



UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



Distr.  
GENERAL

A/33/530  
19 December 1978

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

---

Thirty-third session  
Agenda item 102

UNITED NATIONS ACCOMMODATION

Report of the Fifth Committee

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

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 4th and 5th plenary meetings, on 22 September 1978, the General Assembly decided to include in the agenda of its thirty-third session the following item:

"United Nations accommodation:

- (a) Accommodation at the Donaupark Centre in Vienna: report of the Secretary-General;
- (b) Accommodation at Nairobi: report of the Secretary-General;
- (c) Expansion of meeting rooms and improvement of conference servicing and delegate facilities at United Nations Headquarters: report of the Secretary-General"

and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Committee considered the item at its 26th, 29th, 39th, 45th, 51st, 54th, 55th, 62nd, 63rd, 65th and 66th meetings, from 3 November to 19 December 1978. Comments made by delegations and the representatives of the Secretary-General in the course of the discussion on this item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/33/SR.26, 29, 39, 45, 51, 54, 55, 62, 63, 65 and 66).

3. For its consideration of item 102, the Committee had before it the following documents:

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General on accommodation at the Donaupark Centre in Vienna (A/C.5/33/39 and Corr.1);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on accommodation at Nairobi (A/C.5/33/15);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on expansion of meeting rooms and improvement of conference servicing and delegate facilities at United Nations Headquarters (A/C.5/33/24);

(d) Reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on accommodation at Donaupark Centre in Vienna (A/33/7/Add.20) and on Expansion of meeting rooms and improvement of conference servicing and delegate facilities at United Nations Headquarters (A/33/7/Add.13).

## II. CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE

### A. Accommodation at the Donaupark Centre in Vienna

4. At its 62nd, 63rd, 65th and 66th meetings, from 14 to 19 December, the Fifth Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/33/39 and Corr.1) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/33/7/Add.20).

5. In his report, the Secretary-General outlined developments since the adoption of resolution 31/194 of 22 December 1976 which, inter alia, approved a phased plan of action for the transfer of certain existing organizational units from New York and Geneva to Vienna, and authorized the Secretary-General to enter into appropriate arrangements with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Government of Austria concerning the possible occupancy by the United Nations of Tower A-2 at the Donaupark Centre which had originally been intended solely for IAEA.

6. In his report, the Secretary-General indicated that the Austrian Government had informed the United Nations early in 1978 that IAEA, after further consideration of its space requirements, no longer wished to proceed with negotiations for the transfer of Tower A-2 to the United Nations. Under these circumstances, bearing in mind that Tower A-2 had been originally planned for the use of IAEA, the Secretary-General agreed not to proceed further with arrangements for its transfer to the United Nations. This was agreed to by the Austrian authorities and IAEA. In his report, the Secretary-General outlined revised plans for space utilization of those parts of the Centre intended for the use of United Nations and UNIDO. The Secretary-General presented estimates of the non-recurring and the continuing costs of occupancy by UNIDO and other units of the United Nations Secretariat of space in the Centre, including costs of transfer of staff from New York and Geneva, and also the United Nations share of maintenance and operating costs of the Centre following occupancy in August 1979. After allowing for the offsetting amounts under the income section, he estimated the net additional cost at \$2,080,400.

7. The report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions was introduced by its Chairman at the 62nd meeting. In its report, the Advisory

Committee recommended that the estimates submitted by the Secretary-General for the costs of the transfers and the United Nations share of the maintenance and operating costs of the Donaupark Complex should be reduced by \$898,700 to a net additional appropriation of \$1,181,700 for the biennium 1978-1979. The Advisory Committee noted the Secretary-General's suggestion that he be authorized to make such minor adjustments found necessary in the course of the implementation of his proposals. The Advisory Committee observed that any adjustments that would entail a financial liability should be approved by the General Assembly.

8. At the 65th meeting, the representative of Austria introduced draft resolution A/C.5/33/L.42, on behalf of Algeria, Argentina, Austria, the Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Cyprus, Egypt, Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Haiti, Hungary, India, Indonesia, the Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Portugal, Romania, Senegal, Tunisia and the Upper Volta.

