

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**



THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSION

*Official Records**

FIFTH COMMITTEE
73rd meeting
held on
Monday, 19 December 1983
at 3.30 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 73rd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. KUYAMA (Japan)

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

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Distr. GENERAL
A/C.5/38/SR.73
28 December 1983

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

The meeting was called to order at 6.20 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 109: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1984-1985 (continued)

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.104 concerning agenda item 78 (c) (continued) (A/C.5/38/93)

1. The CHAIRMAN said that, in the light of the informal consultations which had just been concluded, he wished to reformulate the proposals which he had made to the Committee at its 71st meeting. Accordingly, he proposed that, with respect to the financial implications of section II, paragraph 5, of draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.104, the Fifth Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that the Secretary-General should be authorized to enter into commitments of up to \$1 million during 1984, that the resources needed to initiate the activities called for in that paragraph should be drawn from savings in the 1982-1983 programme budget, and that the Secretary-General should be requested to submit proposals to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session through the appropriate institutions and in accordance with the established procedures to achieve such reimbursement of funds through savings out of the programme budget for 1984-1985 or through redeployment, on the understanding that funds used from savings in the 1982-1983 biennium should be credited to Member States once reimbursements were made. With regard to section C of document A/C.5/38/93, relating to section III, paragraph 1, of the draft resolution, he proposed that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that no additional appropriations would be required.
2. The Chairman's proposals were adopted without a vote.

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.105 concerning agenda item 78 (c) (A/C.5/38/103)

3. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that, under the terms of paragraph 6 of draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.105, the General Assembly would decide that adequate resources should be provided in the regular budget of UNIDO for 1984-1985 to ensure the provision of the necessary funds in accordance with paragraph 7 of resolution 34/96 for the first General Conference of UNIDO and other costs associated with the conversion of the organization into a specialized agency. Under the terms of paragraph 7 of the draft resolution, the Assembly would further decide that the financial implications arising from paragraph 6 of the draft resolution would be considered at its thirty-ninth session. Accordingly, no request for additional appropriations was being submitted to the General Assembly at its current session.
4. For purposes of information, however, the Secretary-General indicated in paragraph 5 of his statement (A/C.5/38/103) that it was anticipated that the first General Conference would be held in two parts and that a session of the new Industrial Development Board and of the Programme and Budget Committee would be held in the intervening period. The cost of holding the first General Conference was estimated at \$1,191,700 at 1984 rates based on the assumptions given in paragraph 6 of the Secretary-General's statement.

(Mr. Mselle)

5. In paragraph 7 of the statement, it was indicated that the resources already requested for the 1984-1985 biennium would meet the costs of servicing two sessions of the Industrial Development Board and four sessions of its subsidiary organ, the Permanent Committee. The Advisory Committee noted in that regard that for servicing sessions of the Industrial Development Board and its Permanent Committee, an amount of \$1,958,700 had been requested in the proposed programme budget for 1984-1985. However, according to the Secretary-General, should the first session of the new Industrial Development Board and its Programme and Budget Committee be convened in 1985 after the nineteenth session of the existing Board, it would be necessary to request additional appropriations to meet the related costs of the first session of the new Board and its Programme and Budget Committee, which were estimated at \$1,257,500 based on the assumptions given in paragraph 7 of document A/C.5/38/103.

6. The CHAIRMAN proposed that, on the basis of recommendations of the Advisory Committee, the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.105, no additional appropriations would be required at the current stage.

7. The Chairman's proposal was adopted without a vote.

Conversion of UNIDO into a specialized agency: revised estimates under sections 17 and 28M (A/C.5/38/87)

8. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that background information on the subject was given in paragraphs 1 to 5 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/38/87). In paragraphs 6 and 7, the current arrangements for the provision of services at the Vienna International Centre (VIC) were described. The impact of the conversion of UNIDO into a specialized agency on the current arrangements and the changes that would be required were discussed in paragraphs 8 to 17.

9. The Advisory Committee noted the statement of the Secretary-General in paragraph 8 that the conversion of UNIDO should not alter the premise on which common services were based, namely that they should not be duplicated. It was indicated that a review of the memorandum of understanding between the United Nations, UNIDO and IAEA was being initiated to determine whether the current distribution of responsibilities among the parties needed to be modified.

10. The Secretary-General's proposals and intentions with regard to public information, personnel, conference services, general services and finance were outlined in paragraphs 10 to 17 of his report. The Advisory Committee noted the statement in paragraph 9 that separate and distinct United Nations services would be required for personnel and public information and that the establishment of those services should be initiated forthwith. The responsibilities of the proposed public information service were described in paragraph 10. They would include serving as an information centre for Austria and the Federal Republic of Germany. In paragraph 11, it was indicated that the total cost of the information service

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(Mr. Mselle)

would be \$821,400 under section 27 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985. In order to meet that cost, it was proposed that \$390,300 to cover one P-5, one P-3 and four General Service posts be redeployed from the UNIDO information service under section 17 and that \$352,100 to cover one P-4, one P-3 and three General Service posts and operational costs be redeployed from resources available to DPI under section 27. The remaining \$79,000 would be for a D-1 post. The Secretary-General indicated in paragraph 12 that the possibilities of meeting that requirement through redeployment would be reviewed in 1984 and that no additional appropriation for that purpose was requested at the current stage.

