

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

TWENTY-FIRST SESSION

Official Records



**FIFTH COMMITTEE, 1161st
MEETING**

*Tuesday, 6 December 1966,
at 11 a.m.*

NEW YORK

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
<i>Agenda item 83:</i>	
<i>United Nations International School: report of the Secretary-General (continued)</i>	253
<i>Agenda item 76:</i>	
<i>Nominations to fill vacancies in the membership of subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly (continued):</i>	
<i>(d) United Nations Administrative Tribunal (continued)</i>	253
<i>Agenda items 12 and 79:</i>	
<i>Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapters I and XIV) (continued)</i>	
<i>Administrative and budgetary co-ordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency: report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (continued)</i>	253

Chairman: Mr. Vahap AŞIROĞLU (Turkey).

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Todorov (Bulgaria), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 83

United Nations International School: report of the Secretary-General (continued) (A/6507, A/6536, A/C.5/L.884)

1. Mr. SANU (Nigeria) noted with satisfaction the adoption, at the 1160th meeting, of draft resolution A/C.5/L.884, and expressed his delegation's great appreciation of the work of the International School and the efforts of its Board of Trustees and of its Chairman.

AGENDA ITEM 76

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

(d) United Nations Administrative Tribunal (continued) (A/6384, A/C.5/1072, A/C.5/1083)

2. Mr. LARGHERO (Uruguay) thanked the Committee for having elected Mr. Gros Espiell to the Administrative Tribunal and assured the Committee that Mr. Gros Espiell would perform his duties with dedication and impartiality.

AGENDA ITEMS 12 AND 79

Report of the Economic and Social Council (continued) (A/6303, chapters I and XIV)

Administrative and budgetary co-ordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency: report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (continued) (A/6522, A/C.5/1068, A/C.5/L.885 and Add.1)

3. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) paid tribute to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for the analysis, in its report (A/6522), of the question of harmonizing the scales of assessments of the United Nations family of organizations. For some delegations, at least, the question was not a new one, and the problem had already been raised both in the United Nations and in the specialized agencies. The variations and fluctuations in the scales of assessments meant that, in some instances, the principle of the capacity to pay of Member States was not fully taken into account. That could be seen simply by consulting the table contained in paragraph 55 of the Advisory Committee's report which showed that, as stated in paragraph 40 of the report, in the case of the agencies which applied methods of assessment similar to those of the United Nations there remained variations and fluctuations in the scales, even allowing for differences in their membership. The Advisory Committee also mentioned that, in another agency, the minimum assessed contribution was three times higher than that laid down for States Members of the United Nations.

4. It should be recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 311 B (IV), had expressed the belief that there was room for closer relationship between the assessments of Member States in the contributions both of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies. In the same resolution, the Assembly recognized that it was desirable that the same data should be utilized for the assessment of contributions in cases where the principles applied in making the assessments were similar, and it authorized the Committee on Contributions to recommend or advise on the scale of contributions for a specialized agency if requested by that agency to do so. Since the adoption of that resolution, several of the major specialized agencies, such as UNESCO and WHO, had brought their scales of assessments into line with those of the United Nations. Nevertheless, variations still persisted, even in the case of agencies which had accepted capacity to pay as their basic criterion. It was therefore important that the agencies concerned should make an effort to eliminate those variations, if the criterion of capacity to pay was to play an

effective part in achieving a more equitable calculation of contributions, in order to lighten the financial burden on the developing countries.

5. It was in view of those considerations that he was introducing draft resolution A/C.5/L.885 and Add.1. The very clear and very simple guide-lines in that text stemmed both from General Assembly resolution 311 B (IV) and from the report of the Advisory Committee (A/6522), whose thinking and language the sponsors of the draft resolution had endeavoured to follow as closely as possible. Under the terms of the draft resolution, the Assembly, after noting with appreciation that several specialized agencies had brought the assessments of their member States into a substantial degree of harmony with the United Nations scale of contributions, would note in the preamble that there still remained variations in the scale of contributions of some of those agencies which applied methods of assessment similar to those of the United Nations, and would then express agreement with the comments and observations contained in paragraphs 39 to 43 of the Advisory Committee's report.

