



UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



Distr.  
GENERAL

A/31/400  
10 December 1976

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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Thirty-first session  
Agenda item 93

MEDIUM-TERM PLAN

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. E. Brian NASON (Ireland)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 24 September 1976, the General Assembly decided to include in the agenda of its thirty-first session the item entitled:

"Medium-term plan:

"(a) Medium-term plan for the period 1978-1981 and revised plan for 1977;

"(b) Implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit: report of the Secretary-General."

and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered this item at its 3rd, 7th, 9th, 10th, 17th, 23rd, 30th, 36th and 37th meetings from 15 October to 26 November 1976.

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

(a) Medium-term plan for the period 1978-1981; 1/

(b) Report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on the work of its sixteenth session; 2/

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1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 6A (A/31/6/Add.1 and Corr.1-5).

2/ Ibid., Supplement No. 38 (A/31/38).

- (c) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the medium-term plan (A/31/139);
  - (d) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the major recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit on medium-term planning in the United Nations system (A/C.5/31/15);
  - (e) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 3534 (XXX) (A/C.5/31/27);
  - (f) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/31/326) containing its comments on the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/31/27);
  - (g) Report of the Economic and Social Council on the work of its organizational session for 1976 and of its sixtieth and sixty-first sessions. 3/
4. At the 3rd meeting, on 15 October, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions introduced that Committee's report (A/31/139) in an oral statement before the Fifth Committee.
5. At the same meeting, the Rapporteur of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination orally introduced that Committee's report. 4/
6. The Assistant Secretary-General (Controller) addressed the Committee at its 3rd and 17th meetings.
7. The Chairman of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination addressed the Committee at its 10th meeting, on 18 October.

## II. ACTION TAKEN BY THE COMMITTEE

8. At the 23rd meeting, on 4 November, the representative of the Netherlands introduced the following draft resolution (A/C.5/31/L.9) on behalf of Belgium, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, the Netherlands and Trinidad and Tobago:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling the relevant recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies, 5/

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3/ Ibid., Supplement No. 3 (A/31/3), chap. VII, sect. A.

4/ Ibid., Supplement No. 38 (A/31/38).

5/ Ibid., Twenty-first Session, Annexes, agenda item 80, document A/6343.

"Recalling also its resolutions 3199 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973, 3392 (XXX) of 20 November 1975 and 3534 (XXX) of 17 December 1975,

"Bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolutions 2008 (LX) of 14 May 1976 and 2019 (LXI) of 3 August 1976,

"Having considered the medium-term plan for the period 1978-1981, 6/ chapter III, section H, and chapter VII, section A, of the report of the Economic and Social Council, 7/ the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on the work of its sixteenth session, 8/ the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the medium-term plan (A/31/139), the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of major recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit on medium-term planning in the United Nations system (A/C.5/31/15),

"Conscious of the need for further harmonization of programmes throughout the United Nations system,

"1. Takes note with appreciation of the medium-term plan and accepts it in the light of the recommendations and conclusions contained in the reports of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Advisory Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Questions as the framework for the preparation of the 1978-1979 programme budget;

"2. Urges each organization within the United Nations system to plan its activities, bearing in mind the related programmes planned or being carried out in other parts of the system;

"3. Decides that the future medium-term plans of the United Nations should be prepared according to the following procedure:

"(a) The draft medium-term plans proposed by the Secretary-General should embody:

"(i) A short statement providing an over-all forward look from his vantage point on the basis of past deliberations and decisions of intergovernmental organs, the expressed views of Member States and the collective advice of his colleagues, in which he would call the attention to changes in orientation which, in his opinion, are necessary in order to respond to changes in the international scene and to meet future needs;

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6/ Ibid., Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 6A (A/31/6/Add.1 and Corr. 1-5), vols. I and II.

7/ See ibid., Supplement No. 3 (A/31/3).

8/ Ibid., Supplement No. 38 (A/31/38).