11. The Advisory Committee had no objection to the Secretary-General's proposals to establish a public information service at Vienna. It noted that the intention to have the service act as information centre for Austria and the Federal Republic of Germany was consistent with recommendation 39 made by the Committee on Information in paragraph 94 of its report (A/38/21). The Advisory Committee trusted that the institutional structure at Vienna for public information services would be kept small in scale and would utilize, to the maximum extent possible, resources already available for New York or Geneva.

12. The Advisory Committee noted from paragraph 14 that to form the nucleus of a Personnel Service at the United Nations Office at Vienna it would be the intention of the Secretary-General to reassign seven posts (two P-3 and five General Service posts), created under section 28M and previously assigned to UNIDO to strengthen its Personnel Service. The Secretary-General stated that further developments in that regard would be reviewed during 1984 and, if necessary, reported on to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session.

13. In conclusion, the Advisory Committee recommended acceptance of the Secretary-General's request in paragraph 19 of his report for an appropriation of \$390,300 under section 27 of the proposed programme budget for 1984-1985 for the creation of a United Nations information service at Vienna. The appropriation would be offset by a reduction in the same amount under section 17.

14. The recommendations of the Advisory Committee for an additional appropriation of \$390,300 under section 27 and for a reduction in the same amount under section 17 of the programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 were approved without a vote.

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.69/Rev.1 concerning agenda item 81 (a) (continued) (A/38/7/Add.16; A/C.5/38/57; A/C.5/38/L.21)

15. The CHAIRMAN reminded members that the report of the Advisory Committee had been introduced at the 61st meeting. He proposed that, on the basis of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.69/Rev.1, no additional appropriations would be required at the current stage. With regard to the policy issues brought to the attention of the Committee in the report of the

(The Chairman)

Advisory Committee, he further proposed that the Fifth Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that it concur in the observations of the Advisory Committee in document A/38/7/Add.16 and approve the conclusion and recommendation contained in paragraphs 14 and 15 of that report.

16. The Chairman's proposals were adopted without a vote.

17. Mr. TOMMO MONTHE (United Republic of Cameroon) said that, in view of the decision which the Committee had just adopted, he wondered whether it could still be maintained that the existing arrangements were still in effect. He recognized, however, that the Committee had taken a decision on UNDR0 only and not on the specific issues raised in the Advisory Committee's report on which there was still no agreement.

18. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that it was his understanding that the decision just taken related only to the financial implications of the draft resolution itself. The Advisory Committee had recommended that the adoption of the draft resolution would not give rise to any additional appropriation. The Fifth Committee had not taken a position on the general principles and guidelines contained in the Advisory Committee's report (A/38/7/Add.16).

19. Mr. FORAN (Controller) pointed out that, under the terms of paragraph 9 of draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.69/Rev.1, the General Assembly would authorize the Secretary-General to permit the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDR0) to respond to requests for emergency disaster assistance up to a total of \$600,000 in any one year, with a normal ceiling of \$50,000 per country in the case of any one disaster, within existing resources as far as possible. The relevant earlier resolution of the General Assembly was resolution 37/144, paragraph 5 of which requested the Secretary-General to raise the normal maximum of \$30,000 to \$50,000 per disaster, the additional \$20,000 to come from voluntary sources, to permit UNDR0 to respond with grants to requests for assistance up to \$50,000 per country in the case of any one disaster. Under that resolution, that amount was to have been drawn from two sources: \$30,000 from the regular budget, and the remainder from voluntary contributions, to the extent possible. The adoption of draft decision A/C.5/38/L.21 would be a reaffirmation of paragraph 5 of resolution 37/144 and would not permit the Secretary-General to set a ceiling of \$50,000 per country in the case of any one disaster from within resources available under the regular budget. That difference between the provisions of the draft decision and draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.69/Rev.1 should be clear to members of the Committee.

20. Mr. EL SAFTY (Egypt) said that, in the light of the Controller's explanation, his delegation would vote against the draft decision. He reminded members that the decisions on the various items before the Committee at the current meeting formed a package agreed upon in the Second Committee.

21. Draft decision A/C.5/38/L.21 was rejected by 60 votes to 21, with 11 abstentions.

Revised estimates: effect of changes in rates of exchange and inflation
(continued) (A/C.5/38/102/Add.1)

22. The CHAIRMAN said that at its 71st meeting the Committee had taken action on the report of the Secretary-General on the effect of changes in rates of exchange and inflation in document A/C.5/38/102. An addendum to that document had just been issued (A/C.5/38/102/Add.1) which indicated that there would be a further reduction of \$82,600 under various expenditure sections and a further reduction of \$17,600 in the estimates of income under income section 1. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Fifth Committee wished to approve those additional adjustments to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985.

23. It was so decided.

24. The CHAIRMAN invited delegations to explain their positions in connection with the decisions taken at the current meeting.

25. Mr. EL SAFTY (Egypt) said that the programme, financial, and administrative implications of decisions taken by any other committee should properly be discussed by the Fifth Committee, on the basis of accurate and comprehensive information supplied by the Secretariat to it and to ACABQ. He hoped that the current situation would never be repeated: those who thought they had won a victory would be well advised not to try to insult other delegations' intelligence again. His delegation would never stand for a repetition, whatever forms of pressure or blackmail were applied.

26. Mr. ORTEGA (Mexico) said that the Committee should not take the decisions adopted at the current meeting as precedents, but should try to prevent such situations from arising again, so that it could deal with administrative and budgetary questions as it was required to do. It was on that understanding that his delegation had joined in the consensus decisions.