6. In operative paragraph 2, the sponsors voiced the expectation that the specialized agencies which applied methods of assessment similar to those of the United Nations and whose scales of contributions still differed appreciably from the United Nations scale would reduce the remaining variations to a minimum, taking into account differences in membership and other pertinent factors.

7. Uniformity and co-ordination would obviously gain by the adoption of the draft resolution. The principle of capacity to pay would also be reinforced as far as the major agencies involved were concerned. The reason why the sponsors proposed the United Nations scale of assessments as the basis for reference was that that scale, even if not perfect, had been evolved by experts and took into account objective criteria, such as national income, national per capita income and the capacity to pay of Member States, and also because it had been adopted by the General Assembly without reservation.

8. Mr. MERON (Israel) noted with satisfaction that the Advisory Committee, in paragraph 30 of its report, stressed the need to maintain the authority of the General Assembly as an appropriating organ and the need for central control of budget implementation. His delegation had already expressed its views (1130th meeting) on the organizational implications of the establishment of UNCTAD and UNIDO, and it would merely support the position stated in paragraphs 29 and 30 of the Advisory Committee's report.

9. His delegation wished to make two suggestions. The first concerned the scope of the material presented by the Advisory Committee in its report. With reference to the study of common grading standards now being carried out by ICSAB, which was mentioned in paragraph 46 of the Advisory Committee's report, he expressed the belief that it would be useful to include in chapter III of the report a table giving an inter-organizational comparison of grading in total figures and in percentages. That was a matter of great importance for the common system. Indeed,

the most important divergency in the application of the common system was in grading. All the organizations belonging to the common system had adopted the salary scales recommended by ICSAB for professional and higher categories of the international civil service. Despite that, there were differences between the salaries of officials who had comparable experience and performed comparable functions. He referred to the findings of the Salary Review Committee in 1955, as stated in paragraphs 58 and 59 of its report.^{1/}

10. There were several problems involved: the general structure of categories of service, the classification of posts and the application of common standards of grading. But the principal divergency from the common system concerned the application of standards of grading to similar positions. The Advisory Committee should not limit itself to indicating the progress achieved in the co-ordination of various conditions of service, grants, etc., but should also indicate progress made in the application of common grading standards; that could be done by a comparative table of grading, the necessary data for which were no doubt available to the secretariat of the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions.

11. The Israel delegation's second suggestion concerned the ACC machinery, referred to in paragraph 17 of the Advisory Committee's report, and its procedure. The Israel delegation supported the establishment of a full-time ACC secretariat, which should have an inter-agency character and be financed by the appropriate formula for cost-sharing between the various members of the United Nations family of organizations. That would undoubtedly bring about an improvement in the procedures and techniques of co-ordination. The Fifth Committee's examination of the new travel standards and of the new salary scales of the international civil service had illustrated the imperfections of the present co-ordination procedures. It had been argued that the United Nations should approve the ACC recommendations immediately and should not modify their substance, lest other organizations should go ahead independently, which would impair the common system. Inter-secretariat agreement might thus become a decisive argument, rather than merely one important consideration. Yet under the United Nations Charter it was the General Assembly which was the appropriating organ.

12. The Israel delegation would therefore like to suggest to the ACC a procedure which would be more consistent with the Charter and with the Organization's special financial problems: the ACC would first draft provisional agreements; those agreements would be submitted to the competent organs for their consideration; and the final agreements would be adopted only after their positions had been ascertained.

13. Miss MEAGHER (Canada) said that in general the Canadian delegation agreed with the recommendations and considerations formulated in the Advisory Committee's report. It would be useful if the Advisory Committee could in future expand and publish separately chapter II of the report, which dealt with inter-organization administrative co-ordination.

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Eleventh Session, Annexes, agenda item 51, document A/3209 (separate fascicle).

