

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

SIXTEENTH SESSION

Official Records



**1082nd
PLENARY MEETING**

Monday, 18 December 1961,
at 8.30 p.m.

NEW YORK

CONTENTS

	Page
<i>Agenda item 69:</i> <i>Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its thirteenth session (concluded)</i> <i>Report of the Sixth Committee (concluded)</i>	1079
<i>Agenda item 56:</i> <i>Appointments to fill vacancies in the membership of subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly (continued):</i> <i>(a) Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (continued);</i> <i>(b) Committee on Contributions;</i> <i>(f) United Nations Staff Pension Committee</i> <i>Reports of the Fifth Committee</i>	
<i>Agenda item 54:</i> <i>Budget estimates for the financial year 1962</i> <i>Payments of honoraria to members serving on organs and subsidiary organs of the United Nations in an individual, personal capacity.</i> <i>Report of the Fifth Committee</i>	
<i>Agenda item 63:</i> <i>Public information activities of the United Nations: report of the Secretary-General</i> <i>Report of the Fifth Committee</i>	1079
<i>Agenda item 12:</i> <i>Report of the Economic and Social Council (continued)</i> <i>Report of the Fifth Committee</i>	
<i>Agenda item 93:</i> <i>An international investigation into the conditions and circumstances resulting in the tragic death of Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld and of members of the party accompanying him (concluded)</i> <i>Report of the Fifth Committee</i>	
<i>Agenda item 57:</i> <i>Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations: report of the Committee on Contributions</i> <i>Report of the Fifth Committee</i>	
<i>Agenda item 53:</i> <i>Supplementary estimates for the financial year 1961</i> <i>Report of the Fifth Committee</i>	1080
<i>Agenda item 8:</i> <i>Adoption of the agenda (continued)</i> <i>Fifth report of the General Committee</i>	1082

President: Mr. Mongi SLIM (Tunisia).

AGENDA ITEM 69

Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its thirteenth session (concluded)

**REPORT OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE (A/5013)
(concluded)**

1. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I give the floor to the representative of the Sudan on a point of order.
2. Mr. ADEEL (Sudan): I am sorry to interrupt these proceedings but at the end of this morning's meeting [10001st meeting] during the vote on the amendment [A/L.374] to the draft resolution contained in the report of the Sixth Committee [A/5013, para. 33], my delegation, through an oversight, abstained. We meant to vote affirmatively. I would ask, with the President's permission that this so appear in the record.
3. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): This involves the correction of a vote. The statement just made by the representative of the Sudan will appear in the record, but this will in no way change the nature or the result of the vote as taken at this morning's meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 56

Appointments to fill vacancies in the membership of subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly (continued):

- (a) **Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (continued);**
- (b) **Committee on Contributions;**
- (f) **United Nations Staff Pension Committee.**

**REPORTS OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/5015,
A/5003, A/5037)**

AGENDA ITEM 54

Budget estimates for the financial year 1962

Payment of honoraria to members serving on organs and subsidiary organs of the United Nations in an individual, personal capacity

REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/5005)

AGENDA ITEM 63

Public information activities of the United Nations: report of the Secretary-General

REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/5029)

AGENDA ITEM 12

Report of the Economic and Social Council (continued)

REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/5016)

AGENDA ITEM 93

An international investigation into the conditions and circumstances resulting in the tragic death of Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld and of members of the party accompanying him (concluded)

REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/5017)

AGENDA ITEM 57

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations: report of the Committee on Contributions

REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/5038)

AGENDA ITEM 53

Supplementary estimates for the financial year 1961

REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/5040)

Mr. Arraiz (Venezuela), Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee, presented the reports of that Committee.

Pursuant to rule 68 of the rules of procedure, it was decided not to discuss the reports of the Fifth Committee.

4. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I now invite the Assembly to vote on the recommendations of the Fifth Committee. First of all, the Fifth Committee recommends the adoption of the draft resolution contained in the report [A/5015] relating to item 56 (a). If there are no objections, I shall consider this draft resolution adopted by the General Assembly.

The draft resolution was adopted.

5. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I invite the Assembly to vote on draft resolutions A and B which appear in the Fifth Committee's report [A/5003] relating to item 56 (b). If there are no objections, I shall consider these drafts adopted by the General Assembly.