9. At the same meeting, the representative of Kenya proposed an oral amendment to draft resolution A/C.5/33/L.42 whereby a sixth preambular paragraph would be added, a new operative paragraph would be added as paragraph 1 and the remaining paragraphs renumbered accordingly:

"Expressing its appreciation to the Government and people of Austria for having constructed the Vienna International Centre at the expense of Austria and for making available to the United Nations offices and conference facilities on a rent-free basis,

"1. Reaffirms its resolution 31/194 and requests the Secretary-General to implement fully the provisions contained in paragraphs 2, 3 and 5 of that resolution before the end of 1979."

The representative of Kenya subsequently withdrew the phrase "before the end of 1979" at the end of the proposed new operative paragraph.

10. The proposed amendment was accepted by the representative of Austria on behalf of the sponsors, and Kenya became a sponsor of the draft resolution as amended.

11. The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted by 83 votes to none, with 8 abstentions (see para. 29 below).

12. At the same meeting, the Committee approved in first reading, an additional appropriation of \$1,181,700 under the programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979 by consensus (see A/33/445/Add.2).

13. A full account of the Fifth Committee's consideration of the subitem is reflected in the summary records of the meetings (A/C.5/33/SR.62, 63, 65 and 66).

#### B. Accommodation at Nairobi

14. At its 26th and 29th meetings, on 3 and 8 November, the Fifth Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/33/15) on accommodation

/...

at Nairobi. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions made an oral report at the 26th meeting.

15. In his report, the Secretary-General reported on the status of the construction project approved at the thirty-second session (resolution 32/208) and proposed to defer until the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly the submission of a full report on the possible construction of additional office premises in Nairobi for the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat).

16. At its 29th meeting, the Committee decided without objection, to recommend to the General Assembly that it should take note of the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations accommodation in Nairobi (see para. 30 below, draft decision I).

17. A full account of the Fifth Committee's consideration of the subitem is reflected in the summary records of the meetings (A/C.5/33/SR.26 and 29).

C. Expansion of meeting rooms and improvement of conference servicing and delegate facilities at United Nations Headquarters

18. At its 39th, 45th, 51st, 54th and 55th meetings, on 21 and 29 November and 5, 7 and 8 December, the Fifth Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/33/24) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/33/7/Add.13).

19. In his report, the Secretary-General outlined the possibilities for expansion of the cafeteria, dining room and kitchen facilities at United Nations Headquarters. The Secretary-General reported that the estimated cost of providing a new building in the South Garden area housing kitchen and cafeteria facilities, together with the expansion of delegates' dining facilities in the existing fourth floor area of the Conference Building would be \$7,612,000. (Alternative B.) The estimated cost of providing somewhat smaller facilities by expansion onto the fourth floor terrace outside the present cafeteria and dining room would be \$10,912,000. (Alternative A.)

20. The Secretary-General also proposed to relocate the class-rooms now located on the 39th floor of the Secretariat building and to undertake a study of the reuse of this area at a cost of \$50,000.

21. The report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions was introduced by its Chairman at the 39th meeting. In its report, the Advisory Committee recommended that Alternative B should be approved, and recommended approval of the proposals to relocate the class-rooms and to conduct a study of the reuse of the 39th floor (A/33/7/Add.13, paras. 10, 12 and 14).

22. At the 54th meeting of the Fifth Committee, on 7 December, the representative of Iran introduced a draft decision (A/C.5/33/L.34), which read as follows:

"The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly that it:

"Requests the Secretary-General to study the feasibility of constructing in the most economic way a cafeteria by adding a fifth floor to the present facilities and report to the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly."

23. The representative of Iran subsequently withdrew the proposed draft decision later in the meeting.

24. At the same meeting, the representative of the Secretary-General indicated that the Secretary-General would attempt to undertake the study proposed in paragraph 25 of his report within available funds and that accordingly the amount requested for the project during the current biennium should be reduced by \$50,000 to \$421,000.