27. Mr. TOMMO MONTHE (United Republic of Cameroon) drew attention to paragraph 12 of document A/C.5/38/87, where the Secretary-General indicated a need for \$79,000 to provide a post for the director of an information service in Vienna, but said that no additional appropriations would be requested pending a report on the possibility of making the money available through redeployment. His delegation had joined the consensus on the revised estimates because it did not wish to obstruct the Committee in its work. It considered, however, that the Secretary-General's report should have been submitted to the bodies properly concerned with resource redeployment, namely CPC, the Economic and Social Council and the Advisory Committee, as well as the General Assembly. A number of other posts would also be needed for the new information centre; his delegation had allowed them to go through without objection. But since, a few days earlier, similar requests for an information centre in his own country had attracted considerable criticism, he was opposed to the establishment of every one of those posts.

28. In connection with draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.69/Rev.1, he said that, to his delegation, the comments made by the Advisory Committee in the latter part of its report (A/38/7/Add.16) about the meaning of the terms "within existing resources" and "within existing resources as far as possible" remained moot.

(Mr. Tommo Monthe, United
Republic of Cameroon)

29. The arrangements for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa, set forth in part B of document A/C.5/38/93, were a special solution to a special case and should not set a precedent. Activities identified by Member States as being of highest priority had, by definition, first claim on the Organization's resources, but in the present case the resources were not to be found until the end of the 1984-1985 period. No committee but the Fifth, in his view, had the power to take such a decision. He particularly regretted that the situation had come about in connection with a decision relating to Africa. His delegation had joined the consensus only out of deference to the Chairman's efforts to secure a compromise.

30. Mr. KELLER (United States of America) said that his delegation had taken no part in the debate on the revised estimates relating to the conversion of UNIDO into a specialized agency (A/C.5/38/87), and had joined the consensus simply to help the Chairman. It was concerned at the potential for duplication at the Vienna International Centre. The Joint Inspection Unit had produced recommendations on the kind of administrative and operational structure there should be in Vienna. His delegation felt that the measures suggested by the Secretary-General should be embarked upon with great caution, at least until the Fifth Committee had had an opportunity to discuss the JIU report. Indeed, it agreed with the preceding speaker that the matter should first have been referred to CPC and the Advisory Committee for comment.

31. Although, to advance the Committee's work, he had not become involved in the debate on document A/C.5/38/57, he wished to record that his delegation had originally formulated a proposal calling for a blend of assessed and voluntary contributions in support of disaster relief. The United States had always been very generous in its support of disaster-relief operations, having contributed some \$2 billion over the past 17 years. It regretted that the reference to voluntary funds had been omitted from draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.69/Rev.1.

32. Mr. LAHLOU (Morocco) said that the solution reached on the question of UNIDO was unsatisfactory, not because of any lack of effort but because debate on the matter had been disrupted by so many odd occurrences. It was unfortunate that the matter had been raised at such short notice, and that improper pressure had been brought to bear. The situation should neither be allowed to recur nor be taken as a precedent.

33. He feared that the information service to be established in Vienna might be ill-equipped to handle its dual responsibilities. The director of the service would have to be accepted by the Governments of both Austria and the Federal Republic of Germany: he wondered what would happen if either Government rejected him.

34. Mr. van HELLENBERG HUBAR (Netherlands) said he assumed that the term "institutions" included the Advisory Committee and CPC. The Fifth Committee had faced a very complex situation over the past few days, partly because the Second Committee had failed to address a number of issues properly. Consideration of the

(Mr. van Hellenberg Hubar, Netherlands)

UNIDO item in the Fifth Committee would have been considerably easier if an integrated statement of programme, administrative and financial implications had been supplied. Similarly, it might have been easier to reach consensus if the Second Committee, in the course of its negotiations, had sought the advice of the Fifth Committee on some technical matters. He wished to emphasize the importance of ensuring that other Main Committees considered the programme, financial and administrative implications of the decisions they intended to adopt, rather than simply referring such implications to the Fifth Committee. At the same time, it must be remembered that the programme planning approach was only one means of making the United Nations more effective.

35. He agreed with the representative of the United Republic of Cameroon about the appropriations for the new information service in Vienna. It was striking how much easier it had been to reach agreement on that subject than on similar requests submitted earlier in the session.

36. Mr. MURRAY (United Kingdom) said his delegation had joined the consensus on the administrative and financial implications set forth in document A/C.5/38/93 because they reflected acceptably the consensus reached in the Second Committee. His delegation was not enthusiastic about borrowing against savings in the budget for 1982-1983, but had agreed on the clear understanding that the sums involved would be made good by redeployments and savings over the coming biennium. It also interpreted references to "institutions" to include CPC and the Advisory Committee.

37. In general, it was his delegation's understanding that the financial conditions attached by other substantive committees to the decisions they adopted reflected their assessment of the priority to be accorded to the activities concerned. The Fifth Committee should respect such assessments.

38. Mr. DITZ (Austria) said that his delegation had long been concerned at the lack of provision of information on United Nations activities for the world's 8 million German speakers. He was grateful to the Secretary-General for taking the initiative of suggesting an information service in Vienna. The information supplied by the new service would cover UNIDO activities, whereas the information unit in the United Nations Office at Vienna would cover the activities of the entire United Nations family; those two tasks were, in his delegation's view, quite distinct.

