

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

TWENTY-FIRST SESSION

Official Records



**FIFTH COMMITTEE, 1168th
MEETING**

Thursday, 15 December 1966,
at 11.15 a.m.

NEW YORK

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Chairman: Mr. Vahap AŞIROĞLU (Turkey).

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF MR. VICTOR ANDRES BELAUNDE, CHAIRMAN OF THE PERUVIAN DELEGATION

1. The CHAIRMAN paid a tribute to the memory of H.E. Mr. Víctor Andrés Belaúnde and asked the delegation of Peru to convey the Committee's condolences to the family of the deceased and to the people and Government of Peru.

AGENDA ITEM 78

Audit reports relating to expenditure by specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency:

(a) Earmarkings and contingency authorizations from the Special Account of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (concluded);

(b) Allocations and allotments from the Special Fund (concluded)

DRAFT REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (A/C.5/L.892)

The draft report (A/C.5/L.892) was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 75

Pattern of conferences: report of the Secretary-General (continued)* (A/6437 and Corr.1 and 2, A/6575, A/C.5/L.886/Rev.1)

2. Mr. LYNCH (New Zealand) introduced the revised text (A/C.5/L.886/Rev.1) of a draft resolution on the pattern of conferences. It was the sponsors' hope that the new text, which was the result of extensive consultations, reflected the views of the membership at large. There had been no substantive amendment, the fundamental purpose of the original draft—the creation of a new standing committee—having been retained. In response to suggestions that the services of an existing organ might be utilized, the sponsors had closely examined the merits of the possible alternatives; they remained convinced that the functions listed in operative paragraph 2 were more likely to be properly discharged by a body without other commitments. That did not preclude a close liaison between the new committee and such established bodies as the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the General Committee. The latter might well act as an arbiter in resolving differences between the committee on conferences and the Main Committees.

3. To accommodate those delegations which still had reservations, the sponsors now suggested that the committee on conferences should be established for an initial period of three years, its further existence to be reviewed by the General Assembly at the twenty-fourth session. The sponsors had no doubt that, given the necessary co-operation on the part of Member States, the proposed committee would more than justify its creation.

4. It was the sponsors' understanding that the committee on conferences would normally complete its tasks, as defined in operative paragraph 2, during the regular session of the Assembly. The new body might frame a definition of the term "major special conference", review the regulations that now governed the servicing of meetings, and examine the implications of its own terms of reference for the guide-lines laid down in General Assembly resolution 2116 (XX).

5. While the sponsors did not feel committed to a particular figure for the membership of the new body, they believed that it should be kept within reasonable limits. The figure of 15 proposed in the revised draft resolution was intended to facilitate the representation of regional groupings and the establishment of the membership on a rotational basis at a later date. Acting upon an observation by the French delegation, the sponsors had introduced, at the beginning of paragraph 5, sub-paragraph (a),

*Resumed from the 1166th meeting.

a more explicit reference to the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. The new operative paragraph 8 took up the point raised by the United States delegation at the 1166th meeting about the need for budgetary adjustments following the Assembly's approval of the calendar drawn up by the new body. There were also three minor changes which the sponsors had agreed on after the circulation of the revised text.

6. The sole purpose of the draft resolution was to bring some order and discipline into the programme of conferences. To achieve a balance between requirements and resources, in that as in other matters, was the Fifth Committee's main responsibility.

7. Mr. SOLTYSIAK (Poland) said that his delegation was not convinced that the objectives set forth in the draft resolution would be best served by setting up a standing committee on conferences. It appeared from the provisions of the draft that the proposed committee would have no power of decision, and that its duties with respect to the calendar of conferences would duplicate those of the Advisory Committee. The question also arose as to whether the proposed committee would be entitled to make recommendations on the conference programmes of the Economic and Social Council and a number of semi-autonomous United Nations bodies.

8. In his delegation's view, the sponsors' intentions would be better served by the establishment of a special committee of the General Committee, with the same membership as the latter. The members would thus be acquainted in detail with the whole conference programme and could be asked to pass on all the proposals submitted by the various Committees and, if necessary, to defend their common recommendations. Such recommendations would be more persuasive than those of the proposed committee on conferences. Alternatively, the Advisory Committee itself might be asked to undertake the task; he would be interested to hear the views of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on the subject. His delegation hoped the sponsors of the draft resolution would give his suggestions serious thought.

