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FIFTH COMMITTEE  
Agenda item 38

REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL  
FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman  
following informal consultations

Implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/213

A

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986 on the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations and resolutions 42/211 of 21 December 1987 and 43/213 of 21 December 1988 on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/213,

Reaffirming that measures to improve the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations and to improve the planning, programming and budgeting process should aim at and contribute to strengthening the effectiveness of the Organization in dealing with political, economic and social issues in order better to achieve the purposes of and respect for the principles set out in the Charter of the United Nations,

Emphasizing that this process requires careful monitoring and the continuing support of Member States, including in financial terms, so as to permit its orderly and balanced implementation and to avoid negative impact on programmes,

Recognizing that the process of implementation of its resolution 41/213 has taken place in a situation of persistent financial crisis,

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Reaffirming that all Member States must honour, promptly and in full, their financial obligations as set out in the Charter,

Reiterating its support for the Secretary-General in the fulfilment of his responsibilities as Chief Administrative Officer of the Organization,

Noting the progress made in the implementation of its resolution 41/213, including in the new budgetary process,

Noting also that further efforts are required in implementing, in a balanced manner, the various recommendations approved in its resolution 41/213, including those related to personnel issues,

Recognizing that the implementation of certain recommendations approved in its resolution 41/213 depends upon further review by intergovernmental bodies,

Recalling its request contained in its resolution 43/213 for the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, an analytical report on the implementation of resolution 41/213,

Having considered the relevant reports of the Secretary-General, and noting also that the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 41/213 1/ did not cover the entire three-year period foreseen in recommendation 71 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations, 2/

Having considered also the relevant parts of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on the work of its twenty-ninth session, 3/ and of the reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, 4/

Taking into account the views expressed by Member States during the consideration of this item at its forty-fourth session,

1. Renews its appeal to Member States to demonstrate their commitment to the United Nations by, inter alia, meeting their financial obligations on time and in full, in accordance with the Charter and the Financial Regulations of the United Nations;

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1/ A/44/222 and Corr.1.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement, No. 49 (A/41/49).

3/ A/44/16.

4/ A/44/729.

2. Stresses that, in order to carry out successfully the process of reform and restructuring, it is essential that the present financial uncertainties be dispelled;
3. Encourages the Secretary-General and Member States to intensify their efforts with respect to implementation of the provisions of its resolution 41/213 that fall within their respective purviews, particularly those aspects that have not been implemented;
4. Stresses that implementation of its resolution 41/213 must not have a negative impact on mandated programmes and activities;
5. Emphasizes in this respect that, in accordance with the existing regulations and rules, while output revisions in programme budgets may be proposed in order to comply more efficiently with the objectives of these programmes and activities, outputs specifically requested in mandates should be fully delivered;
6. Reiterates that further implementation of its resolution 41/213 should be carried out in a balanced way and with flexibility, so as to improve, inter alia, the structure and composition of the Secretariat;
7. Decides, with regard to recommendation 15 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations:
  - (a) To recognize the progress achieved to date in the implementation of the overall post reduction mandated by General Assembly resolution 43/213;
  - (b) To acknowledge that the Secretary-General is not in a position at the present stage to propose further post reductions;
  - (c) To consider in the light of the analytical report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session proposals that may be put forward by the Secretary-General for further implementation of recommendation 15 as approved in resolution 41/213;
8. Invites the Secretary-General to implement recommendation 37 in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its twenty-ninth session, as contained in paragraph 19 of its report; 3/
9. Concurs with the observations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, in paragraph 21 of its report, 3/ regarding the provision of conference services;
10. Reiterates its requests that, in his implementation of recommendation 5, the Secretary-General should ensure close adherence to the schedule outlined in his report to the General Assembly at its forty-third session; 5/

11. Stresses the need for greater transparency and coherence in personnel management, especially in the Staff Regulations of the United Nations, as set out in paragraph 18 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination; 3/

12. Also stresses the need to strengthen the role of the Secretary-General with respect to co-ordination within the United Nations system, as well as the role of Member States through the relevant intergovernmental bodies throughout the United Nations system;

13. Requests the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, to consider appropriate organizational arrangements for the secretariat of the Committee with a view to ensuring its adequacy in addressing the increasing responsibilities of the Committee;

14. Requests the Secretary-General to provide to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session a compendium of mandates of subsidiary administrative and budgetary bodies of the Assembly, together with information on relevant reviews carried out over the past five years, on the understanding that the decisions of the Assembly relating to those mandates remain valid;

15. Reaffirms its request to the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session an analytical report assessing the effect of the implementation of its resolution 41/213 on the Organization and its activities, as a whole, and the way in which it has enhanced the efficiency of its administrative and financial functioning;

16. Reaffirms that the report should be structured along the following lines:

(a) The first part should be an exhaustive presentation of recommendations fully implemented, partially implemented and not implemented, as well as those that, in the view of the Secretary-General, could not be implemented;

(b) The second part of the report should provide explanations with regard to such implementation and an assessment of its impact on programmes, giving particular emphasis to those programmes that have been terminated or completed; and

(c) The final part should provide a general critical assessment of the implementation of its resolution 41/213 in the light of the objectives of that resolution, namely the enhancement of the administrative and financial functioning of the Organization.

B

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the need for improvement in the format and methodology of the programme budget and its outline, including the question of comparability of estimates in these two instruments,

/...

Mindful of the fact that the operation and use of the contingency fund is still at an experimental stage and that statements of programme budget implications play an important role in the budget process,

Recognizing the need for a comprehensive solution to the problem of all additional expenditures, including those deriving from inflation and currency fluctuation,

Recognizing also the growing level of extrabudgetary resources available to the United Nations and the need to define more precisely their impact on the activities and programmes of the Organization,

1. Endorses the relevant conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the relevant observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;
2. Requests the Secretary-General to take into account the relevant comments and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the format and methodology of the outline and the programme budget, when submitting the outline and the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993,
3. Also requests the Secretary-General to extend progressively, in accordance with paragraph 28 of his report, 6/ the provision of statements of programme budget implications to all subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, taking into account the feasibility of such extension in order to facilitate their decision-making process, and to keep under review the format and content of statements of programme budget implications in the context of the new budgetary process;
4. Further requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, and in the light of the experience gained during the implementation of the programme budget for 1990-1991, a single report on the review of the procedures for the provision of statements of programme budget implications and for the use and operation of the contingency fund;
5. Decides, given the shortcomings of the present system, to keep under review the question of a comprehensive solution to the problem of all additional expenditures, including those deriving from inflation and currency fluctuation, and to consider it again at its forty-sixth session;
6. Requests the Secretary-General to take fully into account the conclusions, recommendations and observations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

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6/ A/44/234.

on the treatment of extrabudgetary resources when preparing and presenting the outline and the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

C

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the importance of technological innovations in relation to the search for efficiency in the Organization,

Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the status of the introduction of electronic data-processing and new technologies in the United Nations and to present it to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session. This report should include:

- (a) A review and assessment of current policies and processes;
- (b) A review and assessment of co-ordinating mechanisms, including between the Department of Conference Services of the Secretariat and other units within the United Nations system;
- (c) A preliminary assessment of the results obtained with the introduction of technological innovations, including cost-benefit analyses, utilization capacity and budgeting and accounting practices; and
- (d) An outline of future plans and anticipated results for the efficiency of the Organization.

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