



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 40th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. KUYAMA (Japan)

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

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The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

AGENDA ITEMS 109 AND 110: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1984-1985 AND PROGRAMME PLANNING (continued) (A/38/3 (Part II) and Corr.1, A/38/6, A/38/7, A/38/38)

First reading (continued)

1. Mr. FORAN (Controller), responding to questions on the proposed budget asked at previous meetings by the representatives of Sweden, the United States and the United Kingdom, said that an evaluation study on international drug control would be prepared in time to be reviewed by CPC at its twenty-fifth session, in 1985. Preparatory work had already begun, and work on the actual study was due to commence in early 1984. Provision had been made in the proposed programme budget for implementing some of the recommendations arising out of the Administrative Management Service's review of the three drug control units in 1981. Other recommended changes had already been put into effect by the Division of Narcotic Drugs and the secretariats of the International Narcotics Control Board and United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control. Since mid-1983 the secretariat of the Fund had been united in Vienna, as recommended by AMS, and all three secretariats seemed to have recovered from the repercussions of their move in 1979. Other recommendations resulting from the AMS review would be evaluated by the high-level advisory group on administrative reform established by the Secretary-General.

2. The Division of Narcotic Drugs was chiefly responsible for implementing United Nations drug control policy, but taking decisions on operational matters was the prerogative of the Fund. The Director of the Division served as adviser to the Fund's Executive Director. The relationship between the Division and the secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board was satisfactory but somewhat distant: the two units had been set up at different times to deal with different, although related, problems. At its forty-second session the Economic and Social Council had decided that the Board should have a secretariat distinct from that of the Division, and that administrative measures should be taken to protect the confidential character of the Board's correspondence and other papers. The arrangement with separate secretariats had been prolonged under resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-fourth and sixty-first sessions. In short, the Division was a part of the regular-budget establishment of the Secretariat, the Fund was an extrabudgetary activity, and the International Narcotics Control Board, a treaty organ, was serviced by its own secretariat, as stipulated by the Economic and Social Council. Despite the apparent complexity of the arrangements, co-ordination was a less difficult problem than it appeared. No efforts were spared to ensure that maximum use was made of the resources placed at the disposal of the drug control programme.

3. The United States representative had inquired about the estimates for revenue from television and similar services under income section 2. Such revenue depended entirely on the demand by media organizations, correspondents and delegations, which in turn was largely determined by what the media considered newsworthy. The estimate for 1984-1985 was based on the average annual income received over the

(Mr. Foran, Controller)

period from 1980 to 1982, which was approximately \$750,000. Had it not been for certain special events during the current biennium, such as the second special session devoted to disarmament, the Organization's income from television and similar services would have fallen short of the estimate. The rates charged for television and similar services were periodically updated by an inter-departmental working group on pricing policies comprising representatives of AMS, OFS, OGS and DPI. The charges had last been revised in 1982.

4. The item under income section 2 entitled "Refund of previous years' expenditure" covered refunds of United Nations expenditure received after the books for the financial period in question had been closed. (When refunds were made in time, the necessary adjustments were reflected in the expenditure statements for the financial period in question.) The item covered refunds against unused transportation tickets, undeliverable goods, and the taxes on items such as telephone, telegraph and electricity services and gasoline that were paid at certain duty stations. The refunds were recorded under income section 2 in accordance with financial rule 102.7.

Section 15. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (continued)
(A/38/7/Add.2; A/C.5/38/4 and Corr.1 and 2, A/C.5/38/12, A/C.5/38/20, A/C.5/38/CRP.3)

5. Mr. SARRIS (Greece), speaking on behalf of the European Community, reminded members of the active role played by the Community in the sixth session of UNCTAD and the significance it attached to the implementation of the Conference's resolutions.