14. The Advisory Committee's comments in chapter II reinforced the Canadian delegation's belief that the United Nations system was undergoing a considerable shift in regard to international co-operation in the fields of economic and social development. The important task for the present appeared to be, first, to use the various institutions in a consolidated and co-ordinated endeavour, emphasizing the multi-agency approach to major programmes, and secondly, to supervise the operation of the existing international machinery on the basis of results achieved, which, necessarily, required the continuing evaluation of projects, programmes and techniques. The next decade would undoubtedly witness a new emphasis upon the modification and reorganization of existing institutions, and on the task of making the United Nations system work cohesively and to maximum benefit. For that purpose, a steadily increasing flow of information on the results attained and a continuing appraisal of techniques and programme priorities would be needed. Viewed in that context, the Advisory Committee's appraisal of inter-organization administrative co-ordination was of considerable importance and merited close study.

15. The Canadian delegation agreed with the Advisory Committee that ACC should play a more active and positive co-ordinating role, and would for that purpose require a full-time secretariat. It also welcomed the decision (see A/6522, para. 15) that the Deputy Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs should work full time on inter-organization co-ordination. It was to be hoped that the expenses necessary for a full-time ACC secretariat could be met to a considerable extent by the reallocation of resources from the existing establishments of the various secretariats.

16. While the new arrangements concerning the Special Committee on Co-ordination (*ibid.*, paras. 18-20) looked good on paper, the effectiveness of the new Committee for Programme and Co-ordination would depend entirely on the diligence of the government representatives who would be required to digest a mass of documents. In short, committees could be created and modified, but only Governments could make them work.

17. On the question of multi-agency programmes, her delegation agreed with the Advisory Committee that such efforts should be followed up by concerted ACC review.

18. The Canadian delegation welcomed the willingness of the Advisory Committee to undertake a study of the uniform presentation of budgets, and would simply note that the emphasis in that area should ultimately be upon a comparable rather than a strictly uniform presentation. Her delegation endorsed the Advisory Committee's comments on budget-building and the comparability of budget factors. It agreed with the Advisory Committee that the specialized agencies should keep their scales of assessment under review, in order to reduce variations to a minimum. It therefore intended to vote in favour of draft resolution A/C.5/L.885 and Add.1.

19. With reference to the Advisory Committee's observations on the common system, it was her delegation's view that the legislative bodies of the

various organizations in the common system should take full account of ICSAB's detailed research into salary factors.

20. As to the presentation of the Advisory Committee's report, the Canadian delegation welcomed the treatment of the agencies in chapter IV and, in particular, section A, dealing with the ILO. It looked forward to the inclusion in its subsequent reports, beginning in 1967, of reviews in depth of the administrative and budgetary procedures of one or two agencies each year, as recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies in paragraph 90, sub-paragraph (d), of its second report (A/6343). In its examination of the administrative budgets of the agencies, the Advisory Committee should make forceful observations on points which raised legitimate doubts. Some points of that kind were raised in chapter IV of the Advisory Committee's report, but they were not supplemented by comments or recommendations. It would be useful if the recommendations scattered throughout the report could be collected and presented together in a summary chapter. It would also be useful to incorporate in future reports a table on the distribution of the major voluntary funds on an agency-by-agency basis. It was only possible to assess the scope of agency resources and responsibilities by taking into account voluntary funds as well as assessed budgets.

21. Mr. QUIJANO (Argentina) said that the work done by the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies was of basic importance in achieving administrative and budgetary co-ordination of the Organization with the specialized agencies. His delegation had supported from the outset the French proposal which had led to the establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee at the twentieth session of the General Assembly feeling that it afforded an opportunity to bring about inter-organization administrative co-ordination and to make a comparative study of the administrative budgets of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. While the work of the Ad Hoc Committee had admittedly not produced a final solution to the problem of co-ordination, it was nevertheless to be congratulated on the importance and excellence of its recommendations, which should be given the closest attention in the future by both the United Nations and the specialized agencies. In that connexion, his delegation could not but share the satisfaction expressed by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 3 of its report (A/6522).

