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Agenda item 100

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1978-1979

Report of the Fifth Committee (Part II)

Rapporteur: Mr. Hamzah Mohammed HAMZAH (Syrian Arab Republic)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Further reports (parts H-P) are herewith transmitted on various subitems dealt with under item 100, Programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979. The present document is the second of a series of reports on item 100 and deals with:

- A. First-class travel in the United Nations;
- B. Revised estimates under section 23 A, Department of Conference Services, and Section 26 B, premises, alteration and improvement;
- C. Revised estimates under section 23 A, Department of Conference Services - Reclassification of posts of Supervisors, Stenographic Service;
- D. Third General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization;
- E. Strengthening of operational activities in the field of industrial development;
- F. Impact of inflation on the budgets of the organizations of the United Nations system;
- G. Presentation of the budget: Advantages and disadvantages of "semi-full budgeting" and implementation of the budget;
- H. Conditions of service and compensation for officials, other than Secretariat officials, serving the General Assembly;
- I. Disarmament Commission and its Committee of the Whole.

## II. CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL SUBJECTS

### A. First-class travel in the United Nations

2. The Committee considered this question at its 46th and 50th meetings on 30 November and 5 December 1978 and had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/33/49). The Committee heard, at the 46th meeting on 30 November, the oral report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions presented by that Committee's Chairman (A/C.5/33/SR.46, paras. 1 and 2).

#### DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

3. At its 50th meeting on 5 December 1978, the Committee decided, by consensus and without debate, to recommend that the General Assembly should take note of the report of the Secretary-General on first-class travel in the United Nations organizations (A/C.5/33/49) (see para. 45 below, draft resolution, sect. I).

### B. Revised estimates under section 23 A, Department of Conference Services, and section 26 B, Premises, alteration and improvement

4. The Committee considered this question at its 50th and 52nd meetings on 5 and 7 December 1978 and had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/33/35).

5. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions introduced the report of that Committee (A/33/7/Add.16) at the 50th meeting (A/C.5/33/SR.50, paras. 1 and 2).

6. At the same meeting, the Chairman proposed to the Committee that it should request the General Assembly to:

"1. Take note of the report of the Secretary-General in A/C.5/33/35 with regard to technological innovations in the production of publications and documentation of the United Nations and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in A/33/7/Add.16;

"2. Concur with the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions."

7. At the 52nd meeting on 7 December, the representative of France proposed an oral amendment, adding a second paragraph; modifications were subsequently proposed by the representative of the United States of America and the Committee accepted the following text:

"2. Take note with appreciation of the statement of the Director of the

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Medical Service of the United Nations and request the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that the use of word-processing equipment is monitored adequately and that it will not involve any health hazard for staff members."

8. The comments made by delegations and by representatives of the Secretary-General are reflected in the summary records of the Committee (A/C.5/33/SR.50 and 52).

#### DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

9. At its 52nd meeting, on 7 December, the Committee decided, without objection, to recommend that the General Assembly should:

1. Take note of the report of the Secretary-General in A/C.5/33/35 with regard to technological innovations in the production of the publications and documentation of the United Nations and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in A/33/7/Add.16;

2. Take note with appreciation of the statement of the Director of the Medical Service of the United Nations and request the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that the use of word-processing equipment is monitored adequately and that it will not involve any health hazards for staff members;

3. Concur with the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (see para. 45 below, draft resolution, sect. II).

10. The Committee also approved, in first reading, an additional appropriation of \$100,000 under section 23 A of the programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979 by 71 votes to 10, with 3 abstentions.

#### C. Revised estimates under section 23 A, Department of Conference Services - Reclassification of posts of Supervisors, Stenographic Service

11. The Committee considered the revised estimates under section 23 A at its 54th meeting on 7 December 1978, and had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/33/55) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/33/7/Add.17), which was introduced by that Committee's Chairman at the 54th meeting.