6. The estimate for section 15 for the forthcoming biennium had risen by 0.7 per cent in real terms. The Community regarded that development as a positive one, in that it might indicate better co-ordination within the UNCTAD secretariat in dealing with its enlarged mandate. There was, nevertheless, room for redeployment in the appropriations requested, as stated in the agreed conclusions of the Trade and Development Board's Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget. One area where redeployments might be appropriate was the hiring of consultants for tasks which might be performed by Secretariat staff. It was also essential for UNCTAD to avoid duplicating the work of other bodies within the United Nations system. The practice of providing for additional weeks of meetings in which not all the allocated days would be used should be discouraged. Additionally, a number of programmes could have benefited from closer examination. As the Working Party had stated, the UNCTAD budget should reflect all the pertinent resolutions and decisions taken by intergovernmental bodies and conferences of UNCTAD. For example, since the Trade and Development Board had not yet finalized the work programme on protectionism and structural adjustment, the Secretariat should not prejudge the issue. There were still serious problems concerning future work on the Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries (GSTP) under the UNCTAD programme "Economic co-operation among developing countries" (ECDC), especially where the calendar of meetings was concerned. During meetings of the Working Party the 10 EEC States had made a number of other comments and criticisms in relation to elements 1.1, 1.2, 1.4 and 1.5 of the ECDC programme.

(Mr. Sarris, Greece)

7. It was regrettable that the UNCTAD secretariat had been unable to propose priorities within its budget. In the circumstances, it would be particularly useful for it to propose the sectors to which intergovernmental organs should give priority. The 10 EEC States wished to underline the Working Party's view that subprogrammes and programme elements should be presented more clearly and in greater detail when the proposed programme budget of UNCTAD for the biennium 1986-1987 was submitted.

8. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) expressed support for the Secretary-General's revised estimates under section 15 and welcomed the impetus that the sixth session of UNCTAD had given to the Agreement Establishing the Common Fund. He hoped that the momentum would be sustained so that the requisite number of ratifications was reached as soon as possible. His delegation had noted the agreed conclusions of the Working Party and hoped that the positive points they made, in paragraph 5 in particular, would encourage the UNCTAD secretariat to comply with established budgetary procedures.

9. Mr. MURRAY (United Kingdom) said that his delegation welcomed the views of the Working Party, which, it felt, were a valuable contribution to the Fifth Committee's discussions on the revised estimates for UNCTAD. The Committee's discussions were sometimes complicated by the fact that UNCTAD was based in Geneva while its budget was considered and approved in New York. The Working Party's recommendations would help to ensure that the subject was seen in the same light in both places. Indeed, his delegation would have preferred to wait for the full report of the Working Party to become available before taking up the matter in the Fifth Committee.

10. It was unfortunate that circumstances had prevented CPC from taking more than a superficial look at the estimates under section 15. His delegation hoped that future meeting schedules would allow plenty of time for proposals to be considered in the manner prescribed by the General Assembly.

11. The Greek representative, speaking on behalf of the European Community, had taken up a number of points which would have been raised by CPC if proper procedures had been followed. Members had been told that real growth under section 15 was 0.7 per cent, but the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/38/7/Add.2) appeared to suggest that further proposals might be forthcoming once the Secretariat had had time to digest the decisions adopted at the sixth UNCTAD session. That possibility caused his delegation concern: it already had misgivings about the increase in the amounts requested for consultants and for staff travel and the expansion of executive direction and management in UNCTAD, as well as the proposed introduction of a major word processing system before an overall review of documentation needs had been completed. Every paragraph of the Working Party's conclusions (A/C.5/38/CRP.3, annex) suggested significant concern on the part of Member States: there were allusions to the incomplete reflection in the budget proposals of intergovernmental decisions and mandates, to the need for redeployment to carry out the work programme, to the want of clarity on budgetary procedure and detail, and to the desirability of making economies.

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(Mr. Murray, United Kingdom)

12. The conclusions of the Working Party should be given serious consideration, for they represented the workmanlike views of representatives from all regions. His delegation looked forward to receiving the Secretariat's response to them. It was only regrettable that the Party had not pursued the logic of its recommendations to the point of specifying what economies should be sought in the context of paragraph 4 of its draft agreed conclusions (A/C.5/38/CRP.3, annex). It might well be that common ground could be found for such economies: the representative of Greece had already alluded to the large sums for consultants and for staff travel. He wished to point out that the Economic Policy Co-ordination Unit, for which over \$1 million was requested, had no specified output, and the D-2 post at its head had been vacant for almost two years.