22. In conformity with its terms of reference, the Advisory Committee had undertaken a detailed analysis of administrative and budgetary questions from the standpoint of co-ordination between the United Nations and the specialized agencies, and the observations made in its report were also extremely important. The Advisory Committee examined, in its report, the budgetary policies of the specialized agencies, and it was to be noted that there had been an increase in expenditure virtually all along the line. His delegation was somewhat concerned at the fact that, in many cases, that increase was accounted for by administrative expenditure and that there had not been an

equivalent increase in expenditure on programmes. He also regretted that the various types of existing co-ordination machinery had not yet produced all the anticipated results and that new instruments had to be employed in an effort to find a satisfactory solution. It was clear that the United Nations had not yet found the means of solving the problem, and, as was evident from the discussion in the Second Committee on agenda item 52 (General review of the programmes and activities in the economic social, technical co-operation and related fields of the United Nations, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations Children's Fund and all other institutions and agencies related to the United Nations system), the difficulties encountered in the matter of administrative and budgetary co-ordination also existed with regard to programmes and technical assistance. Budgeting and programmes were closely related fields, and, in that connexion, the Ad Hoc Committee's suggestions had given new impetus to the efforts being made to achieve a more coherent pattern of activities. It was essential to carry out all the recommended measures without delay, since otherwise the aspirations of Member States would be realized at the cost of excessive budgetary increases.

23. There had, however, been some progress which suggested that it would soon be possible to bring about better over-all co-ordination. One of the most important advances made was the strengthening of the common system of conditions of employment in the various branches of the international civil service. While it was unquestionably essential to achieve greater uniformity in that regard, it should be borne in mind that the common system was now a reality and that, from an administrative and budgetary standpoint, that was a very important fact. Responsibility for bringing about greater uniformity now rested on the various administrations, and his delegation was certain that they would make every effort to consolidate the common system. His delegation supported the efforts being made in the field of co-ordination, which it regarded as the only means of preventing uncontrolled increases in expenditure.

24. Questions relating to co-ordination should be discussed every two years so as to permit a more accurate appraisal of what could be accomplished in that field and to allow for the fact that a number of the specialized agencies held their general conferences only at two-year intervals and had two- or three-year budgetary cycles. Moreover, the Advisory Committee now had such heavy responsibilities that it could organize its work better if it had to deal with those questions only at two-year intervals.

25. With regard to draft resolution A/C.5/L.885 and Add.1, which his delegation had joined in sponsoring, he noted that the Advisory Committee included in all its annual reports a comparative table of the scales of assessment of the various organizations, which showed that while there was a trend towards uniformity there were also still some variations. The Advisory Committee felt that action should be taken to prevent such variations and to reduce them to a minimum. The General Assembly had made an effort along those lines when it had adopted resolution 311 (IV), of 24

November 1949. The fact that there were still substantial variations provided ample justification for further action by the General Assembly, and it was with that end in view that the draft resolution had been submitted. His delegation hoped that it would be adopted and could be acted upon as soon as possible.

26. Mr. KULEBIAKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he wished to caution the Committee with regard to certain aspects of draft resolution A/C.5/L.885 and Add.1 which appeared to have been overlooked by the sponsors. In the view of his delegation, administrative and budgetary co-ordination was only one aspect of the broader task of co-ordinating all activities. It was apparent from the widespread duplication and non-productive expenditure that the problem had not yet been effectively solved. The question of improving co-ordination had been considered in detail by the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts and had been the subject of a decision by the Second Committee.^{2/} Since it was the task of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination to review all research and operational activities in the economic and social fields with a view to finding methods of achieving the best results at the least expense, its recommendations would be extremely important. In that context, it was clearer what the role of ACC should be. In the field of co-ordination, ACC as an inter-secretariat organ should deal only with the administrative and budgetary co-ordination to ensure greater organizational efficiency, to simplify the structure of the various secretariats and to solve similar problems. That was particularly necessary because the entire task of improving the structure and work of the secretariats remained to be accomplished. The fundamental task of ACC was to co-ordinate the activities of the secretariats of the specialized agencies in implementing decisions taken by inter-governmental organizations or bodies, and the activities of ACC should not be a substitute for the activities of such bodies. In that connexion, his delegation did not share the appreciation expressed by the Advisory Committee, in paragraph 13 of its report (A/6522), for the efforts of ACC to take its own initiative in substantive matters. Nor could it agree to the idea of attaching to ACC a permanent secretariat, which would deal with the questions of co-ordinating substantive activities. Such a secretariat should serve first of all the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination. Moreover, the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts had recognized, in its record report (A/6343 chap. VIII) that the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary organs should play the main role in that field.