Draft resolutions A and B were adopted.

6. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I invite the Assembly to vote on the draft resolution whose adoption is recommended by the Fifth Committee in its report [A/5037] relating to item 56 (f). If there are no objections, I shall consider this draft adopted by the General Assembly.

The draft resolution was adopted.

7. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): We now turn to agenda item 54. The Fifth Committee has made recommendations in its report [A/5005] relating to this item. If there are no objections, I shall consider the Fifth Committee's recommendations adopted by the General Assembly.

It was so decided.

8. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): We come to agenda item 63, concerning which the Fifth Committee has submitted a report.

9. I call upon the representative of Afghanistan to give an explanation of his vote.

10. Mr. HASRAT (Afghanistan): My delegation would not take the time of the General Assembly if it were not compelled to do so. When the subject of the public information activities of the United Nations was discussed in the Fifth Committee, the development was

such that the Afghanistan delegation had to reserve its right to state certain of its views on the issue. This right was confirmed by the Chairman of the Fifth Committee and the situation is described in the records of that Committee [887th meeting]. I have therefore asked permission to make a brief statement.

11. The report of the Secretary-General on the subject of the public information activities of the United Nations [A/4927 and Corr.1], which had been approved by the Fifth Committee, explains how far the Office of Public Information succeeded in implementing the provision of General Assembly resolution 1558 (XV). My delegation does not wish to go into the details of the different aspects of the Secretary-General's report, but for the record I would like to clarify the observations of my delegation on one point which is very important.

12. Paragraphs 6 to 15 of the report deal with the achievement of the Office of Public Information in regard to United Nations information centre programmes and the progress made by the Department concerned. We for our part appreciate the efforts which have been made by the Office of Public Information for the establishment of new information centres in less developed areas where the masses are in need of United Nations information services. But may I be permitted to draw the Assembly's attention to sub-paragraph (a) of the operative part of General Assembly resolution 1558 (XV) in which the Assembly gave high priority to the opening of information centres with adequate information facilities for those who are in need of such services. Just as my delegation has expressed its appreciation for the opening of new information centres, so it cherishes the hope that those centres, when they begin to operate, will carry out the objectives of the United Nations and implement the General Assembly resolution by having adequate facilities. The aims and purposes of the United Nations cannot be achieved merely by opening such centres without giving them adequate means and media of information.

13. We make this observation because our own Information Centre in Kabul, which was established in 1959, still lacks adequate information facilities in spite of all the necessary co-operation on the part of my Government towards the progress of this centre. On several occasions my delegation brought this matter to the attention of the Department concerned and of the Secretariat, while the subject was under discussion in the Fifth Committee. Now, once again we call the attention of the Office of Public Information to the need for an improvement in this centre.

14. Furthermore, we hope that our observations will be borne in mind in respect of all information centres, particularly those in areas where a lack of information might deprive the majority of having a full knowledge of the activities of the United Nations. Moreover, as we have observed, the United Nations information centres are divided into different categories. The centres differ from each other in their spheres of activity, their competence and their financial possibilities. In regard to this matter my delegation is of the opinion that the Office of Public Information should provide all the necessary competence, with equal financial possibilities, particularly to those countries in the less developed areas of the world where the United Nations information centre is the only place for the majority of the population to learn about the Organization.

15. In conclusion, may I say that my delegation has observed a few instances in some information centres where the dissemination of local news by the United Nations does not take into consideration the political implication of the situation existing between Member States. As an example, I would like to refer to the digest of *Coup d'oeil*, which I must say is a useful publication. I am mindful of the sources of information of the United Nations information offices and centres located in Member nations. Some of these offices have the means of communicating, to certain organs of information in the United Nations, the viewpoint of a country on certain regional issues as they appear in the Press or in statements made by officials, which express their own point of view and which is obviously one-sided and biased. Replies to such statements are, of course, made by the countries concerned, but if these countries were without an information office or centre their point of view would not reach the same organs of information in the United Nations. Also if there is such an office or centre and it does not have the budget or the means equally to inform the organs of the United Nations of the point of view of the other side, it affects the position of these countries, particularly on highly important political matters.

