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Agenda item 8

Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-fourth session

Rapporteur: Mr. Hitoshi **Kozaki** (Japan)

Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007

Part two: biennial programme plan

(Item 3 (b))

Programme 2

Political affairs

1. At its 20th meeting, on 22 June 2004, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 2, Political affairs, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/59/6 (Prog. 2)).
2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced programme 2 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the budget section.

Discussion

3. Statements of appreciation and support were made for the work of the Department of Political Affairs carried out through its various subprogrammes and the good offices of the Secretary-General.
4. It was emphasized that the maintenance of international peace and security through assistance to States involved in disputes or conflict to resolve their differences peacefully was of paramount importance and represented a high priority issue. Support was expressed for activities focused on prevention, control and resolution of conflicts, as well as for post-conflict peace-building activities. It was stressed that conflict prevention was indispensable and more cost-effective than

peacekeeping operations in maintaining international peace and security. It was also pointed out that conflict prevention required the commitment and involvement of many parts of the Secretariat and the United Nations system. The view was expressed that it was crucial for the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, as well as other relevant bodies of the United Nations system, to work closely, both in conflict prevention and post-conflict peace-building activities, in order to deliver an integrated and effective response.

5. Support was expressed for creating capacity for post-conflict peace-building activities and for the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, and the need for Member States to provide related technical support was recognized. The view was also expressed that, in addition to the issue of terrorism, other issues such as drug trafficking and crime prevention, were also important. The view was expressed that cooperation between the United Nations and the regional organizations, such as the African Union, in the areas of conflict prevention and peace-building should be supported.

6. Appreciation and support were expressed for the important work carried out by the Department in providing electoral assistance, especially on short notice, in countries where conflict situations had ended. Support was also expressed for the development of benchmarks for electoral assistance processes. The view was expressed that electoral assistance should also be provided during the preparatory phase for elections.

7. Support was expressed for the activities carried out by the United Nations with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The view was expressed that the work of the United Nations should continue until all the 16 Non-Self-Governing Territories became independent. Support was also expressed for the continued cooperation between the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the administering Powers.

8. Support was expressed for the activities carried out in relation to the Question of Palestine. It was pointed out that the role of the Committee on Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People was important and served as an important link between the United Nations and the Palestinian people. The view was expressed that resources devoted to activities relating to the Question of Palestine should be redirected to activities that would be of direct benefit to the well-being of the Palestinian people.

9. Support was expressed for the United Nations role with regard to the Middle East peace process as well as for the "road-map". It was pointed out that the Office of the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process has an important role to play both by itself and as part of the Quartet in promoting the Middle East peace process. It was also emphasized that achieving a just and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions was inevitable.

10. It was indicated that some of the objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement needed further refinement.

Conclusions and recommendations

11. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 2, Political affairs, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:

Subprogramme 1

Objective of the Organization

Revise the existing text of the objective to read as follows:

“To assist in the prevention, control and resolution of conflicts through peaceful means as well as to promote a more cohesive and integrated response by the United Nations system in addressing post-conflict peace-building challenges facing countries emerging from crisis”

Expected accomplishment of the Secretariat

Re-letter the expected accomplishment as “(a)” and delete the words “of the international community”

Add a new expected accomplishment (b) to read: “(b) Improved capability to keep peace process on track once an agreement has been signed and to facilitate a durable peace”

Indicators of achievement

Re-number existing indicator (iii) as (i) and align it opposite new expected accomplishment (b)

Paragraph 2.6

Delete existing subparagraphs (f) and (g) and insert the following new subparagraphs at the end of the paragraph:

“(f) providing substantive support and guidance to special political and peace-building missions, with the agreement of the Member States concerned, where appropriate; (g) strengthening the Department’s capacity and expertise in order to address challenges to peace and security more effectively; (h) undertaking research on post-conflict issues and best practices by the United Nations system in this area; (i) developing coherent strategies for post-conflict peace-building, linking diplomatic, military, humanitarian and developmental efforts by the United Nations system and other international and regional actors. To this end, the Department of Political Affairs will work closely with other relevant parts of the United Nations system.”

Subprogramme 2

Objective of the Organization

Revise the existing text of the objective to read as follows:

“To render electoral assistance to Member States, at their request and in accordance with the relevant decisions of the Security Council and the General Assembly, through the provision of necessary technical and advisory support for holding periodic and fair elections”

Expected accomplishment of the Secretariat

Delete the existing expected accomplishment and replace it with the following:

“Enhanced capacity of Member States requesting assistance to organize periodic and fair elections”

Indicator of achievement

Revise the existing indicator of achievement to read as follows:

“Increased number of successful United Nations electoral assistance missions”

Strategy

Paragraph 2.7

Revise the third sentence to read as follows:

“The Division will assess the needs for the holding of elections in the requesting countries.”

Subprogramme 3

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Add a new expected accomplishment (d), as follows:

“(d) Efficient and timely organization and staffing of Security Council missions to countries of which the Council is seized”

Indicators of achievement

Add a new indicator of achievement (d), as follows:

“(d) Efficient and effective Security Council missions to countries of which the Council is seized”

Subprogramme 4

Objective of the Organization

Revise the text of the existing objective to read as follows:

“To promote the decolonization process in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and relevant resolutions of the General Assembly for the 16 remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories so as to bring about the complete eradication of colonialism”

Strategy
Paragraph 2.9

Revise the last sentence to read as follows:

“The issues related to decolonization are guided by the Charter, as well as by the principles of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples contained in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.”

Subprogramme 5
Question of Palestine
Strategy

Add a new paragraph 2.12, as follows, and renumber the subsequent paragraphs:

“2.12 The Department of Political Affairs will also conduct research and prepare analytical studies on the application and interpretation of the relevant articles of the Charter and implement General Assembly mandates regarding the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs*”.

Subprogramme 6
Objective of the Organization

Revise the existing objective to read as follows:

“To advance the Middle East peace process towards a comprehensive, just and lasting peace”