



# General Assembly

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## Fifth Committee

### Summary record of the 10th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 24 October 2013, at 10 a.m.

*Chair:* Mr. Dosseh (Vice-Chair) ..... (Togo)  
*Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative  
and Budgetary Questions:* Mr. Ruiz Massieu

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*In the absence of Mr. Taalas (Finland), Mr. Dosseh (Togo), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

*The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.*

**Agenda item 134: Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015** *(continued)*

*Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2013 (A/68/7/Add.2 and A/68/380)*

*Request for a subvention to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research resulting from the recommendations of the Board of Trustees of the Institute on the work programme of the Institute for 2014-2015 (A/68/7/Add.1 and A/68/80)*

1. **Mr. Huisman** (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2013 (A/68/380), said that the additional requirements arising from those resolutions and decisions were estimated at \$91,100, of which \$29,400 related to the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 and \$61,700 to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015. All of those requirements were expected to be absorbed within the resources approved for the biennium 2012-2013 and to be approved for the biennium 2014-2015 respectively; hence, no additional appropriations were sought over and above the current level of funding for the bienniums 2012-2013 and 2014-2015. The Secretary-General's recommendations were set out in paragraphs 20 and 21 of the report.

2. Introducing the note by the Secretary-General on the request for a subvention to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) resulting from the recommendations of the Board of Trustees of the Institute on the work programme of the Institute for 2014-2015 (A/68/80), said that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/248, the statute of the Institute and the recommendations of its Board of Trustees, the General Assembly was requested to approve a subvention to UNIDIR of \$557,800 (before recosting) from the regular budget for the biennium 2014-2015. The related provision had been included under section 4, Disarmament, of the

proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

3. **Mr. Ruiz Massieu** (Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the Advisory Committee's report on revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2013 (A/68/7/Add.2), said that the Advisory Committee noted that no additional appropriations were sought over and above the current level of funding of the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 and of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015. It further noted that, should the actual requirements exceed the absorptive capacity of the respective sections, the additional provisions would be reported in the context of the second performance reports for those bienniums. The Advisory Committee had no objection to the Secretary-General's approach and expected that every effort would be made to absorb the additional requirements.

4. Introducing the Advisory Committee's report on the request for a subvention to UNIDIR (A/68/7/Add.1), he said that the Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve the request for a subvention of \$577,800 (before recosting) from the regular budget for the biennium 2014-2015, for which the provision had already been included under section 4, Disarmament, of the proposed programme budget for the same biennium. The subvention to UNIDIR for the biennium 2012-2013 had not been recosted, and the Advisory Committee regretted that the established procedures for recosting the subvention had not been followed for the biennium 2012-2013. The Advisory Committee expected that the Secretary-General would ensure that the established procedures would be complied with in the future.

5. With regard to the financial sustainability of UNIDIR, including the subvention, the Advisory Committee noted the recommendations made by the Office of Internal Oversight Services in that regard, and looked forward to the proposal for a sustainable funding strategy from the Institute to achieve its mandate and objectives.

6. **Mr. Navoti** (Fiji), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group appreciated the useful work done by UNIDIR and was seriously

concerned that the subvention for the biennium 2012-2013 had not been recosted despite the decision of the General Assembly to that effect. It therefore requested clarification from the Secretary-General on that matter. The current proposal did not update the level of resources in accordance with the non-post-related recosting decided by the General Assembly and it therefore disguised a reduction in the amount proposed for UNIDIR for the following biennium. UNIDIR must be provided with the necessary resources from the regular budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

7. The Group was concerned about the deviation from the General Assembly's mandate on the established budgetary procedures. It was important that the integrity of existing budgetary procedures and the Financial Regulations and Rules of the Organization was upheld. It was also important that the necessary resources were provided to finance all decisions of intergovernmental organs of the Organization in the field of social and economic development. To that end, adequate resources should be allocated to implement mandates related to the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research.

8. Lastly, the late issuance of documents required for proper deliberations had hindered the Group's work. Consultations with other regional groups had confirmed that the timely issuance of documentation had become a perennial problem. The established timelines for the processing of documents must be observed in order to facilitate the Committee's work.

9. **The Chair** said that he would convey Member States' concerns to the relevant department and that the Bureau would do its utmost to ensure that documents were available on time.

*The meeting rose at 10.20 a.m.*