

UNITED NATIONS
General Assembly
FORTY-FOURTH SESSION
Official Records

FIFTH COMMITTEE
11th meeting
held on
Friday, 13 October 1989
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 11th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. AL-MASRI (Syrian Arab Republic)

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

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 123: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1990-1991

AGENDA ITEM 124: PROGRAMME PLANNING

AGENDA ITEM 38: REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL
FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Address by the Secretary-General

This record is subject to correction.
Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned
within one week of the date of publication to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, Room DC2/150,
2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

Distr. GENERAL
A/C.5/44/SR.11
18 October 1989

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

89-56328 1609S (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 123: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1990-1991
(A/44/6/Rev.1, A/44/7)

AGENDA ITEM 124: PROGRAMME PLANNING (A/44/16 and Add.1)

AGENDA ITEM 38: REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL
FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS (A/44/222 and Corr.1)

Address by the Secretary-General

1. The SECRETARY-GENERAL, introducing the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 (A/44/6/Rev.1), reminded the Committee that, almost three years earlier the General Assembly had adopted, by consensus, resolution 41/213, thereby establishing new budgetary procedures. In pursuance of that process, the Assembly, again by consensus, had adopted resolution 43/214, by which it had approved an outline containing preliminary estimates of the resources to accommodate the proposed programme activities during the 1990-1991 biennium. By the same resolution, the Assembly had decided that the Secretary-General should prepare his proposed programme budget for 1990-1991 on the basis of the preliminary estimates approved in the outline. As the Committee was aware, the aim of producing and approving the outline *ex ante* was to provide a greater level of resource predictability, while ensuring that such resources were adequate, thereby facilitating the widest possible consensus on the programme budget.

2. The proposals before the Committee were the first to have been prepared in accordance with the new budgetary procedures established under resolution 41/213 and were based on the outline for the proposed budget for 1990-1991 adopted in resolution 43/214. They should also be seen within the context of the implementation of a number of measures called for in resolution 43/213.

3. In considering those proposals, the Committee should bear in mind that his programme budget submission, derived from the outline, did not cover factors such as adjustments for inflation and currency fluctuations. Those adjustments would have to be made towards the end of the session and, barring the adoption by the General Assembly of an alternative method, they would continue to be undertaken in the traditional manner.

4. Furthermore, as stated in his reports to the Committee in previous years and reiterated by the Secretariat staff in introducing or elaborating on those reports, the commitment authority granted to him, as well as to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), subject to certain limitations, under the label of unforeseen and extraordinary expenditures, was outside the outline and therefore outside the scope of his budget proposals. He could not stress strongly enough how essential that commitment authority was to the performance of the duties entrusted to him under the Charter in relation to the maintenance of international peace and security.

/...

(The Secretary-General)

5. Programmatically, the proposals had been formulated within the framework of the objectives, strategies and programme structure of the revised medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989, currently extended to 1991. As such, the scope and programmatic content, as well as the priorities indicated therein, reflected the mandates and decisions of United Nations intergovernmental bodies. The proposals should be viewed in the context of the continuing dialogue among Member States, on the one hand, and between Member States and the Secretariat on the other, about the reform and revitalization of the Organization.

6. The proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 amounted to \$1,983,863,400. That represented a negative rate of real growth of 0.4 per cent of the revised final appropriations for the biennium 1988-1989. It included a post reduction of 12 per cent and either no change or a decrease in most objects of expenditure including travel of staff, consultants, expert groups and external printing. The only increases in expenditure related to strictly mandated activities, notably construction of new premises and technological innovations. The proposals also reflected a number of organizational changes, particularly in the departments and offices dealing with political and administrative matters. He was pleased to note that ACABQ, in its first report on the proposed programme budget, stated that the whole budget process was still in its formative stage (A/44/7, para. 9). Similarly, the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) in its report, cited the complexity and evolving nature of many of the issues embodied in the programme budget and emphasized the need for flexibility (A/44/16, para. 55 (a)). The latter quality would indeed be needed in the collective efforts to deal with a number of issues which were both technical and political.

7. He trusted that the current year's discussion would be productive in terms of clarifying further some of those basic technical and political issues. For his part, he would welcome further elucidation of points such as the methodology for budget preparation, including the treatment of real growth. He believed that, on the basis of the contribution of ACABQ, dialogue should continue on the relationship between the outline and the programme budget. That relationship should be explored not only in terms of the outline being a target in developing his budget submission, but also in terms of its significance during the process of consideration of his submission and at the time of its approval. He had already mentioned the treatment of the issue of inflation and currency fluctuation in the budget. He would also like to mention the operation of the contingency fund, where refinements might be required in light of the experience to be gained during the current session. The relationships between regular budget activities and peace-keeping operations, both of them assessed, as well as between assessed budget activities and those financed by voluntary contributions, must continue to be addressed. Estimates for extrabudgetary resources in the next biennium were higher than the amounts he was requesting for the regular budget. In its first report on those proposals, ACABQ had focused on that issue which merited immediate attention.

8. On the question of reform, the Committee, under agenda item 38, would review and discuss its final report on the reform process mandated by General Assembly resolution 41/213. He was fully aware that, under the provisions of that

/...