13. It was hard to believe that maximum restraint had been exercised in preparing the budget estimates for section 15. As far as his delegation was concerned, zero real growth should be the budgetary goal of the United Nations. Analysis of estimates for UNCTAD suggested that zero real growth was quite compatible with the objective of efficient programme delivery.

14. Mr. OKEYO (Kenya) stressed the importance his delegation attached to UNCTAD's programmes and the budgetary appropriations for them. His delegation strongly supported the Secretary-General's proposals and was prepared to discuss a reasonable compromise on the recommendations of the Working Party, but did not fully agree with some of the Working Party's views. It would support the Advisory Committee's recommendations as long as provision for putting into effect the programmes agreed upon at the sixth session of UNCTAD was made in the estimates.

15. Mr. EMENYI (Nigeria) said that his delegation supported the Advisory Committee's recommendations, but felt the time had come for all United Nations institutions to become more concerned with the struggle of the developing countries, particularly those in Africa to improve the lot of their peoples. In the estimates under section 15, approximately \$8.6 million was allocated to money, finance and development. Under the 1980 Lagos Plan of Action, the countries of Africa had pledged to pool their resources for development. He wished to know specifically how the funds provided under the UNCTAD budget would assist in the realization of that goal. Approximately \$3.7 million was earmarked for the transfer of technology; the rates of growth of developing countries in Africa were among the lowest in the world, and transfers of appropriate technology to them would considerably speed up their rate of development, particularly in the agricultural field. He therefore asked for specific information on the programmes which UNCTAD would undertake to give effect to that important aspect of African development. A major impediment to the development of trade in developing countries was the lack of shipping and transport facilities. Under the UNCTAD proposals, some \$3.8 million was earmarked for shipping, ports and multimodal transport. He asked for a breakdown of that sum by item of expenditure, and for information on how the money spent would help to improve facilities in the developing countries, especially those in Africa. Another \$4.8 million was allocated to manufactures and semi-manufactures. He wanted to know what

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(Mr. Emenyi, Nigeria)

programmes, if any, were planned to enhance efforts by African countries to participate in world-wide trade in manufactures and semi-manufactures. Finally, he pointed out that the rising cost of imports and falling commodity prices were having a devastating effect on the economies of most African nations. He wished to know how the \$8 million requested under the commodities programme would affect the economies of African States, which were largely dependent on the export of raw materials.

16. Mr. ELIASHIV (Israel) said that his country attached great importance to various UNCTAD activities and was well known for its support of ECDC, as its extensive economic and technical co-operation with other developing countries showed. It felt, however, that all interested developing countries should be able to participate in ECDC activities and programmes, on the basis of sovereign equality and universality. It had serious reservations about activities where those principles were not respected.

17. The establishment of a special economic unit concerned with assistance to the Palestinian people, referred to in paragraphs 5 and 8 (c) of the revised estimates (A/C.5/38/4), in addition to all the existing units with similar functions, set a scandalous precedent by widening the scope of the vicious anti-Israeli campaign that was being conducted in many parts of the United Nations with resources supplied by Member States. His delegation would oppose the inclusion of that item.

18. Mr. OFTEGA (Mexico) said that UNCTAD's programmes and activities were of fundamental importance to his delegation. UNCTAD was the supreme negotiating forum for the economic issues that all countries had to face. The appropriations approved under section 15 must include appropriations for carrying out the decisions taken by UNCTAD at its sixth session. The Committee should endorse the Secretary-General's revised estimates, as the Advisory Committee recommended.

19. Mr. PIRSON (Belgium) asked whether he was correct in his understanding that, after the revised estimates for section 15 had been prepared, a decision had been taken in Geneva to schedule four weeks of meetings on ECDC. If he was right, he would also like to know where the Secretariat proposed to find the funds for those meetings: would other commitments under section 15 be reduced, or would the money come from an altogether different source?