12. The comments and observations made by the delegations during the discussion of this subject, as well as the statements and replies made by the representatives of the Secretary-General to questions raised, are reflected in the summary record of the Committee (A/C.5/33/SR.54).

DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

13. At its 54th meeting on 7 December, the Fifth Committee decided, without objection, to recommend that the General Assembly should:

1. Take note of the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/C.5/33/55 and the related report of the Advisory Committee in A/33/7/Add.17 with regard to the reclassification of posts of Supervisors, Stenographic Service, Department of Conference Services;

2. Request the Secretary-General to study the question of the restructuring of the General Service category in such a way as to recognize the additional responsibilities of supervisors with a view to formulating proposals thereon (see para. 45 below, draft resolution, sect. III).

D. Third General Conference of the United Nations  
Industrial Development Organization

14. At its 50th meeting on 5 December 1978, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the question of estimates for conference servicing of the Third General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (A/C.5/33/57). At the same meeting, the Committee heard the oral report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, presented by the Chairman of that Committee.

15. The comments and observations made by the delegations during the discussion of this subject are reflected in the summary record of the Committee (A/C.5/33/50).

DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

16. The Committee decided, by consensus, at its 50th meeting on 5 December 1978, to recommend that the General Assembly should "take note of the Secretary-General's report contained in document A/C.5/33/57." (see para. 45 below, draft resolution, sect. IV).

E. Strengthening of operational activities  
in the field of industrial development

17. The Committee considered this subitem at its 43rd meeting, on 28 November 1978, when it had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/33/40). At the same meeting, the Committee heard the oral report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, presented by the Chairman of that Committee.

DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

18. At its 43rd meeting, on 28 November 1978, the Fifth Committee agreed, without objection and without debate, to recommend that the General Assembly should take note of the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/C.5/33/40 (see para. 45 below, draft resolution, sect. V).

F. Impact of inflation on the budgets of the organizations  
of the United Nations system

19. The Committee considered this question at its 55th and 56th meetings on 8 and 9 December 1978, and had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/33/47).

20. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions presented the oral report of that Committee at the 55th meeting, on 8 December.

21. At the same meeting, the representative of Cuba introduced the following draft resolution (A/C.5/33/L.35):

The General Assembly,

Deeply concerned at the persistence of inflation and monetary instability in the developed countries in which the United Nations incurs expenditure,

Considering the responsibility borne by the developed countries in which the United Nations has headquarters for the generation of their own internal inflation and for readjustments and fluctuations in the exchange rates of their currencies,

Considering further the economic advantages which those developed countries derive from the presence of the headquarters of United Nations bodies in their territory,

Recognizing that countries which are not responsible for inflation in, and readjustments and fluctuations in the exchange rates of, developed countries in which United Nations bodies have headquarters should not defray the cost of the losses occasioned thereby,

Taking into account the fact that the losses sustained by the United Nations as a result of internal inflation in, and readjustments and fluctuations in the exchange rates of the currencies of, developing countries in which it has headquarters are relatively small,

Taking into account also that the provisions of this resolution shall not apply to those developed countries in which the United Nations has

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headquarters and which make voluntary contributions for this purpose, meeting the requirements mentioned in operative paragraph 3 of this resolution,

Mindful of the provisions of Article 17 of the Charter of the United Nations,

Believing that, in order to cover the substantial losses caused by inflation and monetary instability, a different procedure is required from that applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget of the United Nations,

1. Decides that the losses sustained by the United Nations as a result of inflation and monetary instability in the developed countries in which it has headquarters shall be covered in the following way:

(a) Eighty per cent of such losses shall be borne by the developed countries in which the United Nations has headquarters, in proportion to the expenditures incurred in those countries;

(b) The remaining 20 per cent shall be borne by the other countries, pro-rated in shares determined by the scale of assessments approved by the General Assembly for the corresponding period;

2. Decides also that the losses sustained by the United Nations as a result of internal inflation in, and readjustments and fluctuations in the exchange rates of the currencies of, the developing countries in which it has headquarters shall be absorbed by the regular budget of the United Nations;

3. Decides further that the provisions of this resolution shall not apply to developed countries in which the United Nations has headquarters and which make voluntary contributions in order to offset the losses sustained by the United Nations as a result of inflation and monetary instability, provided that those contributions are in an amount at least equivalent to the amount which would be payable by them as a result of their own internal inflation and readjustments and fluctuations in the exchange rates of their currencies.