9. One way of reducing the cost of the programme of conferences and meetings might be to extend the principle, set forth in operative paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 2116 (XX) on the pattern of conferences, that meetings of United Nations bodies should be held at their established headquarters. Earlier decisions with regard to meetings to be held in 1967 could not, of course, be reversed at the current session. If, however, the committee on conferences were to be constituted, his delegation would request it to consider the necessity of a further limitation of the number of conferences and meetings held outside the principal United Nations offices as of 1 January 1968. That would not apply, of course, to meetings outside the headquarters of a particular body where the host Government agreed to defray the additional costs involved.

10. Mr. CAHEN (Belgium) noted that reference was made, in annex II to the Secretary-General's report

on the programme of meetings for 1967 (A/6437 and Corr.1 and 2), to meetings to be held by the Industrial Development Board and its subsidiary bodies, apparently on the assumption that the meetings would take place at Headquarters. But no decision had yet been taken on the site of UNIDO Headquarters or, for that matter, on the subsidiary bodies which UNIDO might or might not choose to establish.

11. The revised draft resolution, whose sponsors had made a great effort to take into account the comments of delegations, would undoubtedly help to check the anarchic proliferation of conferences and meetings, and he therefore supported it. The establishment of a committee on conferences had been urged by the Secretary-General and by every qualified body that had had occasion to consider the question. Some delegations had suggested that control over the conference programme should be exercised, not by a new committee, but by the General Committee of the General Assembly. While the authority of such a body would admittedly give its recommendations special weight, his delegation doubted whether it would be able, in view of its other duties, to give sufficient attention to the calendar of conferences. A better solution might be for the committee on conferences to maintain the closest contact with the General Committee, which could act as an arbiter in the case of disagreement between the Chairman of any Main Committee and the committee on conferences. Relations between the General Committee and the committee on conferences could be readily developed during the three-year trial period and be institutionalized thereafter.

12. The fact that the draft resolution took up certain of the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts in no way lessened the authority of the Ad Hoc Committee's other recommendations, or the obligation of Member States, under General Assembly resolution 2150 (XXI), to apply them.

13. The Polish representative's remarks on the venue of meetings and conferences had particularly interested his delegation. The holding of meetings elsewhere than at the headquarters of the bodies concerned admittedly tended to enhance the prestige of the United Nations, but the considerations of effectiveness and economy must also be taken into account.

14. It was essential that a definition of the term "major special conference" should be arrived at as soon as possible, for the absence of such a definition made General Assembly resolution 2116 (XX) unworkable. In tackling the problem, the committee on conferences should take into account the burden of conferences on both the Organization and Member States.

15. Mr. NOSEK (Under-Secretary for Conference Services), replying to a point raised by the Belgian representative, said that it was assumed that facilities would be available to UNIDO in New York early in 1967, irrespective of the Assembly's decision.

16. Mr. BANNIER (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), replying to the question put to him by the Polish representative, pointed out that the Advisory Com-

mittee itself, in its main report^{1/} had supported the suggestion put forward by the Special Committee on Co-ordination of the Economic and Social Council that the General Assembly should establish a committee to deal with the programme of meetings, thus indicating its preference for a new arrangement. The Advisory Committee had no objection of principle to undertaking such a task, which would be fully within its mandate. But it was continuously busy during the regular sessions of the Assembly. The specific task of reviewing the calendar of conferences should be performed, for the present at least, at the level of the Chairman of the Main Committee. While the Advisory Committee was responsible for recommending the inclusion of funds in the estimates for carrying out the approved calendar, it felt that the recommendation of priorities in the matter of conferences and meetings ought to be a separate responsibility.

17. Mr. YUNUS (Pakistan) supported the draft resolution; the revised version was a definite improvement on the original text.

18. It would be difficult for the Secretary-General to fulfil the request made in paragraph 5, subparagraph (b) (ii), of the draft resolution. A complete statement of the resources required for meetings and conferences in the next two calendar years on the basis of a provisional calendar would be available pursuant to subparagraph (b) (i). If the committee on conferences decided to alter the provisional calendar, consequent changes would have to be made in the estimate of resources, for those requirements depended entirely on the date and place of meeting. He suggested the deletion of subparagraph (b) (ii), concerning an estimate of the facilities and services which would be at the disposal of the Secretary-General in the next two years. In subparagraph (b) (i) the words "a complete statement of the resources which would be required" should be replaced by the words "a complete statement of the existing as well as the additional resources which would be required". In order not to prejudge the conclusions to be reached, the phrase "in reconciling the resources available and the proposed schedule" should be deleted from paragraph 5, subparagraph (c). Operative paragraph 9 was a repetition of the provisions of the fifth preambular paragraph and should be deleted.