- "(ii) A set of documents in which each major programme, developed in accordance with legislative decisions, is presented in a consolidated manner;
- "(iii) The following financial information:
  - "a. Any approved allocations in the current regular budget;
  - "b. The actual extrabudgetary expenditure for the preceding year or biennium;
  - "c. Estimates, in percentage terms only, of the proportion of each programme's allocations during the planning period that the Secretary-General intends to devote to each subprogramme;
  - "d. Indications of the time-phasing of planned activities;
  - "e. As appropriate and, in so far as possible, approximate amounts allocated or expended (as in a. and b. above) on related activities by other organs of the United Nations system;
- "(iv) Indicative projections of future budgetary orders of magnitude, as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, under the regular budget and from extrabudgetary resources for the plan as a whole and by major programmes which would neither constitute ceilings nor be binding upon Member States;
- "(v) Appropriate information on how proposed United Nations programmes would relate to activities of other organizations of the United Nations system;

"(b) The medium-term plan will be considered by the General Assembly in the light of the comments and recommendations of the Economic and Social Council, the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions following the procedures adopted by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 139 (ORG-76) of 15 January 1976;

"(c) After approval by the General Assembly, the medium-term plan will constitute the principal policy directive of the United Nations which:

- "(i) States the medium-term objectives to be attained in a four-year period;
- "(ii) Describes the strategy to be followed to that effect and the means of action to be used;

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"(iii) Gives an indicative estimate of the necessary resources in over-all terms and by major programme;

"4. Endorses the remaining recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination not covered in paragraph 3 above and expresses appreciation for the comments of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to take measures to involve more closely the sectoral, functional and regional programme-formulating organs in the planning and programming process;

"6. Urges those organs to refrain from undertaking new activities not programmed in the medium-term plan and the subsequent programme budget unless a pressing need of an unforeseeable nature arises as determined by the General Assembly;

"7. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that no supplementary estimates intended to fund new programmes or expand existing ones shall be submitted until the planning and programme budgeting procedure referred to above has been complied with, it being understood that the General Assembly may decide that exceptional circumstances demand otherwise;

"8. Decides that the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination shall function as the main subsidiary organ of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly for planning, programming and co-ordination and approves the consolidated terms of reference as set out in Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX) of 14 May 1976;

"9. Instructs the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination in particular to:

"(a) Review in depth, on a selective basis, the major programmes of the plan and recommend any necessary amendments to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly;

"(b) Determine which programmes or subprogrammes are obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective and recommend, as appropriate, their curtailment or termination;

"(c) Assess the degree of substantive co-ordination of selected programmes within the United Nations system and recommend the appropriate action thereon."

9. At the 30th meeting, on 16 November, the representative of the Netherlands, on behalf of the co-sponsors, which had been joined by Australia and Turkey, introduced a revised draft resolution (A/C.5/31/L.9/Rev.1) and pointed out that the revised text took into account the reports of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/31/27) and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

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(A/31/326) regarding the implementation of General Assembly resolution 3534 (XXX), and also incorporated a number of improvements suggested by delegations in the course of consultations. The revised text read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling the relevant recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies, 9/

"Recalling also its resolutions 3199 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973, 3392 (XXX) of 20 November 1975 and 3534 (XXX) of 17 December 1975,

"Bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolutions 2008 (LX) of 14 May 1976 and 2019 (LXI) of 3 August 1976,

"Having considered the medium-term plan for the period 1978-1981, 10/ chapter III, section H and chapter VII, section A of the report of the Economic and Social Council, 11/ the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on the work of its sixteenth session, 12/ the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the medium-term plan (A/31/139), the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of major recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit on medium-term planning in the United Nations system (A/C.5/31/15), the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 3534 (XXX) 13/ and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, 14/

"Conscious of the need for further harmonization of programmes throughout the United Nations system,

"Aware of the usefulness of the medium-term plan as an instrument for system-wide co-ordination,

"Recalling that the need to improve and strengthen the evaluation process as part of planning, programming and budgeting has been recognized since the report of the Ad Hoc Committee referred to above,

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9/ Ibid., Twenty-first Session, Annexes, agenda item 80, document A/6343.