(The Secretary-General)

resolution, he was to submit to the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly an analytical report assessing the effect of the implementation of resolution 41/213 on the organization.

9. In his latest report to the General Assembly on the work of the organization, he had noted that administrative reform was essentially a continuing process (A/44/1, XIV). Similarly, in the report on the implementation of resolution 41/213, he had further noted that he viewed such implementation not as a finite process but as one that would continue to contribute to a more effective and efficient Secretariat (A/44/222, para. 197). Furthermore, the Committee was aware that the economic and social council, in its decision 1988/87 and, more recently, in resolution 1989/114, had referred directly to the intergovernmental structure in the economic and social sector and had requested a report on his decisions in that regard. It was clear therefore that, while the reform process had covered a significant number of areas and programmes in the organization, some were yet to be effected. The results of the process, so far, were contained in his budget programme proposals; further reforms that might be decided upon at the current session of the General Assembly, if they had financial implications, would need to be accommodated within the boundaries of the budget proposals, including the contingency fund. The same applied, pari passu, to any new programmatic initiatives that the General Assembly might decide to undertake.

10. Reform was a continuing process, not an end unto itself. It implied a constant review of the organization to ensure that it remained capable of attaining the objectives for which it had been established. To perceive reform primarily as a post-reduction exercise was to lose sight of its purpose, in the present case the enhanced effectiveness of the United Nations for the fulfilment of the objectives of the Charter. He was sure that all would concur at that level of analysis, but there might be different perceptions concerning the details of the implementation of the reform process. The continuing dialogue would, he was sure, create the conditions for the development of a common view based, as it should be, on the medium-term plan for the Organization.

11. On the question of programme planning, his budget submission reflected the last two years of an eight-year medium-term plan. While the Committee was debating those budgetary proposals, the Secretariat and the members of the subsidiary intergovernmental bodies were in the process of reviewing the draft medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. He had already mentioned the element of programme continuity which emerged naturally from the concepts embodied in the Charter, and had referred to the importance of the issue of priorities. He thoroughly understood the difficulties involved in determining programme priorities at the level of the plan, and he would be frank on the issue: as long as Member States failed to determine priorities in the medium-term plan, the exercise in priority determination which had been entrusted to him as Secretary-General, at the level of the programme budget, would be, at best, an inadequate substitute.

12. Member States should exercise their prerogatives in full and, as such, determine priorities in the medium-term plan. In that connection, he looked

/...

(The Secretary-General)

forward to the Committee's consideration of his medium-term plan proposals the following year, on the basis of the decision to be adopted by the General Assembly at the current session.

13. The currently highly visible issue of peace-keeping operations, required budgetary provisions involving different sources of funds, namely, regular budget, specific assessments and voluntary contributions. He was referring to activities relating to good offices, peace-making and peace-keeping. The regular budget submission provided for resources for activities of that kind which were supportive of those financed through specific assessments or through voluntary contributions. There would be an opportunity for the Committee to address the relationship between the regular budget and peace-keeping activities when it came to consider the different reports listed under agenda item 137. At the present stage, he simply wished to emphasize the significant expansion of peace-keeping activities in the past two years. In fact, expenditures for peace-keeping activities were, in 1989, almost equal to those of the regular budget. That expansion had taxed the capabilities of the Organization to conceive, plan, direct, execute and administer peace-keeping operations at a time when retrenchments had already taken place. The Committee was well aware of the problems with which the Organization was faced in terms of timeliness and resource availability, both in human and material terms. The discussions in the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations earlier in the year had clearly indicated the importance attached to those issues by Member States.

14. The reports which the Committee would be considering under that item contained a variety of proposals ranging from an increase in the Working Capital Fund to the enlargement of the commitment authority under unforeseen and extraordinary expenditures, the establishment of a reserve equipment stock, and measures to be taken in regard to training. Those proposals were neither simple nor would they necessarily gain immediate and unanimous acceptance. They must be viewed in relation to each other and in conjunction with other issues on the agenda, such as the budget of a leaner Organization, its precarious financial situation and the relationship between peace-keeping and other related activities financed under the regular budget.

15. Turning to an issue of fundamental importance to all - the conditions of service of the staff of the Organization - he said that all the activities required for the implementation of his proposals and the Committee's decisions would be carried out by the men and women who constituted the United Nations Secretariat. An effective United Nations was inconceivable without an independent international civil service. Its independence must be both recognized through the provision of appropriate conditions of service, including pensions, and upheld through respect for the dignity and, in particular, the safety and freedom of international civil servants. He was greatly anguished that, as he addressed the Committee, he was unable to give the families of certain staff members the comfort of knowing the fate of their spouses, parents or siblings.

16. As Chief Administrative Officer of the Organization, it was incumbent upon him to do all in his power to ensure that staff members were able to carry out their functions with the full assurance of host Governments that their rights and

/...

(The Secretary-General)

privileges would be fully respected. The Committee would consider that subject at a later stage, but in the mean time, he wished to appeal to all Member States to provide United Nations staff with the necessary protection to ensure their safety, as well as to co-operate fully with the senior United Nations officials in their countries in the event that a staff member, whether internationally or locally recruited, was arrested or detained. The obligations of Member States under the applicable conventions must be observed if the Organization was to fulfil its mandates.

