the Committee on Conferences to examine the report to be issued by the Joint Inspection Unit on publications policy and practice in the United Nations system;

14. *Requests* its subsidiary organs responsible for the issuance of recurrent publications to review them with the objective of identifying and discontinuing those which no longer serve a useful purpose;

15. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council similarly to request its subsidiary organs responsible for recurrent publications to undertake such a review;

16. *Requests* the Committee for Programme and Coordination to review recurrent publications in the context of the medium-term plan or the programme budget, as appropriate;

17. *Recommends* that, in conducting their reviews, intergovernmental bodies bear in mind the following criteria:

(a) Usefulness to the end-user of the publication as gauged from end-user response or from the sales record of a publication;

(b) Filling of a need;

(c) High standard of analysis or data;

(d) Promotion of the principles and purposes of the Organization;

(e) Continued validity of the original mandate;

(f) Recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in its report on publications policy and practice in the United Nations system, if applicable.

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F

IMPROVED ORGANIZATION OF WORK AND EFFECTIVE USE OF CONFERENCE RESOURCES

The General Assembly

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Committee on Conferences with data in summary form on:

(a) The physical and human conference-servicing resources for United Nations Headquarters and United Nations offices generally, including rooms available and documentation, interpretation and translation capacity, in a format enabling comparison of the demand and the conference-servicing capacity for all categories of meetings of

United Nations organs—scheduled, anticipated to the extent possible, and held—grouped according to subject-matter;

(b) External conference servicing available to the United Nations in case of urgent or unforeseen demands on the calendar;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to all United Nations bodies the relevant information requested under paragraph 1 above as supplementary data for their implementation of the present resolution.

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The President of the General Assembly subsequently informed the Secretary-General [A/38/758] that, in accordance with resolution B above, he had appointed the twenty-two members of the Committee on Conferences.

As a result, the Committee on Conferences is composed of the following Member States: ALGERIA, AUSTRIA, BAHAMAS, BULGARIA, BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC, CHILE, CYPRUS, FRANCE, GERMANY, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF, HONDURAS, INDONESIA, ITALY, JAPAN, KENYA, MEXICO, NIGERIA, SENEGAL, SRI LANKA, TUNISIA, UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS, UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND and UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

38/33. Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 37/125 B of 17 December 1982,

Having examined the report of the Committee on Contributions,¹⁷

Recognizing the need for an improved methodology to assess the real capacity to pay of Member States, in order to increase the fairness and equity of the scale of assessments,

Mindful of the obligation of Member States to bear the expenses of the Organization as apportioned by the General Assembly according to the real capacity to pay,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Committee on Contributions on the work in progress,¹⁸ as requested in General Assembly resolution 37/125 B;

2. *Requests* the Committee on Contributions to carry out the mandate entrusted to it by resolution 37/125 B, taking into account the views expressed by Member States during the thirty-seventh and thirty-eighth sessions of the General Assembly;

3. *Invites* the Secretary-General to provide the Committee on Contributions with the facilities it requires to carry out its work and, if requested by the Committee, necessary supplementary assistance;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General in particular to forward to the members of the Committee on Contributions the studies prepared by the Statistical Office of the Secretariat as soon as possible after each study has been completed.

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¹⁷ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 11 (A/38/11); and A/38/11/Add.1 and Add.1 Corr.2.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 11 (A/38/11), sects. II-IV.