39. Mrs. DORSET (Trinidad and Tobago) said that her delegation had accepted the consensus on the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.104 simply because it had had no alternative. The Fifth Committee had been put in an untenable position because certain procedural irregularities had not been contested in the Second Committee. If the precedent thus established was followed in the future, the roles of both the Advisory Committee and the Fifth Committee would be sharply diminished. Her delegation had thought the entire discussion on the item pointless, and had taken no part in it.

40. Mr. WESTPHAL (Federal Republic of Germany) expressed his full support for the views of the Austrian representative. It was high time that the peoples of Austria and the Federal Republic of Germany could receive information on United Nations activities in their own language, as many other peoples were already able to do. His delegation was grateful to the Secretary-General for the initiative taken in that regard.

The meeting was suspended at 7 p.m. and resumed at 8.15 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 111: FINANCIAL EMERGENCY OF THE UNITED NATIONS (continued)
(A/C.5/38/L.26)

41. Mr. AMNEUS (Sweden), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/38/L.26, said that in recent years the General Assembly had taken up the question of adopting a decision under agenda item 111 at a late stage in its proceedings for reasons of scheduling or because of the complexity of the issue. For many years, the Committee had been fortunate in having a member of the delegation of Pakistan to handle the issue. Resolution 37/13 bore testimony to his negotiating skill, as did draft resolution A contained in document A/C.5/38/L.26. With his departure, the Committee no longer had a representative who was also a member of the Bureau of the Negotiating Committee on the Financial Emergency of the United Nations to guide it in its deliberations. A new situation had therefore arisen and he had handled consultations on the item at the present session in his capacity as Vice-Chairman.

42. As a result of informal consultations, draft resolution B in document A/C.5/38/L.26 was likely to be adopted without a vote. If so, the content of the consensus text would not be exactly what he had had in mind at a certain stage of the consultations. With the exception of one scheduled meeting, consultations had been held individually with interested delegations. Great efforts had been made to include as many delegations as possible, particularly those that were members of the Negotiating Committee and sponsors of previous resolutions on the item. Any failure to keep all delegations informed at every stage had been due to the time-consuming nature of private consultations rather than to the lack of a desire to do so.

43. The point of departure had, naturally, been General Assembly resolution 37/13. Several delegations had suggested that a reference should be included to the increasingly precarious situation of peace-keeping operations and the adverse impact of that situation on troop-contributing developing countries. Those delegations had felt that a balanced resolution on the financial emergency should contain such a reference since the withholding of contributions for that purpose was the largest single element in the so-called short-term deficit of the Organization. They had also felt that a comprehensive resolution should mention the special responsibility of the permanent members of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security and for meeting their financial obligations as an indispensable part of the collective security system.

44. Other delegations had felt that the General Assembly should take careful note of the views expressed in the Fifth Committee in the past as well as during the

(Mr. Amneus, Sweden)

present session. They had felt that the problem could only be addressed in full knowledge of all views on its original causes. They had also been of the view that a comprehensive and lasting solution to the financial problems of the United Nations, to which the Assembly had reaffirmed its commitment in previous resolutions, should be generally acceptable and based on strict compliance with the Charter. He had himself suggested that, in its resolution on the item, the Assembly should recognize that in the search for such a comprehensive and generally acceptable solution, the pattern of payments of assessed contributions and the positions of principle of Member States should be taken into account.

45. While agreement on the exact wording of those suggestions had been close, he had not, ultimately, been convinced that such an expanded text would command the unqualified support of all Members. He had therefore gone back to General Assembly decision 33/430, the last to be adopted on the item without a vote, and draft resolution B was an updated version of that decision.

46. The text referred back to the last concerted effort made by Member States to address the serious financial situation, namely that by the Negotiating Committee, and indicated that the fundamental problem had not in the mean time changed. The text was likely to be adopted without objection and might, therefore, contribute to the creation of a favourable atmosphere for whatever consultations might take place in the years ahead.

47. It had been brought to his attention that the pattern of payments of Member States had deteriorated during the second half of 1983. The opposite had been the case during the first six months of the year, as the Secretary-General had stated in his report contained in document A/C.5/38/9. Delayed and partial payments were creating serious cash-flow difficulties for the Organization. It was therefore to be hoped that Member States would make every effort to overcome difficulties with respect to timely payments, in conformity with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 37/13, particularly its paragraphs 4 and 5.

48. Draft resolution A, concerning postage stamps, was one of the legacies of the previously mentioned representative of Pakistan. Special postage stamps had been issued in the previous year, the remaining stamp issue had been withdrawn in November and the net proceeds were in the order of \$1.25 million. If the draft resolution was adopted, one half of the net proceeds would be used to alleviate the financial problems of the United Nations; such was the nature of the special account mentioned in paragraph 2. That paragraph should be slightly revised to read: "Decides to allocate the remaining one half of the net proceeds to the United Nations Special Account". Reference should then be made to a footnote, which should read: "Established pursuant to resolutions 2053 A (XX) and 3049 (XXVII)". Details of the Special Account were given in annex V to document A/C.5/38/9.

49. He hoped that both the draft resolutions contained in document A/C.5/38/L.26 would win wide if not unanimous support in the Committee.

50. The CHAIRMAN announced that a vote had been requested on draft resolution A.

51. Draft resolution A was adopted by 73 votes to 8.

52. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt draft resolution B without a vote.