16. Therefore, the centres and offices should be instructed not to disseminate such news and the United Nations should not publish it, or means should be provided for such news in countries where there are no offices or centres to reach the same organ of information which published one point of view. In countries where there are centres or offices of information but the centres do not have the means to disseminate similar news, they should be provided the financial and other needs.

17. This point is of great importance to my delegation, and I am sure that since it is based on the principle that true information should be disseminated by the organs of the United Nations in whatever type of publication it may be, it would be of importance to all delegations. If this point of view is not seriously met by the officials of the United Nations, it would mean the involvement of the United Nations in matters with highly political implications.

18. My delegation reserves its right to take up this matter at an appropriate stage if measures satisfactory to all Member nations are not adopted by the officials of the United Nations.

19. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): The Fifth Committee's decision, which was adopted without dissent, appears in that Committee's report [A/5029]. If there are no objections, I shall consider the Fifth Committee's decision approved by the General Assembly.

It was so decided.

20. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): We now come to agenda item 12. In this connexion the General Assembly has before it the Fifth Committee's report [A/5016] relating to chapter X of the Economic and Social Council's report.

21. In the absence of any objection, I shall consider that the General Assembly takes note of the Fifth Committee's report.

It was so decided.

22. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): We now come to agenda item 93. The General Assembly

has before it a report of the Fifth Committee [A/5017], relating to this matter.

23. In the absence of any objection, I shall consider that the General Assembly takes note of the Fifth Committee's report.

It was so decided.

24. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): We now take up agenda item 57. The Fifth Committee recommends the adoption of draft resolutions A and B which appear in its report [A/5038] relating to this matter.

25. I shall give the floor to those representatives who wish to explain their votes, and first of all I call upon the representative of Japan.

26. Mr. MATSUI (Japan): When the scale of assessments for 1962-1964 was discussed in the Fifth Committee, my delegation accepted the recommendation of the Committee on Contributions, including the part relating to my country. We accepted the new higher scale for Japan in spite of the strong reservations which my delegation had entertained owing to various factors besetting our national economy, such as the scarcity of natural resources, high population pressure, heavy dependence on foreign trade, the threat of unemployment, an unstable balance of payments, long-term foreign obligations as well as comparatively modest per caput income. In doing so, my delegation hoped that the recommendations of the Committee on Contributions would be adopted unanimously. We believed that such co-operation was most essential especially at a time of financial crisis of the Organization. Our acceptance was given, therefore, not because we were quite satisfied with Japan's higher scale, but rather because we hoped that the recommendations would be adopted without a single objection.

27. However, against our earnest hope, opposition was unfortunately expressed by a few delegations, so that a compromise formula had to be incorporated in operative paragraph 5 of draft resolution A, as set forth in the report [A/5038]. According to that formula, the General Assembly at its seventeenth session would revise the scale retroactively after an over-all re-examination by the Committee. My delegation fears that such a formula would constitute a bad precedent that would allow any Member State practically to overthrow the whole recommendation whenever it should object to the scale recommended for that particular State, thereby damaging the prestige of the Committee on Contributions, the authority of which has never been challenged until today. This is against a long-standing tradition that Member States should co-operate with each other and not extend their dissatisfaction into a global change of the picture.

28. For these reasons, my delegation is unable to accept operative paragraph 5 of draft resolution A and would like to request that a separate vote be taken on that paragraph. My delegation will abstain from voting on it.

29. Lastly, if paragraph 5 should be adopted by the Assembly, my delegation would be obliged to appeal to the Committee on Contributions to take into account the several reservations which I mentioned at the beginning of my statement in any re-examination of the scale of assessments next year and to make public the basis of calculation so that no criticism could be made from one or another particular country.

30. Mr. ROSHCHIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (translated from Russian): The Soviet delegation will vote against the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee [A/5038] on the question of the scale of assessments for 1962-1964, for the following reasons.

31. In the scale of assessments submitted for approval by the General Assembly, the proportion of contributions payable by the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries has been incorrectly calculated. Thus, in computing the national income of the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries, the totals of turnover taxes were not excluded, although, in computing the national income of other States Members of the United Nations, such taxes were deducted from the total figures for national income.

