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PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1978-1979

Presentation of the United Nations budget

Argentina, Australia, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Federal Republic of
Germany, France, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Mauritania, New Zealand,
Pakistan, Portugal, Venezuela and Zaire: draft resolution

The General Assembly,

Having noted that during the consideration of agenda item 100 (Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979), and especially during the general debate on that item, important problems of principle and method have been raised,

Having observed that there is a large measure of agreement concerning the interest in some of these problems and the need to study them further with a view to improving budgetary procedures, in the light of the views expressed in the Fifth Committee,

Recalling in that connexion the statement made by the Chairman at the 16th meeting of the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/32/SR.16, paras. 95-101), and the relevant passages of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/32/8),

1. Considers that the most important of the aforementioned problems relate to:

(a) The need to apply effectively paragraphs 9 and 11 (b) of General Assembly resolution 31/93, concerning activities that are obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective;

(b) The need to assess more accurately the resources required for programme implementation and especially the method followed in determining the amount corresponding to "maintenance of programmes" and the composition of that amount;

(c) The best way of dealing with inflationary trends and currency instability in a biennial programme budget;

(d) Refinement of the methods of calculating absolute and real growth of the budget;

(e) The need for a study in depth of problems relating to the implementation of the budget;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to make a study of the aforementioned matters and to report on the results of his study to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session, through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, which will make its observations and recommendations on the Secretary-General's conclusions.

The Secretary-General's report shall contain proposals relating to:

(a) The aforementioned provisions of General Assembly resolution 31/93;

(b) The method to be followed in making a satisfactory determination of the amount corresponding to "maintenance of programmes" and the composition of that amount, for example, by proposing the adoption of a zero base for the calculation of some elements thereof, and in making a more accurate assessment of staff costs;

(c) A study of the advantages and disadvantages of "semi-full budgeting" and the methods used or proposed to apply this system;

3. Decides to consider the reports of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions at its thirty-third session as a preliminary to the preparation of the programme budget for 1980-1981.