20. Mr. FORAN (Controller) said that the four weeks of meetings devoted to economic co-operation among developing countries would be financed from the provision for the UNCTAD calendar of meetings approved by the Trade and Development Board. All UNCTAD meetings were covered under section 29B of the budget, the resources required under section 15 being for the UNCTAD secretariat, in addition to which there was a provision under section 28 for administrative and common services. In fact, section 29B covered all meetings held in Geneva, not just those of UNCTAD, which accounted for approximately one third of the total. The Trade and Development Board met twice a year and adopted a calendar of meetings. Within each schedule approved there was a provision of 16 weeks of meetings for working groups, expert groups and study groups. The four weeks of meetings for economic co-operation among developing countries would be financed from that provision, and would thus fall under the regular budget.

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21. Mr. HANSEN (Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination) said that UNCTAD activities on the transfer of technology, were concerned with general research on the framework for transferring technology, they were not focused on individual countries, except as a background for specific UNCTAD projects. UNCTAD did, however, organize missions to advise individual Governments on request. It would be possible to state which countries had benefited from such missions in the programme performance report.

22. Mr. PIRSON (Belgium) said that the appropriation for 16 weeks of meetings for UNCTAD had been made before the decision to hold the 4 weeks of meetings had been taken. It thus seemed that the original appropriation had been excessive, since it was now being proposed that additional meetings should be financed from that appropriation. Furthermore, the decision to hold the additional meetings had been taken in Geneva in the absence of all the Western States, including Belgium, which had thus been prevented from joining in the decision. His Government was extremely interested in UNCTAD's activities, and wished to be included in decisions relating to that body.

23. Mr. EMENYI (Nigeria) said that his delegation was not satisfied with the explanations given by the Secretariat. Only one of his questions had been answered. He still wished to know to what extent UNCTAD was participating in the development of subregions in Africa, what help African countries were receiving in developing secondary industries, and what support was being given to the development of shipping and transport. Further, many African countries were not aware of the advisory services provided by UNCTAD; the Secretariat should bring them to the attention of Governments.

24. Mr. HANSEN (Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination) said that the specific contribution made by UNCTAD to particular subregional development efforts depended on its technical aid programme, which depended in turn on the budgetary resources available and whether requests were received from countries. In fact, the major part of UNCTAD's technical assistance activities were carried out in Africa for the benefit of African States. The Secretariat would make sure that information on advisory services was provided to Governments.

25. Mr. EL-SAFY (Egypt) said he wished to receive an assurance from the Controller that the four weeks of meetings could in fact be financed from appropriations already approved.

26. Mr. FORAN (Controller) said that the calendar of meetings approved by the Trade and Development Board contained two general provisions. The first related to 16 weeks of meetings for working groups, study groups and expert groups, while the second related to 40 weeks of commodity meetings. The meetings of those two categories of groups were the only ones which were scheduled as the need arose, all other meetings being scheduled for specific dates. There would be no problem in accommodating the four weeks of meetings for economic co-operation among developing countries for 1984 within those general provisions.

27. Mr. EL-SAFTY (Egypt) inquired which category the meetings on economic co-operation among developing countries would fall in.

28. Mr. FORAN (Controller) said that he did not have sufficient information to reply to the representative of Egypt in more detail, but that the meetings would be financed from the general provisions. To date, the provision for 16 weeks of meetings had not been used, so that it would be easy to accommodate the meetings on economic co-operation among developing countries from it.

29. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to endorse the conclusions and recommendations of CPC regarding section 15 (A/38/38, Part II, paras. 266 and 267).

30. It was so decided.

31. The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of Israel had requested a separate vote on the provision for the establishment of a special economic unit to assist the Palestinian people. That provision would cover salaries, common staff costs and travel and would amount to \$218,000.

32. Mr. ELIASHIV (Israel) said it appeared from paragraph 8 of document A/C.5/38/4 that an amount of \$408,700 was involved.

33. Mr. DUQUE (Secretary of the Committee) said that the figure cited by the representative of Israel represented 8 per cent of the programme total and failed to take account of the 50 per cent turnover deduction. The provision of \$218,000 comprised \$143,800 for salaries, \$41,700 for common staff costs and \$32,500 for travel at 1984-1985 prices.