25. The Chairman indicated that it would not be necessary, therefore, to vote on the recommendation in paragraph 14 of the report of the Advisory Committee. He then proposed the following draft decision which was adopted without objection:

"The Fifth Committee decides to recommend to the General Assembly to:

"(1) Take note of the report of the Secretary-General on expansion of meeting rooms and improvement of conference servicing and delegate facilities at United Nations Headquarters in document A/C.5/33/24 and the report of the Advisory Committee thereon contained in document A/33/7/Add.13,

"(2) Concur with the observations of the Advisory Committee and approves recommendations contained in paragraphs 10 and 12 of its report."

26. This decision was followed by a procedural discussion. At its 55th meeting, the Committee agreed, by consensus, to reopen the decision taken at the 54th meeting. The representative of Iran requested a separate vote on the reference to paragraph 12 of the report of the Advisory Committee in the draft decision proposed by the Chairman. The Fifth Committee decided, by 48 votes to 23, with 19 abstentions, to include in the draft decision reference to approval of the recommendation of the Advisory Committee in paragraph 12 of its report. The Fifth Committee then adopted the draft decision by 57 votes to 16, with 19 abstentions (see para. 30 below, draft decision II).

27. At the same meeting, the Committee approved by 55 votes to 17, with 20 abstentions in first reading, an additional appropriation of \$421,000 under section 26 of the programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979 (see A/33/445/Add.2).

28. A full account of the Fifth Committee's consideration, including explanations of votes, is reflected in the summary records of the meetings (A/C.5/33/SR.39, 45, 51, 54 and 55).

### III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

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

/...

Accommodation at the Donaupark Centre in Vienna

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3350 (XXIX) of 18 December 1974 and 3529 (XXX) of 16 December 1975, in which it welcomed the invitation extended by the Government of Austria to the United Nations to make use of the facilities available in the Donaupark Centre (Vienna International Centre) and subsequently took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the inclusion of Vienna in the pattern of conferences,

Recalling further its resolution 31/194 of 22 December 1976, in which it, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session concrete proposals which would ensure the most rational and economic use of the Donaupark Centre (Vienna International Centre),

Taking note that the Vienna International Centre will be inaugurated in summer 1979,

Mindful of the necessity to ensure the optimum use of the offices and conference facilities placed at the disposal of the United Nations in the Vienna International Centre,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the accommodation at the Donaupark Centre in Vienna (Vienna International Centre) 1/ and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, 2/

Expressing its appreciation to the Government and people of Austria for having constructed the Vienna International Centre at the expense of Austria and for making available to the United Nations offices and conference facilities on a rent-free basis,

1. Reaffirms its resolution 31/194 and requests the Secretary-General to implement fully the provisions contained in paragraphs 2, 3 and 5 of that resolution;

2. Approves the decision of the Secretary-General with respect to office Tower A-2, as contained in paragraph 10 of his report;

3. Takes note of the statement of the Secretary-General in paragraph 25 of his report to the effect that most of the space in the Vienna International Centre available for the United Nations will be required by the organizational units already approved by the General Assembly for transfer from New York and Geneva to Vienna as well as by the larger units already at Vienna and agrees with the statement of the Secretary-General that in case it becomes apparent at a later date that unused space is still available in the Centre he would bring the matter once again to the attention of the General Assembly for its consideration;

---

1/ A/33/39 and Corr.1.

2/ A/33/7/Add.20.

4. Approves the additional funds requested in paragraphs 38 and 39 of the report of the Secretary-General as amended by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to keep under review the question of adequately strengthening the necessary support services at Vienna and to report on this question to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session.

30. The Fifth Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decisions:

DRAFT DECISION I

Accommodation at Nairobi

The General Assembly takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations accommodation at Nairobi. 3/

DRAFT DECISION II

Expansion of meeting rooms and improvement of conference servicing and delegate facilities at United Nations Headquarters

The General Assembly:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on expansion of meeting rooms and improvement of conference servicing and delegate facilities at United Nations Headquarters 4/ and the report of the Advisory Committee thereon; 5/

(b) Concurs with the observations of the Advisory Committee and approves recommendations contained in paragraphs 10 and 12 of its report.

-----

---

3/ A/C.5/33/15.

4/ A/C.5/33/24.

5/ A/33/7/Add.13.