53. It was so decided.

54. Mr. RALLIS (Greece), speaking in explanation of position with respect to draft resolution B on behalf of the 10 member States of the European Economic Community, said that those States had joined the consensus on the draft in the hope that, although procedural in nature, it would assist the efforts directed at finding a solution to the financial deficit of the Organization. However, they regretted the fact that it had not proved possible during informal consultations to reach agreement on language dealing with the core element of the problem, namely the withholding by certain Member States of contributions to the financing of peace-keeping operations. As had been stated in the report of the Secretary-General, that was the main reason for the increase in the deficit. The EEC States had repeatedly argued that all Member States had an obligation to contribute their assessed share to the costs of peace-keeping operations. It was most regrettable that some Member States, while expressing support for the maintenance of security, consistently failed to honour their obligations in that respect.

55. The EEC States wished to call attention to General Assembly resolution 38/81, entitled "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects". The seventh preambular paragraph of that resolution reaffirmed the collective responsibility of Member States in accordance with the Charter, to share equally the financial burdens of such operations established by the Security Council.

56. The CHAIRMAN announced that the Committee had concluded its consideration of agenda item 111.

AGENDA ITEM 116: PERSONNEL QUESTIONS (continued) (A/C.5/38/10; A/C.5/38/L.19, L.27 and L.28)

57. Ms. van DRUNEN LITTEL (Netherlands), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/38/L.19 on behalf of its sponsors, said that Norway had been omitted through an oversight from the list of sponsors, which now also included Sierra Leone. It was gratifying to note that the reports of the Secretary-General showed a decline in the number of officials under arrest or detention. More progress was nevertheless called for, and a major effort should be made to ensure that, in the near future, there would be no such cases.

58. The Secretary-General believed that an amelioration of respect for the principles governing the privileges and immunities of officials required the mutual efforts of Member States and the organizations. The sponsors of the draft

(Ms. van Drunen Littel, Netherlands)

resolution called on the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to ensure observance of those privileges and immunities by making use of all the means at his disposal. Those measures taken by him to alleviate the present situation, not only by monitoring individual cases but by making improvements in administrative procedures, were warmly welcomed. Further measures should be developed, and the sponsors looked forward to the next annual report of the Secretary-General as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination.

59. The common responsibility of Member States to guarantee adequate protection to international civil servants in order to enable them properly to discharge their duties demanded unanimous support. Her delegation had therefore conducted extensive consultations in order to arrive at a text which could be adopted unanimously. The draft resolution already enjoyed broad support and the sponsors hoped it would be adopted without a vote.

60. Mr. MAYCOCK (Barbados), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/38/L.27, said that the text was the result of extensive consultations initiated at the request of the Chairman. The point of departure had been a draft prepared in accordance with the Chairman's desire for a simple resolution on the item, since it was a budget year. The main thrust of that draft had been to call upon the Secretary-General to continue to implement resolutions 33/143, 35/210 and 37/235 as personnel policy. It had also sought to reflect the concerns of delegations as expressed in the debate on the item.

61. Delegations had made proposals for inclusion in the final text which included references to: countries below the mid-point of their desirable range; wider representation in departments and main offices; the need for Member States to nominate more women candidates; the strengthening of the role of the Office of Personnel Services; the need to increase the number of Member States represented at the D-2 level and above; the suggestion of ICSC to establish a system-wide roster of skills; the need to expedite the processing of appeals; the need for special efforts to solve the problem of vacancies in certain regional economic commissions; the population factor dealt with in section II of resolution 35/210; and training and career development.

62. In the course of consultations on such proposals, it had become clear that a consensus resolution could be achieved only by formulating a long and disparate resolution containing all the elements put forward by various delegations but not agreed upon by all, or by reverting to the original text, with which no delegation had expressed difficulty. The latter course had been adopted.

63. The crux of the draft resolution was contained in its paragraph 2, which would call upon the Secretary-General to continue to make every effort to ensure the implementation of the provisions of resolutions 33/143, 35/210 and 37/235. Paragraph 3 would draw special attention to three matters on which most delegations had expressed concern during the session: the situation of unrepresented and under-represented countries; the recruitment, career development and promotion of women; and the achievement of a balanced and equitable geographical distribution of

(Mr. Maycock, Barbados)

staff throughout the Secretariat. The word "throughout" had been used in an effort to meet the concerns of those delegations which had desired a wider representation in departments and main offices, as well as those calling for more equitable representation at the higher levels of the Secretariat.

64. Several delegations had agreed to forgo their individual positions in an effort to have the draft resolution adopted by consensus. He therefore hoped that the Committee would be able to accept the draft and avoid upsetting the delicate balance that had emerged from the consultations. He also hoped that when officials of the Secretariat were implementing the resolution they would bear in mind the other proposals made which had not been included in the text. Those proposals were in keeping with the spirit if not the letter of that text.

65. Mr. YONIS (Iraq) said that, following consultations with other delegations and with the Assistant Secretary-General for Personnel Services, his delegation was very hopeful that the question of vacancies at certain regional economic commissions, particularly the Economic Commission for Western Asia, would be resolved in 1984. It hoped to receive confirmation from the Assistant Secretary-General at the thirty-ninth session of the implementation of the proposals he had made. In the light of those consultations, his delegation withdrew draft decision A/C.5/38/L.28.