22. At the 56th meeting, on 9 December, the Committee agreed, without objection, to a proposal by the representative of Algeria that consideration of the draft resolution (A/C.5/33/L.35) should be postponed to the thirty-fourth session.

23. Comments and observations made by delegations and by representatives of the Secretary-General during the course of discussion of this question are reflected in the summary records of the Committee (A/C.5/33/SR.55 and 56).

#### DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

24. At its 56th meeting on 9 December, the Committee agreed, by consensus, to a proposal by the Chairman to recommend that the General Assembly should take note

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of the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/33/47) and the related oral report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and to postpone consideration of this subitem to the thirty-fourth session (see para. 45 below, draft resolution, sect. VI).

G. Presentation of the budget: advantages and disadvantages of "semi-full budgeting"; implementation of the budget

25. This subitem was considered by the Committee at its 28th and 31st to 35th meetings on 7, 10 and 13 to 16 November, when it had before it the reports of the Secretary-General and on advantages and disadvantages of "semi-full budgeting" (A/C.5/33/10) and implementation of the budget (A/C.5/33/11).

26. The related report of the Advisory Committee (A/33/7/Add.8) was introduced by the Chairman of that Committee at the 28th meeting on 7 November 1978.

27. At the same meeting, the Controller made a statement introducing the reports of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/33/10 and A/C.5/33/11).

28. Comments made by delegations and by representatives of the Secretary-General are reflected in the summary records of the Committee (A/C.5/33/SR.28 and 31-35).

DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

29. At the 35th meeting, on 16 November 1978, the Committee agreed, by consensus, to recommend that the General Assembly should take note of the relevant reports of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/33/10 and 11) and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/33/7/Add.8) and request the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to remain seized of the questions, reporting to the General Assembly, as appropriate, on developments (see para. 45 below, draft resolution, sect. VII).

H. Conditions of service and compensation for officials, other than Secretariat officials, serving the General Assembly

30. The Committee considered this subitem at its 58th, 62nd and 63rd meetings on 12, 15 and 16 December 1978 when it had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/33/41) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in document A/33/7/Add.19.

31. At the 58th meeting on 12 December 1978, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland introduced, on behalf of the delegations of Denmark, France and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the following draft resolution (A/C.5/33/L.39 and Corr.1):

The General Assembly:

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General, document A/C.5/33/41 dated 13 November 1978, and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, document A/33/7/Add.19 dated 9 December 1978;

2. Recalls its resolution 32/212 of 21 December 1977;

3. Decides that salary, entitlements, other forms of remuneration and conditions of service of full-time Commissioners of the International Civil Service Commission and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee should continue to be set by the General Assembly outside the common system, since it is essential that these officials be treated in every way as independent of the secretariats;

4. Approves an annual compensation of \$55,000 to full-time Commissioners of the International Civil Service Commission and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, with an additional allowance of \$5,000 for the Chairmen of the International Civil Service Commission and the Advisory Committee, effective 1 January 1979;

5. Approves also the other conditions of service for the above described officials as set forth in the report of the Advisory Committee, document A/33/7/Add.19;

6. Decides that the compensation of full-time Commissioners and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee continue to be reviewed every four years or when the United States CPI has risen by 15 per cent since the last review, whichever comes first.

32. The draft resolution was subsequently revised by the co-sponsors and reissued (A/C.5/33/L.39/Rev.1). The changes were as follows:

(a) The words "Part VI" were added after "resolution 32/212" in paragraph 2;

(b) The word "two" was inserted in paragraph 4 so that, following the figure \$55,000, it would read "to the two full-time Commissioners".