19. Mr. NOSEK (Under-Secretary for Conference Services) said that, at the beginning of the current session of the General Assembly, 114 meetings had been scheduled for 1967—63 in New York, 40 at Geneva and 11 elsewhere. In the course of the session, the General Assembly had approved 10 more meetings at Headquarters, 8 more at Geneva and 1 other meeting elsewhere. A total of 133 bodies were now scheduled to meet in 1967. A decision had not yet been taken in the case of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations, the human rights committee to be established under the draft Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the proposed committee on conferences. Thus 85 per cent of the meetings and conferences had been scheduled before the opening of the As-

sembly session, although that percentage was no reflection of the financial costs.

20. The Secretary-General would be able to submit the provisional calendar of meetings and conferences in August, as requested in the draft resolution. At the same time, he would prepare a statement showing which meetings could be serviced by existing staff and what additional staff would be required. Statements of financial implications would be prepared for any further proposals for meetings and conferences, since additional funds would have to be included for that purpose in the budget estimates. If approved, the new meetings and conferences would be added to the provisional calendar of conferences. The calendar would be approved by the General Assembly as the calendar for the following year. The Secretary-General would also be able to forecast the schedule for the succeeding year. At the moment, for example, he knew of 52 bodies which were planning to meet at Headquarters in 1968.

21. Mr. YUNUS (Pakistan) thanked the Under-Secretary for Conference Services for his statement and requested the Chairman to have it circulated as a document of the Committee. He noted that the Under-Secretary had not referred to paragraph 5, subparagraph 5, (b), (ii), of the draft resolution. He personally felt that the estimate requested in that paragraph would prejudice the committee on conferences and reiterated that he maintained his amendments.

22. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) supported the amendments suggested by the representative of Pakistan.

23. The definition of the term "major special conference" would be of great importance to the activities of the United Nations. The matter was to be studied by the proposed committee on conferences and by the Secretary-General. The study should not be based solely on material factors, such as the size of the conference, but should also take into account the subject matter to be discussed. It was conceivable that more than one major conference might be held in the same year, if the subject matter was different. Conferences represented a vital means of expression for Member States and purely material considerations should not be allowed to prevail.

24. Mr. VAN GREVENYNGHE (France) observed that although he could have supported the draft resolution in its original form, he felt that the revised text was clearer and would make the proposed committee on conferences even more effective. He would not press the proposal he had made at the 1166th meeting for the insertion of a new paragraph after operative paragraph 8, for that would involve substantial changes in the presentation of the budget, which should be introduced carefully and without excessive haste. His delegation would, however, continue to follow with interest the implementation of the relevant recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts.

25. He would find it difficult to vote for the amendments submitted by Pakistan. The committee on conferences could not take an informed decision on the calendar of conferences and meetings unless it knew what resources would be needed. As the Under-

^{1/} See Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-first session, Supplement No. 7, paras. 48-51.

Secretary had pointed out, that approach would not prejudice the question of any additional meetings which might subsequently become necessary. Sub-paragraphs (b) (i) and (ii) of paragraph 5 were complementary, and expressed an idea similar to that set forth in the report of the *Ad Hoc* Committee of Experts (A/6343, para. 104, sub-paragraph (c) (i)).

26. Mr. ZIEHL (United States of America) asked the Under-Secretary for Conference Services for further clarification regarding the Secretary-General's ability to provide the information requested in operative paragraph 5, sub-paragraph (b) of the draft resolution. Attention was called to the fact that a representative of the Secretary-General, at the 1166th meeting had introduced a correction to foot-note b in part I of annexes I and II to document A/6437 and Corr.1 and 2 to state that legal, scientific and technical committees "may meet", instead of "will meet" outside of New York. His delegation requested that an explanation of that correction be included in the records of the Committee.

27. He pointed out that limitations would be imposed on the Secretary-General if paragraph 5, sub-paragraph (b) (ii), of draft resolution A/C.5/L.886/Rev.1 were deleted, as proposed by the delegation of Pakistan. The Secretary-General played a significant role in deciding the pattern of conferences and should be consulted at all stages. Attention was also called to the comments of the Advisory Committee in its report (A/6575) on the role of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General on the calendar of conferences. The United States vote in favour of the draft resolution was based on indications of a representative of the Secretary-General that necessary resources would be available.

28. Mr. NOSEK (Under-Secretary for Conferences Services) said that the information could be provided. In his view, the Pakistan amendments to paragraph 5, sub-paragraph (b), of the draft resolution were acceptable.