34. Mr. ELDIN (Sudan) said that his delegation fully supported the rights of the Palestinian people and would support the establishment of the economic unit.

35. Mr. MASARWEH (Jordan) said that, as it would be inhuman to deprive the Palestinian people of assistance, his delegation supported the establishment of the special economic unit.

36. Mr. EL-SAFTY (Egypt) said that his delegation would support the appropriations under section 15 of the budget. The Fifth Committee was concerned with the financial implications of decisions, and he was surprised that some delegations had sought to introduce political considerations into its debates. Egypt would vote in favour of establishing the special economic unit.

37. The inclusion in section 15 of a provision of \$218,000 relating to the establishment of a special economic unit to assist the Palestinian people was approved by 75 votes to 2, with 20 abstentions.

38. Mr. AMNEUS (Sweden), speaking in explanation of vote, said that he had abstained for purely budgetary reasons. His delegation had voted in favour of UNCTAD resolution 146 (VI) but had reservations concerning the establishment of a

(Mr. Amneus, Sweden)

special economic unit. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD should have been given a more general mandate to undertake the necessary activities within the present structure of his organization.

39. The CHAIRMAN proposed that, in accordance with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee (A/38/7/Add.2, para. 10), the Fifth Committee should approve in first reading an appropriation of \$55,194,600 and should note that an additional appropriation of \$99,800 would be required under section 31, to be offset by income in the same amount under income section 1.

40. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation in the amount of \$55,194,600 under section 15 for the biennium 1984-1985 was approved in first reading by 87 votes to 2, with 7 abstentions.

41. Mr. TAKASU (Japan) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the appropriation for section 15 because of its strong commitment to UNCTAD. However, it had a number of reservations with regard to some of the programmes of UNCTAD. His delegation hoped that its reservations would be taken into account by the Secretariat and that the Secretary-General would effect the necessary redeployment of resources and personnel within the approved budget. It also hoped that in his future budget proposals the Secretary-General would remedy the shortcomings in the UNCTAD budget and programme by conforming to the generally applicable principles of budgeting and programme planning.

42. Mr. BELYAEV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that his delegation had abstained in the voting for several reasons of principle. First, the competent intergovernmental body had not been able to conduct a proper review of the programme aspects of the budget proposals for UNCTAD. Second, in many cases, insufficient justification had been advanced for the Secretary-General's requests; in particular, a case had not been made for the increase in expenditure on experts and consultants, staff travel and conference servicing. His delegation supported in principle the establishment of a special economic unit on assistance to the Palestinian people. However, it should have been possible to finance the necessary posts through a redeployment of resources. There was no justification for any additional expenditure in that connection.

43. Mr. HOLBORN (Federal Republic of Germany) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the appropriation on the assumption that the savings would be made, as requested by the Working Party of the Trade and Development Board.

44. Mr. MURRAY (United Kingdom) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the appropriation in the expectation that the Secretary-General of UNCTAD would take note of the conclusions reached by the Working Party of the Trade and Development Board and would be successful in achieving economies in the 1984-1985 budget.

45. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to turn to the question of the preparatory work for bringing the Common Fund into operation. In that connection, the Advisory Committee recommended, for the biennium 1984-1985, the approval of an additional

(The Chairman)

appropriation of \$942,000 under section 15, an increase of \$1,750,500 in the estimate of income under income section 2, and an additional appropriation of \$49,700 under section 31, to be offset by income in the same amount under income section 1 (A/38/7/Add.2, paras. 11 and 12).

46. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an additional appropriation of \$942,000 under section 15 for the biennium 1984-1985 was approved in first reading without a vote.

47. The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of members to the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, presented orally at the 39th meeting, on interim arrangements for the International Jute Council. The Advisory Committee recommended an additional appropriation of \$104,000 under section 15 for the biennium 1984-1985 and an increase of \$150,000 in the estimate of income under income section 2.

48. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an additional appropriation of \$104,000 under section 15 for the biennium 1984-1985 was approved in first reading without a vote.