27. In addition, his delegation could not share the ideas set forth by the Advisory Committee in chapter II, section F, of its report, since that Committee was expressing, on a matter not within its competence, an opinion which was not in keeping with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 311 (IV). In that resolution, the Assembly had stated only that there was room for a closer relationship between the assessments of member States in the contributions both of the United Nations and of the specialized

^{2/} *Ibid.*, Twenty-first Session, Annexes, agenda item 52, document A/6544, para. 19.

agencies. The resolution had not said or implied that such a closer relationship was requisite. Moreover, under that resolution, only the Committee on Contributions was authorized to recommend or advise on the scale of contributions. The power of initiative to request such advice was vested in the specialized agency concerned, and it would be out of order for the Assembly to enforce its views. Moreover, the Advisory Committee's conclusions were not justified, since it acknowledged that several of the major agencies had brought their scales of assessments into line with those of the United Nations, while some of them applied different criteria in establishing the scales. In the view of his delegation, the peculiarities of the constitutions of the specialized agencies could be reflected in the divergencies of the scales of assessments which remained after some measures had been taken pursuant to resolution 311 (IV). The Assembly must therefore take those peculiarities into account. After all, the question was not merely one of co-ordination, but was a problem involving the obligations of member States. In the view of his delegation, the States members of the specialized agencies concerned were fully entitled themselves to resolve the problems which arose in each specific case. Any interference by the United Nations in the strictly internal affairs of the specialized agencies would be a violation of their autonomy, would be contrary to the Charter, and to the special agreements existing between the agencies and the United Nations, and might lead to undesirable complications.

28. His delegation therefore believed that draft resolution A/C.5/L.885 and Add.1 was not called for, and it could not support it in its present form. It would, however, vote differently if the sponsors could delete the fourth preambular paragraph, operative paragraph 2, and the last part of operative paragraph 3, so that that paragraph would end by the word "concerned". As it had done in the past, his delegation wished to caution the Assembly against adopting any premature text which might give rise to serious difficulties. It therefore hoped that account would be taken of its comments.

29. The CHAIRMAN asked the Soviet Union representative whether those comments were merely suggestions, or whether they should be considered formal amendments.

30. Mr. KULEBIKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) replied that he would simply like the delegation concerned to ponder the comments he had made.

31. Mr. MAJOLI (Italy) said that the importance of co-ordination could not be over-estimated. In the belief that the growth of United Nations bodies made proper co-ordination more vitally necessary than ever, his delegation favoured a strengthening of the ACC secretariat into a permanent secretariat.

32. The report of the Advisory Committee (A/6522) had the merit of expanding on the problems which the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts had tackled and of providing an assurance that the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations would be followed up; for his delegation, like many others, believed that those recommendations must not remain purely theoretical, and it was therefore sympathetically disposed towards

draft resolution A/C.5/L.885 and Add.1. It was, of course, quite aware that some aspects of the draft resolution might give rise to difficulties, and it agreed to some extent with the Soviet delegation on that point. It nevertheless believed, despite the difficulties involved, that the draft resolution had the advantage of showing how concerned the Assembly was with co-ordination. The wording of the draft resolution was sufficiently discreet and sufficiently flexible for the specialized agencies to be able to take account of it, without there being any encroachment whatever on their autonomy by the United Nations. His delegation would therefore vote in favour of the adoption of the text, even if it were not amended.

