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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 39th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MAYCOCK (Barbados)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

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The meeting was called to order at 11.20 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 17: APPOINTMENTS TO FILL VACANCIES IN SUBSIDIARY ORGANS AND OTHER APPOINTMENTS

(a) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS (A/39/101; A/C.5/39/48)

1. The CHAIRMAN, after briefly recapitulating the voting procedure, said that the Committee had before it a note from the Secretary-General (A/39/101) indicating that, as the terms of office of five of the members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions would expire on 31 December 1984, the General Assembly was called upon to appoint five persons at its thirty-ninth session to fill the resulting vacancies. In another note (A/C.5/39/48) the Secretary-General communicated to the Fifth Committee the names of six persons nominated by their respective Governments for appointment or reappointment to the Advisory Committee.
2. The candidature of Mr. Lahlou (Morocco) had been endorsed by the Group of African States, that of Mr. Khalevinskiy (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) by the Group of Eastern European States, that of Mr. Fontaine-Ortiz (Cuba) by the Group of Latin American States and that of Mrs. Housholder (United States of America) by the Group of Western European and Other States. He took it, therefore, that, instead of proceeding to a vote by secret ballot, the Committee could recommend by acclamation that those candidates should be appointed to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for a three-year term of office beginning on 1 January 1985.
3. It was so decided.
4. The Chairman also announced that the Group of Western European and Other States had proposed two candidates, Mrs. Muck (Austria) and Mr. Holborn (Federal Republic of Germany), for the fifth seat currently occupied by Mr. Pedersen (Canada). The Fifth Committee must therefore elect one of those candidates by secret ballot.
5. At the invitation of the Chairman, the representatives of the Dominican Republic, the Niger, Oman and Poland acted as tellers.

6. A vote was taken by secret ballot.

<u>Number of ballot papers:</u>	146
<u>Invalid ballots:</u>	1
<u>Number of valid ballots:</u>	145
<u>Abstentions:</u>	2
<u>Number of members voting:</u>	143
<u>Required majority:</u>	72
<u>Number of votes obtained:</u>	
Mr. Holborn	86
Mrs. Muck	57

7. Mr. Holborn (Federal Republic of Germany) having obtained the required majority, the Committee decided to recommend his appointment as a member of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1985.

(b) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTIONS (A/39/102 and Add.1; A/C.5/39/50)

8. The CHAIRMAN said that in his note A/39/102/Add.1 the Secretary-General informed the Committee that Mr. Akao had resigned from the membership of the Committee on Contributions. To serve out the rest of his term of office, which ran until 31 December 1985, the Government of Japan had nominated Mr. Noguchi. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to recommend the appointment of Mr. Noguchi to the Committee on Contributions for the period in question.

9. It was so decided.

10. The CHAIRMAN said that, as stated in document A/39/102, it was necessary to appoint six persons to fill vacancies that would arise in the membership of the Committee on Contributions as a result of the expiration on 31 December 1984 of the terms of office of six of its members. The regional groups concerned had recommended the following candidates: Mr. Ali (Pakistan), Mr. Wang Liansheng (China), Mr. Chistyakov (USSR), Mr. Ayala (Mexico), Mr. Battisti (Italy) and Mr. Souchet (France). If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Fifth Committee wished to recommend to the General Assembly the appointment of those candidates to the Committee on Contributions for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1985.

11. It was so decided.

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(c) APPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF AUDITORS (A/39/103; A/C.5/39/51)

12. The CHAIRMAN said that, in his note A/39/103, the Secretary-General reminded the Committee that the General Assembly was required to appoint the Auditor-General of a Member State to fill the vacancy that would arise in the membership of the Board of Auditors on 1 July 1985. In document A/C.5/39/51, the Secretary-General indicated that the Comptroller-General of Colombia and the Auditor-General of Ghana had been nominated by their respective Governments.

13. At the invitation of the Chairman, the representatives of the Byelorussian SSR, Kuwait and the Netherlands acted as tellers.