33. At the 62nd meeting, on 15 December 1978, the representative of Ghana proposed, first, that the date "January 1979" be replaced by the date "1 January 1978" and, second, that the words "15 per cent" in paragraph 6 be replaced by the words "10 per cent". The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics proposed that the words "or when the United States CPI has risen by 15 per cent since the last review, whichever comes first" be deleted.

34. Also at the 62nd meeting, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics requested that a separate vote be taken on paragraph 5 of the draft resolution (A/C.5/33/L.39/Rev.1). Subsequently, the representative of Ghana withdrew the amendment to change the date in paragraph 6 to "1 January 1978". The



amendment proposed by the representative of Ghana to paragraph 6 was accepted by the co-sponsors.

#### DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

35. At the 63rd meeting, on 16 December 1978, the Committee took the following decisions regarding draft resolution A/C.5/33/L.39/Rev.1:

(a) By 38 votes to 12, with 29 abstentions, the Committee rejected the amendment which had been proposed to paragraph 4 by the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics;

(b) By 69 votes to 8, with 5 abstentions, the Committee adopted paragraph 5 of the draft resolution;

(c) By 75 votes to none, with 9 abstentions, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of draft resolution A/C.5/33/L.39/Rev.1, as orally amended (see para. 45 below, draft resolution, sect. VIII).

#### I. Disarmament Commission and its committee of the whole

36. At its 61st meeting, held on 14 December, following the Committee's consideration of the financial implications related to item 47 (General and complete disarmament), the representative of Mexico, on behalf of Argentina, India and Mexico, presented a draft decision (A/C.5/33/L.41), which would have the Fifth Committee recommend to the General Assembly that it should:

"1. Request the Committee on Conferences, on a priority basis, to study the possibility of rearranging the calendar of conferences in such a way as to enable the Disarmament Commission and its committee of the whole to meet simultaneously;

2. Request the Secretary-General to provide the plenary meetings of the Disarmament Commission with verbatim records and to provide the meetings of the Committee of the Whole, should it be established, with summary records."

37. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had indicated in conjunction with item 47 that the request for conference servicing under this item should not exceed \$760,000. In respect of the present proposal, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee indicated that he saw no reason to change that recommendation.

38. The representative of the Budget Division stated that the cost of servicing the committee of the whole would total \$385,200, but that, in view of the position of the Advisory Committee, no appropriation in respect of this item would be requested in the consolidated paper on conference servicing requirements.

39. The representative of the United States of America proposed, at the 61st meeting, an amendment to the draft decision presented by Mexico, whereby the phrase "and without additional financial implications" would be added, in view of the fact that the extreme pressure on conference facilities during 1979 owing to the refurbishment of meeting rooms at Headquarters (as noted in the statement by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/33/80, para. 5)), imposed an absolute limit on the number of meetings which could be held there in 1979, which limit had nearly been reached.

40. Following consultations among the co-sponsors and other interested delegations, the representative of India stated that it was understood that the Committee on Conferences was not authorized to take decisions which would add to the approved budget.

41. The representative of the United States of America endorsed the view of the representative of India and stated that his delegation would withdraw its amendment on the understanding that the report of the Fifth Committee would reflect the views of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, the representative of the Budget Division and the representative of India on this subject.

42. The Committee agreed, without objection, to a proposal by the United States of America that the report of the Fifth Committee under agenda item 100 with regard to this question would reflect this understanding.

43. Other statements made in the course of the discussion are reported in the summary records of the 61st and 62nd meetings of the Committee (A/C.5/33/SR.61 and 62).