66. Mr. LAHLOU (Morocco) said that he had intended to submit an amendment to draft resolution A/C.5/38/L.27 with a view to enabling a larger number of States to participate in the work of the Secretariat at a higher level and to helping the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to rectify the inequitable situation in that regard. Moreover, he had held consultations with other delegations, which had been willing to support such an amendment, since it was of direct interest to the majority of delegations and was of benefit to the Organization as a whole. Although he had decided that the current session, which was devoted primarily to budgetary matters, was perhaps not the best time to submit the amendment, he hoped that his comments in that regard would be interpreted as the position of the Government of a Member State. Unless the Secretary-General took such positions into account, the work of the Assembly would be useless, and it would be necessary to adopt stricter measures which would limit the Secretary-General's range of action.

67. It was of paramount importance for the Secretariat to have a balanced composition and, accordingly, for measures to be taken to rectify the current imbalance. The fact that such measures had not been taken was clearly reflected in document A/C.5/38/CRP.6. Since draft resolution A/C.5/38/L.27 did not meet all the concerns voiced, those concerns must be made known to the Secretary-General. If the Secretary-General was not prepared to take the necessary action, then the General Assembly should envisage ways of ensuring that its resolutions were implemented.

68. Mr. RODRIGUEZ CEDEÑO (Venezuela) expressed his delegation's support for draft resolution A/C.5/38/L.27 and in particular paragraph 3, which reflected the concerns expressed during the debate.

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69. Mr. RAKAU (German Democratic Republic) agreed with the representatives of the Netherlands and Barbados that draft resolutions A/C.5/38/L.19 and A/C.5/38/L.27 should be adopted without a vote.

70. Mr. BANGURA (Sierra Leone) observed that most of the issues covered in draft resolution A/C.5/38/L.27 were consistent with his delegation's position. In his delegation's opinion, the draft resolution accommodated the various views expressed on that issue and contained guidelines to help the Secretary-General to implement personnel policies. He therefore appealed to the Committee to adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

71. Mr. DITZ (Austria) said that, although in a spirit of co-operation his delegation was prepared to accept draft resolution A/C.5/38/L.27, it had hoped to have a more balanced resolution on personnel questions. Career development was such an important item that it deserved greater weight. In that connection, he asked whether the Secretary-General intended to submit a progress report on the implementation of the medium-term plan for career development.

72. Mr. KUTTNER (United States of America) observed that draft resolution A/C.5/38/L.19 made no mention of the case of Alicija Wesolowska, who was currently in prison in Poland. He therefore asked what progress had been made in efforts to obtain her release.

73. Mr. KAZEMBE (Zambia) said that his delegation supported draft resolution A/C.5/38/L.19. He recalled that in a statement made on 11 November 1983 his delegation had requested the issuance of a corrigendum to a report of the Secretary-General which stated that a United Nations official had been arrested in Zambia. Thus far, he had still not seen the corrigendum. He hoped that, in future, reports of the arrest of United Nations officials would also contain information about the charges levelled against the officials concerned.

74. Mr. ORTEGA (Mexico) said that his delegation had hoped that draft resolution A/C.5/38/L.27 would be couched in stronger terms. Although 1983 was not a personnel year, it considered that personnel questions could have been discussed more thoroughly in the context of the administrative reform being carried out by the Secretary-General. It was still awaiting the submission of information by the Secretary-General on various matters, including the medium-term recruitment plan. However, his delegation shared the concern expressed with regard to the inadequate representation of certain countries and about the recruitment and promotion of women, and it therefore supported draft resolution A/C.5/38/L.27.

75. Mr. NEGRE (Assistant Secretary-General for Personnel Services) observed that the reference to the lack of progress contained in the third preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.5/38/L.27 seemed somewhat strong; even though the goal of 25 per cent had not yet been attained, the proportion of women in the Secretariat had risen from 15 per cent to 22.3 per cent since 1978.

76. Replying to the question from the representative of Austria, he noted that the Secretary-General had already indicated that, in 1984, he would submit a report on career development.

77. Mr. RUEDAS (Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management), replying to the question from the representative of the United States, said that the Secretary-General had raised the case of Miss Alicija Wesolowska with the Government of Poland on many occasions. Since the case was still not closed and since the contacts were proceeding, he did not wish to say anything more for the time being.
78. Draft resolution A/C.5/38/L.19 was adopted without a vote.
79. Draft resolution A/C.5/38/L.27 was adopted without a vote.
80. Ms. BIRD (Australia) said that, although her delegation welcomed the consensus reached in connection with draft resolution A/C.5/38/L.27, it regretted the fact that the draft resolution did not reflect more fully the concerns which many Member States had expressed during the discussion. However, she trusted that the Secretary-General would take those concerns into account and she looked forward to receiving the report he was to submit at the next session.
81. Mr. ELIASHIV (Israel) said that, if a vote had been taken on draft resolution A/C.5/38/L.19, his delegation would have abstained. The reference to the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/C.5/38/18 was no longer relevant, since all the detainees at the Ansar camp had been released. By the same token, General Assembly resolution 37/236 B was no longer applicable. His Government's opinion in that regard had been set out in the letter to the Secretary-General that was cited in part in document A/C.5/38/18.
82. Mr. KUDRYAVTSEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), referring to the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/C.5/38/10, proposed that the Committee's report to the General Assembly in that regard should contain one paragraph taking note of the document and another paragraph requesting the Secretary-General to delete the words "and other personnel policies" from new staff rule 108.1 (d) and to delete new staff rule 108.2 (c). The purpose of that proposal was to eliminate provisions which might be interpreted as giving staff representatives powers that ran counter to Article 97 of the Charter concerning the role of the Secretary-General as the chief administrative officer of the Organization. His delegation had held consultations with many other delegations on that matter and it believed that its proposal would help to improve the work of the Secretariat and to prevent any interference with the efforts made by the Secretary-General and his assistants to discharge their duties.
83. Ms. CONWAY (Ireland) asked whether the deletion of the words "and other personnel policies" would conflict with staff regulation 8.1 (a), which contained the same words and which had been adopted by the General Assembly in the annex to resolution 37/235 C. She assumed that the wording of new staff rule 108.2 (c) reflected current practice.
84. Mr. RUEDAS (Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management), referring to the comments made by the representative of the Soviet Union, stressed that the wording of new staff rule 108.2 (c) did not in any way require the