33. Mr. WEI (China) said that he had serious doubts concerning the proposal that the General Assembly should "urge" the specialized agencies to bring their scales of contributions into harmony with the United Nations scale. Each of the specialized agencies had developed in the light of its own objectives, and some of them maintained different systems of financing their budgets. Moreover, the fact that member States had different interests in different agencies and that the memberships of the agencies were not identical made it difficult to apply a uniform scale of assessments to all the agencies. Account should also be taken of the fact that the contributions of some member States had been assessed more correctly in a number of the specialized agencies than in the United Nations itself. In setting China's assessment, for instance, the Committee on Contributions had assumed in 1946 that normal conditions prevailed in China and had therefore recommended an assessment of 2.75 per cent of the budget of the Organization. Nonetheless, a much higher percentage had subsequently been fixed, without regard to China's capacity to pay. As a result, China's contribution to the United Nations was higher than it should be. In any event, his delegation did not believe that uniformity in the scales of assessments would bring about any basic improvement in the work of the specialized agencies. On the contrary, it felt that draft resolution A/C.5/L.885 and Add.1 might encroach on the autonomy of some of the agencies. Perhaps it would be easier for them to follow the suggestions of the United Nations if the Assembly simply asked them to keep the matter under review and, if necessary, to request the advice of the Committee on Contributions.

34. In conclusion, his delegation wished to associate itself with those which had expressed appreciation of the excellent work done by the Advisory Committee in its report (A/6522).

35. Mr. CAHEN (Belgium) stated that his delegation attached great importance to problems of co-ordination and of relations with the specialized agencies. It agreed with the Argentine delegation that satisfactory co-ordination could not only enhance the efficiency of the agencies but could also produce savings. As a result of the work done by the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts, the proceedings of the Fifth Committee took on particular importance, the Ad Hoc Committee having precisely identified the lacunae and made useful recommendations. His delegation's comments on the report of the Advisory Committee (A/6522) and on chapters I and XIV of the report of the Economic

and Social Council (A/6303) would therefore be made in the light of the work of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts.

36. His delegation agreed in general with the views expressed, and endorsed the suggestions made, in the report of the Advisory Committee. It was most gratified that steps had been taken to enhance the effectiveness of ACC, and it was pleased to note that progress had been made towards ensuring positive and dynamic co-ordination. In that connexion, it shared the view expressed by the Economic and Social Council in paragraph 667 of its report (A/6303) and it approved of the efforts which had been made to strengthen the staff available to ACC. His delegation agreed with the proposal made by the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts (A/6343, para. 90 (e)) that, in the intervals between the scheduled meetings of ACC at the executive head level, meetings of their alternates should be organized—or should be held more often, as the case might be—to prepare for top-level discussions, to handle problems not requiring executive heads' consideration and to ensure the execution of decisions taken. A greater effort should also be made to inform all delegations of the work of ACC and, where appropriate, of the work of the executive heads' alternates. A summary of the subjects dealt with and of the discussions held and decisions taken on them might be issued at the end of each session of ACC. If Governments of member States were better informed of the work of ACC, they would be in a better position to take them effectively into account.

37. The Belgian delegation had noted with satisfaction the decisions taken by the Economic and Social Council with a view to improving working methods and enlarging the field of action and the authority of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination. However, it had had some misgivings concerning the Economic and Social Council resolution to set up a new committee for the over-all examination of programmes and activities undertaken in the economic and social field. His delegation was of course in favour of the idea of such an over-all examination. Nevertheless, it wondered whether it was really necessary to set up a new committee for the purpose, whose members would be designated in accordance with a hybrid system of appointment and which would be a sort of appendage to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, but acting within a different framework and with a wider range of activities. It was to be feared, indeed, that the main effect of establishing such a committee would be to complicate the task of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination. Having said that, since the decision had already been taken, the Belgian delegation would do its utmost to participate actively in the work of the new committee as well as in that of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination.