29. Miss MEAGHER (Canada), referring to the Polish representative's statement said that the sponsors had carefully considered the possibility of having the functions of the committee on conferences performed by an existing body. According to its Chairman, the Advisory Committee would be reluctant to assume those functions and supported the establishment of a new body. The General Committee had a very heavy workload and might be unable to give the conference and meetings calendar the attention it deserved. Furthermore, the General Committee's membership changed at each session, whereas the body dealing with conferences should have a certain degree of continuity, for, in accordance with paragraph 7 of the draft resolution, it might be called upon to meet between Assembly sessions or to assume other tasks, as provided for in paragraph 2, sub-paragraph (b), of the draft. The sponsors had therefore decided in favour of a new body, but, in paragraph 6 of their text, had provided for close co-operation between it and the Advisory Committee, and, in paragraph 7, sub-paragraph (c), between that body and the Chairman of the Main Committees. When the whole question was reviewed at the end of the three-year experimental period it might be found that the establishment of the

conference and meetings calendar had become a routine matter which could be handled by a sub-group of the General Committee, but that issue should not be prejudged at the present stage.

30. She had not had time to consult the other sponsors on the Pakistan amendments. In the light of the Under-Secretary's statement she could accept the amendments to operative paragraph 5, sub-paragraph (b), but appealed to the Pakistan representative not to press his other proposals.

31. Mr. YUNUS (Pakistan) said that in view of the comments of the Under-Secretary for Conference Services, the major part of which was to be included in the record, he was prepared to withdraw his amendment to operative paragraph 5, sub-paragraph (c). However, he attached great importance to the deletion of operative paragraph 9, which implied that the conference and meetings problem was attributable to lack of discipline on the part of United Nations bodies, whereas in fact it arose from the absence of a co-ordinating organ. If the sponsors decided to retain that paragraph, he would request a separate vote on it and would abstain, although he would vote for the draft resolution as a whole.

32. Mr. Mohamed RIAD (United Arab Republic) recalled that his delegation's position on the present item had been set forth during the general discussion (1138th meeting), while its views on the draft resolution had been explained by the Indian representative at the 1166th meeting. He strongly supported the Pakistan proposal to delete operative paragraph 9, which implied that the committee on conferences might be empowered to veto conferences proposed by other United Nations bodies. If that paragraph was voted on separately, he would be strongly inclined to vote against it.

33. Mr. LYNCH (New Zealand) moved that the debate on the present item should be adjourned until the following meeting.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 77

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations: report of the Committee on Contributions (A/6310 and Add.1, A/C.5/1097)

34. Mr. PARTHASARATHI (Chairman of the Committee on Contributions), introducing the Committee's report (A/6130 and Add.1), said that the Committee at its twenty-fifth session had been mainly concerned with a detailed study of the effects of variations in the present system of allowances for low per capita income, requested by the General Assembly at its twentieth session. The allowance for low per capita income had always been an important element in the calculation of the scale of assessments, and at previous sessions the Committee on Contributions had considered various alternative formulas for taking it into account. In accordance with the General Assembly's requests, expressed in various resolutions, it had made continuous efforts to give particular attention to the developing countries, in view of their special economic and financial problems.

Under the present formula all Member States with per capita income below \$1,000 received an allowance which reduced their national income for the purpose of assessment by a proportion which progressively increased towards a maximum allowance of 50 per cent.

35. On the basis of material prepared by the Secretariat the Committee on Contributions had studied the effects of raising and lowering the present upper limit of \$1,000, of increasing the maximum allowance and of making special increases in the allowances for the lower ranges of per capita incomes. It had found, inter alia, that certain variations might have the effect of shifting the burden of assessment from one low per capita income group to another, while others appeared to result in too radical changes in individual assessments, something to be avoided. The Committee on Contributions had therefore concluded that no final decision regarding any change in its basic rules should be taken at present. The potential effects of any such change should be appraised within the context of the general review of the scale of assessments, based on national income

statistics for 1963, 1964 and 1965, which the Committee would undertake in 1967. In that connexion, he drew attention to paragraph 17 of document A/6310, urging Member States to provide the necessary data as early as possible.

36. The Committee on Contributions recommended that the four new Member States admitted at the twenty-first session—Barbados, Botswana, Guyana and Lesotho—should be assessed at the minimum rate of 0.04 per cent, and that in accordance with past practice their contributions for the year of admission should be one ninth of the contribution for a full year (A/6310/Add.1, paras. 5 and 6).

37. With regard to Indonesia, which had resumed its co-operation with the United Nations in September 1966, the Committee on Contributions recommended that for 1967 it should be assessed at the rate of 0.39, which was the rate originally set for 1965, 1966 and 1967. Indonesia's contributions for 1965 and 1966 were dealt with in the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/1097).

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.