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Secretary-General to implement amendments to the Staff Rules or Regulations only with the concurrence of the staff representatives. The Secretary-General maintained his authority under the Charter, under the Staff Regulations and under the Staff Rules, in particular rule 112.2. Moreover, a recommendation from a joint staff-management body would still be sufficient to meet the requirement of consultation contained in previous rules.

85. Mr. RAKAU (German Democratic Republic) proposed that, in the light of the explanation provided by the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management, the meeting should be suspended so that informal consultations might be held with a view to finding a compromise solution to the question.

The meeting was suspended at 9.45 p.m. and resumed at 9.50 p.m.

86. Mr. RAKAU (German Democratic Republic) said that during the informal consultations it had been agreed that the Secretary-General should review the proposals contained in document A/C.5/38/10.

87. Mr. KUDRYAVTSEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said it was his understanding that the informal consultations in which the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management had participated, had yielded an agreement that the Committee should request the Secretary-General to review the text of new rules 108.1 (d) and 108.2 in the light of the proposal made by his delegation.

88. Mr. RAKAU (German Democratic Republic) endorsed that interpretation.

89. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to request the Secretary-General to review the text of new rules 108.1 (d) and 108.2, as contained in document A/C.5/38/10, in light of the proposal made by the Soviet delegation.

90. It was so decided.

91. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to take note of the amendments to the Staff Rules contained in document A/C.5/38/10.

92. It was so decided.

93. The CHAIRMAN announced that the Committee had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 116.

AGENDA ITEM 108: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1982-1983 (continued)
(A/C.5/38/49 and Add.1-33; A/38/748)

94. The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of the Committee to the report of the Secretary-General on programme budget performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1982-1983 contained in document A/C.5/38/49 and Add.1-33 and the relevant

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report of the Advisory Committee contained in document A/38/748. He wished to remind the Committee that, at its 61st meeting, it had approved without a vote an additional appropriation of \$240,000 under section 22 of the programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983. Furthermore, at the 69th meeting, the Committee had decided to inform the General Assembly that the advance to UNITAR provided for in draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.47/Rev.1 should be financed by an additional appropriation of \$886,000 under temporary section 33 of the programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983. Those two decisions of the Committee were not reflected in the report of the Secretary-General under consideration.

95. Mr. TOMMO MONTHE (United Republic of Cameroon) observed that, while the Chairman had referred to decisions taken by the Committee with regard to UNITAR and UNDRO, he had failed to mention the decisions which the Committee had taken earlier at the present meeting.

96. Mr. FORAN (Controller), responding to the question of the representative of the United Republic of Cameroon, drew the attention of the Committee to paragraph 3 of document of A/C.5/38/49, which contained a table summarizing the performance of the programme budget for the current biennium. The table showed that net requirements had decreased by \$4,074,000. As a result of the decisions taken by the Committee at its 61st and 69th meetings, \$240,000 (the amount of the additional appropriation for UNDRO) and \$886,000 (the amount of the additional appropriation for UNITAR) should be deducted from the total decrease in net requirements, to yield a new total of \$2,948,000.

97. In the wake of the decisions taken earlier in the present meeting with regard to UNIDO and the Industrial Development Decade for Africa, he wished to point out that, of the \$2,948,000 remaining, \$1 million had been placed in a suspense account. The remaining \$1,948,000 would then be applied against the assessments of Member States for 1984.

98. Mr. TOMMO MONTHE (United Republic of Cameroon) said that he was satisfied with the Controller's explanation.

99. Mr. KELLER (United States of America) said that, despite the reductions indicated in document A/C.5/38/49 and addenda, his delegation could not support the revised estimates of expenditure and income contained in that document. The savings reported for the current biennium were largely the result of currency adjustments and unexpectedly lower rates of inflation, while the rate of real growth had reached an unacceptably high level. The Secretariat had estimated that rate to be 4.4 per cent at the close of the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly, and he requested the Secretariat to provide a current figure, taking into account the adjustments reflected in the report under consideration.

100. He wished to draw the Committee's attention to the reduction of \$212,300 reported in paragraph 1.15 of section B of document A/C.5/38/49/Add.1. The practices which had resulted in those savings showed that the Secretary-General was able to meet legislative commitments by means of a rational management of resources, and his delegation encouraged further efforts of that kind.