10/ Ibid., Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 6A (A/31/6/Add.1 and Corr.1-5).

11/ See ibid., Supplement No. 3 (A/31/3).

12/ Ibid., Supplement No. 38 (A/31/38).

13/ A/C.5/31/27.

14/ A/31/326.

"1. Takes note with appreciation of the medium-term plan and accepts it in the light of the recommendations and conclusions contained in the reports of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Advisory Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Questions as the framework for the preparation of the 1978-1979 programme budget;

"2. Urges each organization within the United Nations system to plan its activities, bearing in mind the related programmes planned or being carried out in other parts of the system;

"3. Decides that the future medium-term plans of the United Nations should be prepared according to the following procedure:

"(a) The draft medium-term plans proposed by the Secretary-General should embody:

"(i) A short statement on directions that United Nations activities should take in the medium term;

"(ii) A set of documents in which each major programme, developed in accordance with legislative decisions, is presented in a consolidated manner;

"(iii) The following financial information:

"a. Any approved allocations in the current regular budget;

"b. The actual extrabudgetary expenditure for the preceding year or biennium;

"c. Estimates, in percentage terms only, of the proportion of each programme's allocations during the planning period that the Secretary-General intends to devote to each subprogramme;

"d. Indications of the time-phasing of planned activities;

"e. As appropriate and, in so far as possible, approximate amounts allocated or expended (as in a. and b. above) on related activities by other organs of the United Nations system;

"(iv) Preliminary and approximate indications of future costs as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, under the regular budget and from extrabudgetary resources for the plan as a whole and by major programmes which would neither constitute ceilings nor be binding upon Member States;

"(v) Appropriate information on how proposed United Nations programmes would relate to activities of other organizations of the United Nations system;

"(b) The medium-term plan will be considered by the General Assembly in the light of the comments and recommendations of the Economic and Social Council, the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions following the procedures adopted by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 139 (ORG-76) of 15 January 1976;

"(c) After approval by the General Assembly, the medium-term plan will constitute the principal policy directive of the United Nations which:

"(i) States the medium-term objectives to be attained in a four-year period;

"(ii) Describes the strategy to be followed to that effect and the means of action to be used;

"(iii) Gives an indicative estimate of the necessary resources in over-all terms and by major programme;

"4. Endorses the remaining recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination not covered in paragraph 3 above and expresses appreciation for the comments of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to take measures to involve more closely the sectoral, functional and regional programme-formulating organs in the planning and programming process;

"6. Urges those organs to refrain from undertaking new activities not programmed in the medium-term plan and the subsequent programme budget unless a pressing need of an unforeseeable nature arises as determined by the General Assembly;

"7. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the planning and programme budgeting procedure referred to above will be complied with;

"8. Reaffirms that supplementary estimates for expansion of existing activities or initiation of new programmes will be considered only after specific approval of the General Assembly;

"9. Reaffirms resolution 3534 (XXX) and stresses the responsibility of the Secretary-General to draw to the attention of the competent intergovernmental bodies activities that are obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective so that the bodies concerned may take the necessary action;

"10. Decides that the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination shall function as the main subsidiary organ of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly for planning, programming and co-ordination and approves the consolidated terms of reference as set out in Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX) of 14 May 1976;



"11. Instructs the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination in particular to:

"(a) Review in depth, on a selective basis, the major programmes of the plan and recommend any necessary amendments to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly;

"(b) Determine which programmes or subprogrammes are obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective and recommend, as appropriate, their curtailment or termination;

"(c) Assess the degree of substantive co-ordination of selected programmes within the United Nations system and recommend the appropriate action thereon."

10. At the same meeting, several amendments to draft resolution A/C.5/31/L.9/Rev.1 were before the Committee (see paras. 11 to 14 below).

11. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics proposed the following amendments (A/C.5/31/L.15):

"1. In the sixth preambular paragraph, delete the words 'for system-wide co-ordination,' and replace them by the words 'for making all the activities of the United Nations system more effective and economical and as an effective means of co-ordination for the elimination of duplication and parallelism of activities,'."