49. Mr. MANSOUR (Observer, Palestine Liberation Organization) expressed appreciation to all those Member States which had voted in favour of establishing the special economic unit to investigate and monitor the economic situation of the Palestinian people.

Section 6. Department of International Economic and Social Affairs

50. The CHAIRMAN reminded members that the Joint Inspection Unit had prepared a report on the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs (DIESA), which was contained in document A/38/334. The Secretary-General's views on that report had been circulated in document A/38/334/Add.1. He had been informed that the Advisory Committee intended to submit comments on that report, and he therefore suggested that the Committee should defer a decision on the JIU report and the related comments of the Secretary-General until the Advisory Committee had submitted its own report on them. The Committee could, however, proceed with its consideration of the budget proposals for section 6, and some aspects of the JIU report at the current stage.

51. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Secretary-General had submitted an estimate of \$49,450,300 under section 6 and that the Advisory Committee was recommending an appropriation of \$48,945,500, representing a reduction of \$504,800. The Advisory Committee had indicated redeployment in a number of cases, as specified in paragraph 6.9 of its report. The reductions proposed by the Advisory Committee were explained in paragraphs 6.5, 6.6, 6.14, 6.16, 6.18 and 6.19 of its report.

52. One set of reductions to which he wished to draw particular attention was discussed in paragraphs 6.17 to 6.19. In the past, the Advisory Committee had not made any recommendations with respect to the inclusion in the Secretary-General's estimates of amounts for the contribution to the Committee for Promotion of Aid to

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(Mr. Maelle)

Co-operatives (COPAC) and the ACC Sub-Committee on Nutrition. In its consideration of the budget proposals for the forthcoming biennium, however, the Advisory Committee had decided to seek additional information on the justification for the United Nations contribution and the basis on which the amounts requested had been calculated. In the light of the information provided to it, the Advisory Committee was convinced that there was a need to review the financial arrangements with regard to COPAC and it therefore recommended that, pending such a review, the amount of \$56,200 should be deleted. With regard to the ACC Sub-Committee, the Advisory Committee had been unable to ascertain how the request for \$88,000 had been arrived at, and it was also recommending the deletion of that amount. That did not mean, however, that, if in the future the Secretary-General could justify his requests for those bodies, the Advisory Committee would not support them.

53. The CHAIRMAN said that the discussion of section 6 in CPC was reflected in paragraphs 100 to 138 of part II of its report (A/38/38).

54. Mr. TOMMO MONTHE (United Republic of Cameroon), speaking in his capacity as Vice-Chairman of CPC, said that CPC had made a great many recommendations on section 6. Given the large number of studies planned under that section, he drew attention to the general recommendation of CPC in paragraph 131 of its report that studies should be carried out in accordance with section 8 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197, i.e. they should be action-oriented. Because of the large provision for consultants in section 6, CPC had stressed the importance of adhering to the established criteria for the employment of experts and consultants.

55. Other recommendations of CPC related to the reformulation of specific programme elements in the budget proposals in order to bring them into line with the medium-term plan or to alter the degree of priority assigned to specific programme elements.

56. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that, according to the statement of the Secretary-General reproduced in annex I to the report of CPC (A/38/38, Part II), the deletion of programme elements as recommended by CPC would not release any resources under section 6.

57. Mr. AMNEUS (Sweden) said that the Advisory Committee's rejection of the requests for COPAC seemed to be based largely on a lack of information about its activities in recent years. In order to be able to take an informed decision, he would like to have clarification on a number of points. Specifically, he wished to know what was the exact role of the United Nations in COPAC, whether there was potential for duplication of effort in the field of COPAC's activities, why no report on the activities of COPAC had been submitted to the Economic and Social Council, and what the effect of discontinuing the United Nations contribution would be.

58. With regard to the ACC Sub-Committee, his delegation wished to know when the Sub-Committee had been set up, how and to what extent the United Nations participated in its activities, why there had been no United Nations representation

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(Mr. Amneus, Sweden)

at its most recent meeting in March 1983, what share of the total contributions to the Sub-Committee was provided by the United Nations, and what effect the discontinuation of the United Nations contribution would have on the Sub-Committee and the status of the United Nations as Chairman of ACC.