(Mr. Keller, United States)

101. At the same time, however, an increase of \$47,700 had been reported under section 4 for travel and subsistence of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination in connection with its resumed session (A/C.5/38/49/Add.4, para. 4.6). That session had been approved on the understanding that the additional costs involved would be absorbed by the Secretariat; instead, they had been passed on to Member States. His delegation therefore wished to know why that increase had been reported without any indication being provided as to how it was to be covered. Substantial increases had also been reported for administrative costs under many sections, including an increase of more than \$1.4 million for overtime under section 29 alone. If Member States wished to strengthen substantive programmes they must try to reduce the number of meetings and level of documentation.

102. His delegation did not agree that savings generated from corrections for inflation and exchange rates should be spent on additional substantive activities or administrative expenses; rather, they should be passed on to Member States in the form of reductions in assessments for the following biennium.

103. Mr. TOMMO MONTHE (United Republic of Cameroon) drew attention to paragraph 7 of document A/C.5/38/49, which indicated that the effect on the budget of decisions of policy-making organs was considerably less than the effect of any other phenomenon. It was thus apparent that those organs had been prudent in taking decisions involving new expenditures. Moreover, the fact that policy-making organs chose to take such decisions was related to the inherently dynamic nature of the budget.

104. Mr. KHALEVINSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said it appeared that the Secretariat had done little to realize savings in the programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983. His delegation was concerned that the reduction in expenditures had been largely the result of a reduction in the inflation rate. At the same time, the Secretariat had overspent in a great many areas, a fact which was unacceptable to his delegation. In preparing the programme budget performance report for 1982-1983, the Secretariat had failed to implement General Assembly resolution 3534 (XXX), which stipulated that such reports should include relevant information on the staff and resources released as a result of the completion, reduction, reorganization, merging, elimination or otherwise of United Nations programmes, projects or activities. Nor had it implemented General Assembly resolution 31/93, which stressed the responsibility of the Secretary-General to draw to the attention of the competent bodies activities that were obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective, indicating the resources which could be released so that they might take the necessary action. Bearing that in mind, and in view of the fact that the Soviet Union had voted against General Assembly resolution 36/116 B, because it provided that the surplus arising at the end of the current biennium should be made available to the Secretariat, his delegation could not endorse the report contained in document A/C.5/38/49 and Add.1-33. He requested that the question should be put to a vote, in which case his delegation would vote against it.

105. Mr. van HELLENBERG HUBAR (Netherlands) said that, as an expression of the importance which it attached to the Organization, his delegation traditionally voted in favour of programme budget performance reports. However, while the percentage of budgetary growth indicated in the current report appeared lower than in previous years, that was in fact due to a windfall resulting from inflation and currency exchange rates. The resources saved should be returned to Member States and not used to finance new activities. Despite the commendable work of the Advisory Committee, many opportunities to realize savings through redeployment had been missed: in fact, a number of decisions taken during the current session of the General Assembly would increase the budget. He wished to draw particular attention in that connection to the holding of conferences away from Headquarters.

106. Like other speakers, he also wished to be informed of the real growth figure for the 1982-1983 budget. Unfortunately, under the current circumstances, his delegation would be forced to break with tradition and abstain in the vote on the programme budget performance report.

107. Mr. FORAN (Controller) said that he hoped to be able to provide information regarding the actual growth rate of the budget at a subsequent meeting. With regard to the costs for the resumed twenty-third session of CPC, he pointed out that paragraph 11 of part I of the report of CPC (A/38/38) indicated that the Committee had decided to hold a resumed session after being informed by the Secretariat, in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council, that the costs incurred in holding the resumed session could be absorbed within existing resources. He then drew the attention of the Committee to the table contained in annex II to document A/C.5/38/49, which provided a breakdown of estimated additional requirements or decreases by section and by main object of expenditure. It could be seen that under section 4, a decrease for travel amounting to \$179,000 was registered, while total expenditures showed that expenditures for travel had decreased by \$155,000 overall.

108. The CHAIRMAN proposed that, on the basis of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, and taking into account the decisions taken by the Fifth Committee at its 61st and 69th meetings with regard to UNDRO and UNITAR respectively, the Fifth Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that it should approve revised estimates for the biennium 1982-1983 in the amounts shown under the revised estimates columns in tables 1 and 2 of annex I to document A/C.5/38/49, except that the amount for section 22 would be increased by \$240,000 and an amount of \$886,000 would be included under temporary section 33 (Advance to UNITAR), with the total for all expenditure sections to be increased accordingly.

109. The Chairman's proposal was adopted by 58 votes to 13, with 8 abstentions.

110. Mr. MURRAY (United Kingdom) said that, despite the Advisory Committee's recommendations his delegation had voted against the Chairman's proposal because the performance report incorporated significant budgetary growth. His delegation awaited the final figure with some interest, but imagined that it would be a long way from the objective it advocated, which was zero real growth. The \$4 million in savings was much more the result of favourable shifts in exchange rates and

(Mr. Murray, United Kingdom)

inflation than of any economy drive within the Secretariat. Such shifts could not always be relied upon: they might equally well be in the wrong direction. The need for economy and budgetary restraint, however, was a constant.

111. Mr. ELIASHIV (Israel) said that he had voted against approval of the performance report in view of his delegation's position on the programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983 and, in particular, the sections, sub-items and programmes concerned with anti-Israeli activities.

112. Mr. EL SAFTY (Egypt) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the performance report, believing that the Secretariat had done a very good job in producing savings over the biennium. He commended the Secretariat for its efforts, and expressed his view that there was no such thing as zero real growth.

The meeting rose at 11.15 p.m.