"2. At the end of paragraph 3 (a) (iii) d, add the words: 'by programme, subprogramme and programme component'."

"3. In paragraph 3 (a) (iii), add the following new subparagraph:

'f. The resources which will be released as a result of the completion or curtailment of programmes, subprogrammes and programme components;'. "

"4. At the end of paragraph 3 (c) (iii), add the words: 'taking into account the views of all States Members of the United Nations'."

12. The representative of the Philippines proposed the insertion of the following preambular paragraph (A/C.5/31/L.16):

"Aware of the role of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in co-ordinating decisions taken by sectoral and regional bodies, while providing over-all guidance, determining policy lines and indicating areas of priorities;".

13. The representative of Greece proposed (A/C.5/31/L.17) the addition of the following as operative paragraph 12:

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"12. Further decides, as a special case, and in pursuance of the need to encourage Member States to be represented at regular sessions of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, at a high level of expertise and to ensure the continuity of their representation, that the Organization shall bear, from 1978 onwards, the travel and per diem expenses of one representative of each Member State of the Committee;"

14. The representative of Poland orally proposed that, if the Philippine amendment (A/C.5/31/L.16) were accepted by the co-sponsors, the text should be revised in such a manner as to make a clear distinction between the respective rules of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

15. Speaking on behalf of the co-sponsors of the draft resolution (A/C.5/31/L.9/Rev.1), the representative of the Netherlands stated, with reference to the Soviet proposal (A/C.5/31/L.15), that they were prepared to replace the words "system-wide co-ordination" with the words "effective co-ordination of the activities of the United Nations system". They also accepted the second Soviet amendment provided the words "as far as practicable" were added before it. The idea behind the third Soviet amendment was acceptable, but they preferred incorporating it in operative paragraph 9 by adding the words "indicating the resources which could be released" after the word "ineffective". The co-sponsors had some difficulty, however, with the fourth Soviet amendment and appealed to the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics not to press it for inclusion in the draft text.

16. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics accepted the modifications suggested by the co-sponsors and agreed to withdraw the fourth amendment proposed by his delegation (A/C.5/31/L.15).

17. The representative of the Netherlands stated also that the Philippine amendment (A/C.5/31/L.16), as orally amended by Poland, was acceptable to the co-sponsors and was to be included as the penultimate preambular paragraph.

18. The amendment submitted by Greece (A/C.5/31/L.17) was also acceptable to the co-sponsors on the understanding that the members of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination would travel economy class. The representative of Greece stated that it was also the understanding of his delegation.

19. The representative of the Upper Volta then orally proposed that the words "as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions" be deleted from paragraph 3 (a) (iv) of draft resolution A/C.5/31/L.9/Rev.1 and that the words "programme elements" be added in paragraph 11 (b).

20. At the 36th meeting, on 24 November, the representative of the Netherlands, on behalf of the co-sponsors, introduced a further revision to the draft resolution (A/C.5/31/L.9/Rev.2) and, at the same time, announced that Nicaragua had joined the list of co-sponsors.

21. The revised draft resolution (A/C.5/31/L.9/Rev.2) incorporated the amendments which had been accepted by the co-sponsors, including the oral amendment proposed by the Upper Volta.

22. The following new paragraph 12 was added to the revised draft:

"12. Further decides that, in order to encourage Member States to be represented at a high level of expertise and to ensure the continuity of their representation in the body whose central role and over-all responsibilities are recognized, the Organization shall bear from 1978 onwards, for an experimental period and subject to review by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session, as a special exception to the basic principles set out in paragraph 2 of resolution 1798 (XVII) concerning the payment out of United Nations funds for travel and subsistence expenses to members of organs and subsidiary organs of the United Nations, the travel and subsistence expenses of one representative of each Member State on the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination."

23. In introducing the revised draft resolution (A/C.5/31/L.9/Rev.2), the representative of the Netherlands stated that paragraph 12 was based on the amendment submitted by Greece (A/C.5/31/L.17), and that it was proposed that, in order to avoid supplementary appropriations for the current biennium, any additional costs involved would be borne by the Organization from 1978 onwards.