#### DECISION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

44. At its 62nd meeting, on 15 December 1978, the Fifth Committee decided, by 70 votes to 12, with 7 abstentions, to recommend that the General Assembly should adopt draft decision A/C.5/33/L.41 (see para. 45, draft resolution, sect. IX).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

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

Questions relating to the programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979

The General Assembly,

I

First-class travel in the United Nations

Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on first-class travel in United Nations organizations; 1/

II

Revised estimates under section 23A (Department of Conference Services and section 26B (Premises, alteration and improvement)

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General with regard to technological innovations in the production of the publications and documentation of the United Nations 2/ and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions; 3/

2. Takes note with appreciation of the statement by the Director of the Medical Service of the United Nations 4/ and requests the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that the use of word-processing equipment is monitored adequately and will not involve any health hazards for staff members;

3. Concurs with the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

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1/ A/C.5/33/49.

2/ A/C.5/33/35.

3/ A/33/7/Add.16.

4/ A/C.5/33/SR.50, paras. 11-13.

III

Revised estimates under section 23A (Department of Conference Services -  
Reclassification of posts of supervisors in the Stenographic Service)

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General 5/ and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions 6/ with regard to reclassification of posts of supervisors in the Stenographic Service of the Department of Conference Services;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to study the question of the restructuring of the General Service category in such a way as to recognize the additional responsibilities of supervisors with a view to formulating proposals thereon;

IV

Third General Conference of the United Nations  
Industrial Development Organization

Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the Third General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization; 7/

V

Strengthening of operational activities  
in the field of industrial development

Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of operational activities in the field of industrial development; 8/

VI

Impact of inflation on the budgets of the organizations  
of the United Nations system

Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the impact of inflation on the budgets of the organizations of the United Nations system 9/ and of the related oral report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions 10/ and postpones consideration of this subitem to its thirty-fourth session;

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5/ A/C.5/33/55.

6/ A/33/7/Add.17.

7/ A/C.5/33/57.

8/ A/C.5/33/40.

9/ A/C.5/33/47.

10/ A/C.5/33/SR.55, paras. 36-38.

VII

Presentation of the budget: advantages and disadvantages of "semi-full budgeting" and implementation of the budget

Takes note of the reports of the Secretary-General on the advantages and disadvantages of "semi-full budgeting" and implementation of the budget 11/ and of the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions 12/ and requests that Advisory Committee to remain seized of the questions used to report to the General Assembly, as appropriate, on developments;

VIII

Conditions of service and compensation for officials, other than Secretariat officials, serving the General Assembly

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on conditions of service and compensation for officials, other than Secretariat officials, serving the General Assembly, 13/ and of the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions; 14/
2. Recalls Section VI of its resolution 32/212 of 21 December 1977;
3. Decides that salary, entitlements, other forms of remuneration and conditions of service of full-time Commissioners of the International Civil Service Commission and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions should continue to be set by the General Assembly outside the common system, since it is essential that these officials be treated in every way as independent of the secretariats;
4. Approves an annual compensation of \$55,000 to the two full-time Commissioners of the International Civil Service Commission and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, with an additional allowance of \$5,000 for the Chairman of the International Civil Service Commission and the Advisory Committee, effective 1 January 1979;
5. Approves also the other conditions of service for the above described officials as recommended by the Advisory Committee; 15/

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11/ A/C.5/33/10 and A/C.5/33/11.

12/ A/33/7/Add.8.

13/ A/C.5/33/41.

14/ A/33/7/Add.19.

15/ Ibid.

6. Decides that the compensation of full-time Commissioners and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions continue to be reviewed every four years or when the consumer price index in the United States of America has risen by 10 per cent since the last review, whichever comes first;

IX

Disarmament Commission and its committee of the whole

1. Requests the Committee on Conferences, on a priority basis, to study the possibility of rearranging the calendar of conferences in such a way as to enable the Disarmament Commission and its committee of the whole to hold simultaneous meetings, if necessary;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the plenary meetings of the Disarmament Commission with verbatim records and to provide the meetings of the committee of the whole, should it be established, with summary records.

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