14. A vote was taken by secret ballot.

<u>Number of ballot papers:</u>	147
<u>Invalid ballots:</u>	0
<u>Number of valid ballots:</u>	147
<u>Abstentions:</u>	3
<u>Number of members voting:</u>	144
<u>Required majority:</u>	73
<u>Number of votes obtained:</u>	
The Auditor-General of Ghana:	81
The Comptroller-General of Colombia:	62

15. The Auditor-General of Ghana having obtained the required majority, the Committee decided to recommend his appointment to the Board of Auditors of the United Nations for a three-year term beginning on 1 July 1985.

(d) CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE INVESTMENTS COMMITTEE (A/39/104; A/C.5/39/52)

16. The CHAIRMAN said that, in his note A/C.5/39/52, the Secretary-General had requested the General Assembly to confirm the reappointment of Mr. Guyot, Mr. Johnston and Mr. Matsukawa to the Investments Committee for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1985. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to recommend the General Assembly to confirm the appointments submitted by the Secretary-General.

17. It was so decided.

(e) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL  
(A/39/105; A/C.5/39/53)

18. The CHAIRMAN said that, as stated by the Secretary-General in his note A/39/105, the General Assembly was required to fill two vacancies in the membership of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal that would arise on 1 January 1985. In document A/C.5/39/53 the Committee was informed that Mr. Montero (Uruguay) and Mr. Ustor (Hungary) had been nominated by their respective Governments for reappointment. Since there were only two candidates for two vacancies, the Committee could, without proceeding to a vote by secret ballot, recommend the General Assembly to reappoint the persons concerned for a further three-year term starting on 1 January 1985.

19. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 109: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1984-1985 (continued)

Expansion of the conference facilities of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at Bangkok (A/39/7/Add.7; A/C.5/39/24 and 62)

20. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the Advisory Committee's report on the expansion of the conference facilities of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at Bangkok (A/39/7/Add.7), said that the Advisory Committee indicated in paragraph 15 of its report that the design of the principal Conference rooms allowed sufficient space for seating expansion. Thus, the large meeting room could ultimately accommodate 1,000 persons (instead of 800), the medium-size rooms 470 (instead of 380) and one of the small rooms 220 (instead of 184). There would be no change in the seating capacity of the other small room, which accommodated 260 persons. In addition, there were plans to construct additional facilities, which were referred to by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 3 of its report.

21. The total cost of the project was estimated at \$39 million at 1984 prices. Assuming that construction costs would increase at a rate of 5 per cent a year compounded, the total estimate would be \$44,177,700 for the three-year building period.

22. The observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee were contained in paragraphs 12 to 20 of its report. He drew attention to paragraphs 12 and 13, in particular, which dealt with the question of the land offered to the United Nations by the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand, and to paragraph 16, in which the Advisory Committee recommended that the users of the new parking spaces should make some contribution towards the cost. The new construction would release an area of about 2,900 square metres in the existing buildings which was currently used as makeshift conference rooms. The Advisory Committee was of the opinion that ESCAP should first consider its office space requirements before allocating the space released for other purposes.

23. The Advisory Committee concurred, on the whole, with the recommendations of the Secretary-General. The text which it was proposing to the Committee for adoption was contained in paragraph 21 of its report.

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24. Mr. HERIJANTO (Indonesia) said that his Government had long been concerned about the cramped conference facilities in Bangkok and was therefore pleased that the General Assembly had envisaged the construction of new buildings and was grateful to the Thai Government for its offer of additional land.

Document A/C.5/39/62 showed that the lease for that new land would be on terms extremely advantageous to the United Nations. Accordingly, nothing should delay any further the acceptance of the estimate and the start of construction.

25. Mr. ROY (India) drew the Committee's attention to the Advisory Committee's warning in paragraph 13 of its report (A/39/7/Add.7). That reservation no longer applied, since the Thai Government had generously given all the necessary assurances in its letter (A/C.5/39/62). Construction could therefore begin immediately, according to the schedule proposed by the Secretary-General.

26. Mr. MA Longde (China) recalled that the decision to build new premises for ESCAP had been delayed for more than 10 years, even though everyone knew that the Commission served more than half the world's population. Until recent years, solutions had been improvised to meet increasingly urgent needs, and it had even been necessary to turn offices into conference rooms, which were obviously inadequate, uncomfortable and poorly equipped. The Secretary-General, in fact, described the situation accurately.