24. The representative of Algeria orally proposed the deletion of the reference to "subsistence expenses" in paragraph 12 of the revised draft (A/C.5/31/L.9/Rev.2). The Upper Volta supported the Algerian amendment and requested a separate vote on it in the event that it was not accepted by the co-sponsors.

25. A statement of administrative and financial implications with respect to paragraph 12 of draft resolution A/C.5/31/L.9/Rev.2 was submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/31/54) and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions also submitted comments thereon (A/31/357).

26. At the 37th meeting, on 26 November, after a short discussion of paragraph 12 in the course of which the Chairman of the Advisory Committee and the Director of the Budget Division explained its administrative and financial implications, the co-sponsors of the revised draft resolution (A/C.5/31/L.9/Rev.2) agreed to amend the paragraph to read as follows:

"12. Further decides that, in order to encourage Member States to be represented at a high level of expertise and to ensure the continuity of their representation in the body whose central role and over-all responsibilities are recognized, the Organization shall bear from 1978 onwards, for an experimental period and subject to review by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session, as a special exception to the basic principles set out in paragraph 2 of resolution 1798 (XVII) concerning the payment out of United Nations funds for travel and subsistence expenses to members of organs and subsidiary organs of the United Nations, the travel

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(on the basis of economy class) and subsistence expenses (at standard rates applicable to officials of the Secretariat plus 15 per cent) of one representative of each Member State on the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination."

27. In announcing the amendments to paragraph 12 on behalf of the co-sponsors, the representative of the Netherlands stated that it was clear from the text that subsistence and travel expenses should be paid with respect to all sessions of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination.

28. The comments and observations of delegations during the discussion of this item, as well as the reservations expressed and explanations of vote, are reflected in the summary records of the Committee (A/C.5/31/SR.3-7, 9, 10, 17, 23, 30, 36 and 37).

29. At its 37th meeting, on 26 November, the Committee voted on draft resolution A/C.5/31/L.9/Rev.2 and on the amendments thereto as follows:

(a) The oral amendment proposed by Algeria to delete the words "subsistence expenses" from paragraph 12 of the draft resolution was rejected by 36 votes to 19, with 37 abstentions;

(b) Paragraph 12, as revised by the co-sponsors of the draft resolution, was adopted by 53 votes to 22, with 19 abstentions;

(c) The draft resolution, as amended and as orally revised, was adopted by consensus (see para. 30 below).

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

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

Medium-term plan

The General Assembly,

Recalling the relevant recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies, 15/

Recalling also its resolutions 3199 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973, 3392 (XXX) of 20 November 1975 and 3534 (XXX) of 17 December 1975,

Bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolutions 2008 (LX) of 14 May 1976 and 2019 (LXI) of 3 August 1976,

Having considered the medium-term plan for the period 1978-1981, 16/ chapter III, section H, and chapter VII, section A, of the report of the Economic and Social Council, 17/ the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on the work of its sixteenth session, 18/ the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the medium-term plan, 19/ the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the major recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit on medium-term planning in the United Nations system, 20/ the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 3534 (XXX) 21/ and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, 22/

Conscious of the need for further harmonization of programmes throughout the United Nations system,

Aware of the usefulness of the medium-term plan as an instrument for effective co-ordination of the activities of the United Nations system,

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15/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-first Session, Annexes, agenda item 80, document A/6343.

16/ Ibid., Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 6A (A/31/6/Add.1 and Corr.1-5).

17/ See ibid., Supplement No. 3 (A/31/3).

18/ Ibid., Supplement No. 38 (A/31/38).

19/ A/31/139.

20/ A/C.5/31/15.

21/ A/C.5/31/27.

22/ A/31/326.