59. Mr. KELLER (United States of America), referring to the Secretary-General's comments on the JIU report on the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs (A/38/334/Add.1), said that his delegation accepted the Secretary-General's reasoning and judgement in most cases. In some instances, however, it would have welcomed more ample information on the steps being taken by the Secretariat to implement the JIU recommendations.

60. Regarding recommendation 1, his delegation respected the Secretary-General's reasons for not wishing to transfer the three units from DIESA to the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (DTCD). While welcoming the Secretary-General's recognition of the importance of defining the terms of reference of DIESA, his delegation was disturbed that no action had yet been taken to do so. It could not agree, as the Secretary-General seemed to imply, that he needed to await the submission of the JIU report on the implementation of resolution 32/197 in 1984. He therefore urged the Secretary-General to take action without delay. His delegation was not wholly satisfied with the Secretary-General's response to recommendation 2. The Secretary-General's contention that the existing arrangements were sufficient was not supported by the JIU's findings. In the view of his delegation, recommendation 2 was still relevant and valid. In so far as recommendation 3 was concerned, it was encouraging that the Secretary-General recognized the need to do more to improve the mechanisms for co-ordination among DIESA, DTCD and the Office of the Director-General. The Secretary-General's response to recommendation 4 was not altogether satisfactory; his delegation supported the intent of the recommendation and felt that more needed to be done in that area. His delegation found some merit in the arguments advanced in favour of moving the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (CSDHA) back to New York from Vienna (recommendation 5), but respected the Secretary-General's opinion to the contrary. His delegation strongly supported recommendation 6, because evaluation responsibilities were currently too widely dispersed among Secretariat units. The evaluation function in DTCD should also be included in the central unit recommended. His delegation noted that the Secretary-General had stated that the matter was under active review and that he expected to present his views to the General Assembly in 1984. It regretted only that action in that important area had been delayed for so long. His delegation supported recommendation 7 and regretted that the Secretary-General had chosen to withhold comment until the thirty-ninth session.

61. With respect to section 6 of the proposed budget, his delegation was concerned at the excessive use of consultants and ad hoc expert groups and considered that such a practice was not conducive to the optimum use of regular staff resources. It supported the reductions recommended by the Advisory Committee in the funds requested for that purpose and concurred in its recommendations on the section as a whole.

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62. Mr. TAKASU (Japan) said that his delegation supported on the whole the recommendations of ACABQ and CPC on section 6. He wondered, however, whether the two temporary posts which had originally been authorized in connection with the World Assembly on Aging and the International Year of Disabled Persons and which ACABQ recommended should be approved for one more year could not be reassigned to the preparations for the 1985 World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women.

63. CPC had recommended the deletion or merger of a number of programme elements under section 6. The Secretary-General's statement of the programme, financial and administrative implications of those recommendations (A/38/38, Part II, annex I) raised serious doubts as to the validity of the breakdown of the programmes under section 6 into the various programme elements. Some of the programme elements did not represent a clearly identifiable output or activity, and in some cases they seemed meaningless. Although CPC recommended the deletion of programme element 7.2 under the programme on world statistics, the Secretary-General provided no explanation of the programme and financial implications of that recommendation.

64. Turning to the Secretary-General's comments on the JIU report concerning DIESA (A/38/334/Add.1), he fully concurred with the Secretary-General's reasons for maintaining in DIESA the three units which JIU proposed to transfer to DTCD. His delegation also supported the Secretary-General's position on the proposed transfer of the CSDHA from Vienna to New York. It did not agree, however, with the Secretary-General that the main reason for the problems in CSDHA which had been identified by JIU was insufficient resources. Due attention had not been paid to the need to delegate authority to CSDHA. His delegation accepted the Secretary-General's views with regard to recommendation 6 and looked forward to the submission of his proposals on that subject to the thirty-ninth session.

65. Lastly, his delegation endorsed JIU recommendation 7 in document A/38/334.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.