

UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/32/454
13 December 1977

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-second session
Agenda item 100

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1978-1979

Question of the enlargement of the Advisory Committee on
Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Peter G. BELYAEV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic)

1. The Fifth Committee considered the question of the enlargement of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions at its 55th and 62nd meetings, on 2 and 13 December 1977.
2. At the 55th meeting, the representative of Sierra Leone introduced a draft resolution (A/C.5/32/L.26) on behalf of Bangladesh, Egypt, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Pakistan, Panama, Sierra Leone, the United Republic of Cameroon, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. The Syrian Arab Republic subsequently joined the list of co-sponsors. In the operative paragraphs of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would decide to increase the membership of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions from 13 to 16 members, effective on 1 January 1978, and to make the appropriate amendments to the relevant rules of procedure of the General Assembly.
3. When the Committee considered this question at its 62nd meeting, it had before it a statement of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/32/78), in which he submitted the administrative and financial implications of the 12-Power draft resolution (A/C.5/32/L.26).
4. An oral statement was made by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.
5. The representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland orally proposed that the third preambular paragraph in draft resolution A/C.5/32/L.26, which read as follows:

"Desiring that the application of the principle of equitable geographical distribution should be strengthened by increased participation of developing countries in the Advisory Committee,"

should be amended to read as follows:

"Mindful of rule 156 of the rules of procedure and desiring accordingly to increase the participation of members from developing countries in the Advisory Committee,".

The sponsors of the draft resolution accepted the amendment proposed by the United Kingdom.

6. The Committee decided, without objection, that the appropriate revisions of rules 155, 156 and 157 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly should be made as proposed by the Controller in a working document before the Fifth Committee/. It also decided that the proposed text of the revised rules should be added to operative paragraph 2 of draft resolution A/C.5/32/L.26.

7. The Committee then adopted, without objection, draft resolution A/C.5/32/L.26, as amended (see para. 9 below).

8. The comments made by delegations in the course of the discussion of this item are reflected in the summary records of the Committee (A/C.5/32/SR.55 and 62).

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

9. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Enlargement of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: amendments to rules 155, 156 and 157 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 14 (I) of 13 February 1946 on the establishment of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and its resolutions 1659 (XVI) of 28 November 1961 and 2798 (XXVI) of 13 December 1971 on the expansion of the Committee,

Noting that the membership of the United Nations has increased substantially since the adoption of the resolutions expanding the Advisory Committee, 1/

1/ General Assembly resolutions 1659 (XVI) of 28 November 1961 and 2798 (XXVI) of 13 December 1971.

Mindful of rule 156 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly 2/ and desiring, accordingly, to increase the participation of members from developing countries in the Advisory Committee,

1. Decides to increase the membership of the Advisory Committee from thirteen to sixteen members;
2. Decides to amend, with effect from 1 January 1978, the relevant rules of procedure of the General Assembly to read as follows:

Rule 155

The General Assembly shall appoint an Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (hereinafter called the "Advisory Committee"), with a membership of sixteen members, including at least three financial experts of recognized standing.

Rule 156

The members of the Advisory Committee, no two of whom shall be nationals of the same State, shall be selected on the basis of broad geographical representation, personal qualifications and experience and shall serve for a period of three years corresponding to three calendar years. Members shall retire by rotation and shall be eligible for reappointment. The three financial experts shall not retire simultaneously. The General Assembly shall appoint the members of the Advisory Committee at the regular session immediately preceding the expiration of the term of office of the members or, in the case of vacancies, at the next session.

Rule 157

The Advisory Committee shall be responsible for expert examination of the programme budget of the United Nations and shall assist the Administrative and Budgetary Committee (Fifth Committee). At the beginning of each regular session at which the proposed programme budget for the following biennium is to be considered, it shall submit to the General Assembly a detailed report on the proposed programme budget for the next biennium. It shall also submit a report on the accounts of the United Nations and its entities at such times as may be specified in the applicable Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations. 3/ It shall also examine on behalf of the General Assembly the administrative budgets of specialized agencies and proposals for financial and budgetary arrangements with such agencies. It shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to it under the Financial Regulations of the United Nations.

2/ A/520/Rev.12 and Amend.1 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.74.I.6).

3/ ST/SGB/Financial Rules/1/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Amend.1-5.