Aware also of the respective roles of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in co-ordinating decisions taken by sectoral and regional bodies, while providing over-all guidance, determining policy lines and indicating areas of priority,

Recalling that the need to improve and strengthen the evaluation process as part of planning, programming and budgeting has been recognized since the issue of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the medium-term plan and accepts it in the light of the recommendations and conclusions contained in the reports of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Advisory Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Questions as the framework for the preparation of the 1978-1979 programme budget;

2. Urges each organization within the United Nations system to plan its activities, bearing in mind the related programmes planned or being carried out in other parts of the system;

3. Decides that the future medium-term plans of the United Nations should be prepared according to the following procedure:

(a) The draft medium-term plans proposed by the Secretary-General should embody:

(i) A short statement on directions that United Nations activities should take in the medium term;

(ii) A set of documents in which each major programme, developed in accordance with legislative decisions, is presented in a consolidated manner;

(iii) The following financial information:

a. Any approved allocations in the current regular budget;

b. The actual extrabudgetary expenditure for the preceding year or biennium;

c. Estimates, in percentage terms only, of the proportion of each programme's allocations during the planning period that the Secretary-General intends to devote to each subprogramme;

d. Indications of the time-phasing of planned activities as far as practicable, by programme, subprogramme and programme element;

e. As appropriate and, in so far as possible, approximate amounts allocated or expended (as in a. and b. above) on related activities by other organs of the United Nations system;

- (iv) Preliminary and approximate indications of future costs under the regular budget and from extrabudgetary resources for the plan as a whole and by major programmes which would neither constitute ceilings nor be binding upon Member States;
  - (v) Appropriate information on how proposed United Nations programmes would relate to activities of other organizations of the United Nations system;
- (b) The medium-term plan will be considered by the General Assembly in the light of the comments and recommendations of the Economic and Social Council, the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions following the procedures adopted by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 139 (ORG-76) of 15 January 1976;
- (c) After approval by the General Assembly, the medium-term plan will constitute the principal policy directive of the United Nations which:
- (i) States the medium-term objectives to be attained in a four-year period;
  - (ii) Describes the strategy to be followed to that effect and the means of action to be used;
  - (iii) Gives an indicative estimate of the necessary resources in over-all terms and by major programme;
4. Endorses the remaining recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination not covered in paragraph 3 above and expresses appreciation for the comments thereon of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;
5. Requests the Secretary-General to take measures to involve more closely the sectoral, functional and regional programme-formulating organs in the planning and programming process;
6. Urges those organs to refrain from undertaking new activities not programmed in the medium-term plan and the subsequent programme budget unless a pressing need of an unforeseeable nature arises as determined by the General Assembly;
7. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure compliance with the planning and programme budgeting procedure referred to above;
8. Reaffirms that supplementary estimates for expansion of existing activities or initiation of new programmes will be considered only after specific approval of the General Assembly;

9. Reaffirms its resolution 3534 (XXX) and stresses the responsibility of the Secretary-General to draw to the attention of the competent intergovernmental bodies activities that are obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective, indicating the resources which could be released so that the bodies concerned may take the necessary action;

10. Decides that the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination shall function as the main subsidiary organ of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly for planning, programming and co-ordination and approves the consolidated terms of reference as set out in Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX);

11. Instructs the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination in particular:

(a) To review in depth, on a selective basis, the major programmes of the plan and recommend any necessary amendments to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly;

(b) To determine which programmes, subprogrammes or programme elements are obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective and to recommend, as appropriate, their curtailment or termination;

(c) To assess the degree of substantive co-ordination of selected programmes within the United Nations system and to recommend the appropriate action thereon;

12. Further decides that, in order to encourage Member States to be represented at a high level of expertise and to ensure the continuity of their representation in the body whose central role and over-all responsibilities are recognized, the Organization shall bear from 1978 onwards, for an experimental period and subject to review by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session, as a special exception to the basic principles set out in paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 1798 (XVII) of 11 December 1962 concerning the payment out of United Nations funds of travel and subsistence expenses to members of organs and subsidiary organs of the United Nations, the travel (on the basis of economy class) and subsistence expenses (at standard rates applicable to officials of the Secretariat plus 15 per cent) of the representative of each Member State on the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination.

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