38. The Belgian delegation also shared the view that it would be desirable for the Economic and Social Council to concentrate every year on one or two areas of activity common to several agencies. That would enable Governments to correlate their views on those areas of activity and to study them in greater depth, and should yield substantial results. It was, incidentally, in line with the proposals in paragraph 90 of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts (A/6343).

39. With regard to the question of the representation of the analytical reports of the specialized agencies and IAEA, his delegation emphasized the importance of paragraph 688 of the Economic and Social Council's report. It considered that the format of the reports could be improved and standardized. There was no doubt that they should clearly identify activities which might involve some duplication of other agencies' work, and that they should also contain a section on technical assistance activities.

40. Co-ordination in the field should undoubtedly be developed; and in that connexion the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts satisfactorily answered the outstanding questions referred to in paragraph 701 of the Economic and Social Council's report. Thus it was to be hoped that in the report to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its forty-third session, the Secretary-General would bear those recommendations in mind. Nevertheless, whatever the importance of co-ordination in the field, it must not serve as a pretext for decentralization, which might not be approved by the competent organs, nor for a dispersal of responsibilities, which must continue to be borne by the organs to which the Charter and the pertinent resolutions had entrusted them.

41. Mr. LYNCH (New Zealand) said he would have liked to see the question of co-ordination dealt with in greater detail by the Fifth Committee; but the attention paid to it by the Economic and Social Council and the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts made a full exchange of views perhaps less a matter for concern. In the circumstances, the report of the Advisory Committee (A/6522) was particularly important. His delegation welcomed the Advisory Committee's decision to follow up the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee. It therefore supported the Advisory Committee's suggestion that at future sessions the section of its report relating specifically to co-ordination might be taken up at an earlier stage. He was glad to hear that at subsequent sessions the Advisory Committee would make detailed observations on the administrative and budgetary procedures of one or two agencies.

42. The New Zealand delegation had noted with interest the steps already taken, as referred to by the Advisory Committee in its report, to enhance the effectiveness of the inter-agency and inter-governmental organs concerned with co-ordination. The expansion in the responsibilities assumed by the United Nations family made it imperative that ACC should play a more positive role than hitherto. Similarly, his delegation favoured the steps taken to strengthen the former Special Committee on Co-ordination, and it hoped that the new Committee for Programme and Co-ordination would be allowed sufficient time to devise its own working methods and procedures and would not be burdened too rapidly with too many tasks.

43. During the general discussion on the budget estimates for 1967 (1138th meeting), the New Zealand delegation had made a number of observations on the questions of budget presentation and of an integrated budget and programme policy. It had noted that significant progress had been made in both those

fields and had concluded that it would be desirable to allow that evolution to continue. It therefore fully supported the Advisory Committee's renewed endorsement of the concept of central control over the administration of budgetary resources, particularly in respect of the United Nations. With regard to the budgets of the specialized agencies, his delegation appreciated the arguments in favour of more uniform methods of preparation and presentation, but in view of the circumstances and the complex issues involved, it did not expect too swift a change in current practices.

44. The Advisory Committee had rightly referred to the differences between the scale of assessments applied by the United Nations and those of the specialized agencies, even those whose contributions were based on similar principles. The anomaly was largely explained in terms of history. Nevertheless, that was a field in which there was scope for greater uniformity, and while it had some reservations to make in regard to the language used, the New Zealand delegation would like to assure the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.5/L.885 and Add.1 that it would give the proposal its sympathetic attention.

45. The CHAIRMAN said that the delegation of Colombia had asked to join the sponsors of the draft; if there was no objection, Colombia would be included among the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.5/L.885 and Add.1.

It was so decided.

46. Mr. ZIEHL (United States of America) said that he would not comment on draft resolution A/C.5/L.885 and Add.1, about which his delegation had serious reservations. In that respect, as well as in regard to the question whether that was a legitimate matter for co-ordination by the United Nations, his delegation shared many of the views already expressed by the Soviet delegation.