27. Since it believed that the construction of one large conference room, two medium-size ones and two small ones, all fully equipped, was essential, his delegation was prepared to approve the Advisory Committee's recommendation. The warning in paragraph 13 of that Committee's report (A/39/7/Add.7) automatically lapsed in the light of the assurances given on that point by the Thai Government. Like the representative of India, he also hoped that once the General Assembly had accepted the Secretary-General's cost estimates and timetable, the work could begin immediately, for the good of the entire region of Asia and the Pacific.

28. Mr. KASEMSRI (Thailand) thanked the delegations which had had kind words for his Government. He was certain that construction would begin as soon as it was approved. All those who had participated in meetings at Bangkok knew how inadequate the facilities were. He was also pleased to confirm the terms of the Thai Government's offer, as set forth in its letter (A/C.5/39/62).

29. Mr. MONIRUZZAMAN (Bangladesh) said that after so many postponements he also would like to see construction begin without further delay. He agreed with the observations of the other delegations regarding the Advisory Committee's warning in paragraph 13 of its report and joined in the thanks addressed to the Thai Government.

30. Mr. TOMMO MONTHE (Cameroon) associated himself with the observations of the preceding delegations.

31. Mr. ROY (India) said that he would like the Committee to specify in its decision that construction should begin as soon as it was approved, but wondered what should be done about the reservation expressed by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 13 of its report.

32. The CHAIRMAN replied that the Fifth Committee would indicate in its report to the General Assembly that the reservation in question was no longer valid. As for the second point raised by the representative of India, the Secretariat could give its assurance that it intended to start the project without delay.

33. Mr. FORAN (Controller) confirmed that intention.

34. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to recommend to the General Assembly that it should take note of the assurances given by the Thai Government in its letter A/C.5/39/62 and approve the recommendations of the Advisory Committee in paragraph 21 of its report (A/39/7/Add.7).

35. Mr. NYGARD (United States of America), speaking in explanation of vote before the vote, recalled that the Committee had decided early in the current session to start construction at Addis Ababa for the Economic Commission for Africa. He did not think that the current world situation justified the start of major projects, which he regarded as a useless burden. His delegation would vote against the proposed recommendations.

36. Mr. EL-SAFY (Egypt) said he would vote for the Chairman's proposal. The project, already delayed too long, should be started immediately.

37. Mr. GUIMARAES (Brazil), like the representative of India, urged that the project, which had been carefully prepared, should be undertaken without delay. He would vote in favour of the Chairman's proposal.

38. Mr. FORBES (Ireland) said he would vote in favour of the proposal under consideration on the understanding that the project would cover the needs of ESCAP alone and would on no account result in the establishment of another international conference centre.

39. Mr. BOKHARI (Pakistan) said that he would vote in favour of the proposal because the project should be executed without further delay.

40. Mr. MURRAY (United Kingdom) recalled that at the thirty-eighth session his delegation had opposed an architectural study for ESCAP and that at the current session his delegation had voted against the proposal to construct new conference facilities in Addis Ababa. It felt that at a time of widespread economic difficulty and United Nations budgetary restraint, the provision of expensive new conference facilities was not a priority. His delegation would therefore vote against the Chairman's proposal.

41. Mr. PEDERSEN (Canada) said he realized that the ESCAP facilities had to be renovated and expanded but would have preferred a more modest project than the one proposed. His delegation would therefore abstain in the vote.

42. Mr. TAKASU (Japan) said he realized that the economic situation was not very favourable, but after careful study his delegation had concluded that the project was reasonable, in view of the long-term needs of ESCAP. Japan attached great importance to the work of ESCAP and felt that construction could not be delayed without undermining the Commission's effectiveness, with all the disadvantages that that would involve for the Member States of the region. His delegation would therefore vote for the Chairman's proposal. In order that the project might be executed under proper conditions, however, it was essential for the Secretariat to ensure close co-ordination between Headquarters and ESCAP. The Secretary-General should include detailed financial information in his progress reports.

43. At the request of the representative of the United States of America, a recorded vote was taken on the Chairman's proposal.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal.

44. The Chairman's proposal was adopted by 104 votes to 11, with 8 abstentions.

The meeting rose at 1.25 p.m.