32. In this way, a very substantial error was made in calculating the proportion of contributions payable by the socialist countries, and this led to incorrect calculations and recommendations regarding the proportion of contributions to be paid by the Soviet Union and other socialist countries.

33. Serious errors were also made in computing the relative value of the paid services which were included in the over-all figure of the Soviet Union's national income in order to evaluate its proportional contribution. The relative value of paid services figuring in the national income of the Soviet Union was calculated arbitrarily, not on a proper basis and without allowing for the special features of the structure of the Soviet Union's socialist national economy.

34. In calculating the scale of assessments for 1962-1964, the criteria originally established by the United Nations Preparatory Commission and confirmed by the General Assembly's first session were not applied. More particularly, in accordance with the Preparatory Commission's recommendations as approved by the first session, in the case of countries which found it difficult to obtain foreign currency, special concessions were to be accorded in the fixing of their share of contributions to the United Nations budget. This is a question of great importance for many States. Members of the United Nations which find it difficult to obtain dollars. The question acquires added significance because of the trade discrimination practised by the United States vis-à-vis of the socialist countries.

35. Further, in the preparation of the scale of assessments, no consideration was given to the important factor that many Members of the United Nations had only recently proclaimed their independence and had been compelled to concentrate their main efforts, including their financial efforts, on the strengthening of their national economies. It would in fact be unfair to place States which have recently become independent on an equal footing with all the other Members of the United Nations. New Members of the United Nations which have only recently proclaimed their independence must be given specific privileges as regards contributions to the United Nations budget, at least for the first few years of their membership of the Organization.

36. Since all these factors have not been taken into account in the framing of the scale of assessments, the Soviet delegation cannot approve a scale of contributions which has been drawn up without allowance being made for those factors and in which, moreover, serious errors in calculating the proportional con-

tributions to be paid by a number of States have been made.

37. At the same time the Soviet delegation notes, with approval, that the draft resolution on the scale of assessments includes in its fifth paragraph a clause requiring the Committee on Contributions at its meeting in 1962 to examine this scale in the light of the discussion at this General Assembly session and of such further information as might be made available to it, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventeenth session. The same clause also provides that, if at its seventeenth session the General Assembly revises the scale of assessments, that decision will be retroactive, that is, the contributions for 1962 will be adjusted accordingly.

38. The Soviet delegation expresses the hope that the Committee on Contributions will take account of the arguments adduced by a large number of delegations, including that of the Soviet Union, in favour of introducing corrections into the scale of assessments put forward in the draft resolution, and that the Committee will make appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly at its seventeenth session for the effecting of the requisite corrections in that scale.

39. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I invite the Assembly to vote on draft resolution A appearing in the Fifth Committee's report [A/5038].

40. As a separate vote has been requested on paragraph 5 of draft resolution A, I am putting this paragraph to the vote first.

Paragraph 5 of draft resolution A was adopted by 75 votes to none, with 11 abstentions.

41. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I now put draft resolution A as a whole to the vote.

Draft resolution A was adopted by 77 votes to 11, with 1 abstention.

42. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I now put to the vote draft resolution B which is contained in the same report [A/5038] and was adopted unanimously by the Fifth Committee. If there are no objections, I shall consider it adopted unanimously by the General Assembly.

Draft resolution B was adopted unanimously.

43. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): We now come to agenda item 53. I invite the Assembly to vote on the draft resolution which the Fifth Committee recommends for adoption and which appears in that Committee's report [A/5040]. I am putting part VI, on which a separate vote has been requested, to the vote first.

Part VI of the draft resolution was adopted by 75 votes to 11, with 1 abstention.

44. The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I now put to the vote the draft resolution as a whole.

The draft resolution as a whole was adopted by 78 votes to none, with 11 abstentions.

AGENDA ITEM 8

Adoption of the agenda (continued)*

FIFTH REPORT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE (A/5053)

45. The PRESIDENT: (translated from French): I had intended to bring the fifth report of the General Com-

*Resumed from the 1059th meeting.

mittee before the present meeting of the General Assembly, but the Security Council is now discussing an important matter, and certain delegations wishing to participate in the examination of the General Committee's report are unable to leave the Security Coun-

cil meeting. I therefore propose that this matter be held over until tomorrow afternoon's plenary meeting.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 10 p.m.