47. The Advisory Committee's report was very useful, for it was important to keep questions concerning co-ordination under review, as that Committee had done, because of their undeniable importance. The quality of the report augured well for the way in which the Advisory Committee would carry out its task with regard to the implementation of the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts. Some of the tasks which the Ad Hoc Committee had entrusted to the Advisory Committee were likely to contribute substantially to improving co-ordination of the activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies.

48. The United States delegation welcomed the fact that the Advisory Committee, as indicated in paragraph 7 of its report, had given consideration to possible revision of its existing procedures for preparing its report and was considering for the future to separate its review of the status of administrative and budgetary co-ordination from its examination of the administrative budgets of the agencies of the United Nations system. In that connexion, his delegation had noted the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendation, in paragraph 90, sub-paragraphs (a) and (b), of its report (A/6343), that the agencies, the Advisory Committee and the General Assembly should perform their respective reviews of budgets in such a way as to

enable the agencies to take the recommendations of the General Assembly into consideration before adopting their respective budgets, and that the United Nations and the agencies should give consideration to the harmonization and adjustment of meeting and conference schedules in order to secure the greatest benefits from such reviews. His delegation also thought that it would be a good idea if those different reports were available to the Fifth Committee as soon as possible in the General Assembly session. Issuing the Advisory Committee's report in several parts, or even in the form of two separate reports, would hope to achieve that. It was true that the various United Nations agencies had difficulty in submitting their administrative budgets sufficiently early for the Advisory Committee and the Fifth Committee to study them with all the care desirable, but no effort should be spared to achieve that result. Finally, his delegation wished to emphasize that the Advisory Committee's report was well balanced and managed to deal with questions in a detailed manner without, however, being too voluminous.

49. Mr. RIHA (Czechoslovakia) said that the question of administrative and budgetary co-ordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and IAEA was becoming more and more important. All efforts to improve co-ordination must be based on the recommendations and suggestions contained in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts, for implementation of those recommendations could lead to useful and important results. Only when the specialized agencies had completed their examination of the Ad Hoc Committee's conclusions would it be possible to contemplate new measures for improving co-ordination. On the other hand, one could not but be encouraged by the recent development of the co-ordination machinery set up by the Economic and Social Council, which had resulted in a strengthening of the organs responsible for planning, programming and co-ordination.

50. It was with those considerations in mind that his delegation had studied draft resolution A/C.5/L.885 and Add.1, which consisted, essentially, of a proposal that the scales of assessments of the specialized agencies should be brought into harmony with the United Nations scale. His delegation was not convinced that such a suggestion was either useful or opportune. The question raised problems which the Ad Hoc Committee had not succeeded in solving and which would not be solved simply by the adoption of a resolution that had not been given any thorough study beforehand.

51. The method of establishing the scales of assessments was laid down in the relevant provisions adopted by each of the specialized agencies and was therefore within their competence. Consequently, the word "Urges" in draft resolution A/C.5/L.885 and Add.1, operative paragraph 2, should at least be replaced by the word "Recommends". In view of the arguments concerning the autonomy of the specialized agencies and their relationship with the United Nations, his delegation did not think that harmonization of the scales of assessments was quite the area in which United Nations supremacy ought really to be asserted. The criteria used for establishing the scales varied

considerably from agency to agency. In that area, the recommendations of General Assembly resolution 311 (IV) were perfectly adequate, and decisions concerning the scales of assessments should be taken by the competent organs of each specialized agency.

52. His delegation associated itself with the remarks made by the Soviet Union representative concerning draft resolution A/C.5/L.885 and Add.1 as a whole and, more particularly, concerning operative para-

graph 2. It proposed that the words "as soon as possible" in that paragraph should be replaced by "as far as possible".

53. In any event, his delegation did not feel that the draft resolution, in its present form, was likely to promote better co-ordination; rather, it might cause further complications. If it was put to the vote, his delegation would be unable to vote in favour of it.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.