17. Another important issue before the Committee concerning the staff was the comprehensive review of the conditions of service of staff in the Professional and higher categories which had been carried out by the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC). In view of the crucial importance of the comprehensive review, not only for the United Nations but also for the common system as a whole, he intended to address the Committee separately on the matter, both in his capacity as Chief Administrative Officer of the United Nations and as the Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC).

18. In presenting his budgetary proposals, he must ask the Committee to address them in a spirit of consensus which would lead to a solid programmatic and financial agreement on the scope, content and size of the United Nations regular budget, and in so doing, he must, once again, remind the Committee that adopting a budget was tantamount to accepting the obligation to pay for it, on time and in full. By "on time", he meant payment of assessments within 30 days of receipt of a pertinent letter; "in full" was a term that needed no explanation.

19. The financial situation was ominous. As of the previous day, only 60 Member States had paid their assessments for 1989 in full and had no contributions outstanding for prior years. Outstanding contributions to the regular budget, including arrears, amounted to \$603.8 million, an amount equivalent to 77 per cent of the 1989 assessment for the budget. The Organization had \$68 million left in its General Fund, an amount barely sufficient to cover the expenditures of the United Nations through the end of October. He trusted that in the next few days - and it must be within the next few days - those Member States whose contributions were currently outstanding would pay them.

20. He was aware that many Members felt that not enough had been done to dramatize the situation. He did not share that view. Comprehensive data on the collection of contributions was currently made available to the membership at large, on a monthly basis and in a fuller manner than in the past. In his view, the question was not one of dramatization, but of creating conditions for timely and full payment by all Member States. For his part, he had used every available opportunity, formal or informal, to ask Member States to fulfil their international legal obligations, including that of payment. In saying that, he was not only attempting to deal with the feeling of complacency that at times pervaded the house; he also wished to underscore, once again, that unless the issue of timely and full payment was confronted head-on, the Organization would be left to continue debating those points for years to come, while searching for alternative ways of

(The Secretary-General)

operating in response to new challenges. It would continue to be hampered by a lack of resources, by insufficient reserves, and by the concomitant inability to respond rapidly and effectively to new demands. If and when all Member States paid on time and in full - or at least if and when reserves were replenished and the Organization had met its outstanding obligations in respect of balances of appropriation suspended - it might be possible to lighten the burden currently placed on those Member States that had paid and continued to pay on time and in full. He wished to place on record his gratitude to those Member States which had consistently demonstrated their commitment to the Organization by their prompt payments.

21. In conclusion, he said that the budget of the United Nations was, like any other budget, a proposal for the future; it contained the requirements which, as Secretary-General, he considered necessary to fulfil the goals and objectives of the Organization over the next two years. It was expressed in dollar terms but it concerned an extraordinary human undertaking, spanning all continents, in areas of peace, as well as in regions of conflict. It was an attempt to predict the requirements of the future in an orderly fashion, but it rested upon the recognition that new demands might emerge. A judicious balance must be found between resource predictability, funding and commitment authority. The Organization must be endowed both with the capability to deliver the programmes contained in the budget proposals before the Committee and with the flexibility necessary to respond to new challenges.

22. He commended his budget proposals for the biennium 1990-1991 for the approval of the Fifth Committee.

23. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the first report of the Advisory Committee on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 (A/44/7), said that proposed expenditure, at \$1,983.8 million, was \$195.1 million more than the 1988-1989 revised appropriation. Projected inflation in 1990-1991 accounted for \$128.9 million of the increase; the rate of real growth was put at minus 0.4 per cent. The proposed establishment comprised 10,054 posts, 50 of them temporary. Staff costs accounted for 73 per cent of estimated expenditure. It was estimated that \$2,547.5 million would be available for extrabudgetary activities. In 1989 Member States would be assessed roughly \$720 million for peace-keeping activities and, depending on decisions reached at the current session, \$776.6 million for the regular budget for 1989.

24. The estimates were the first to be prepared in accordance with the new budgetary process approved by the General Assembly in resolution 41/213, and the first to be affected by other reform measures. They covered approximately 12 per cent fewer posts than had been approved at the start of the current biennium, in response 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 (see A/41/49, para. 35). In addition to the budget proper, they included a contingency fund of \$15 million to be used in accordance with resolution 42/211.

/...

(Mr. Mselle)

25. The budget outline for the biennium 1990-1991 (see resolution 43/214, para. 5) showed a total \$1.3 million lower than the Secretary-General's estimates. Some members of the Advisory Committee and CPC argued, as a matter of principle, that the outline total should not be exceeded; others, that the excess was too small to worry about. It must be remembered that the preliminary resources cited in the outline and the estimates of the proposed programme budget used different variables, costed at different starting points, and the various stages of preparation of the outline and the budget estimates thus could not be completely harmonized, but that did not fully explain the \$1.3 million increase. The General Assembly had recognized, however, that the outline resources were preliminary and the procedure was evolving. The experience of preparing the estimates and the debate on them should give the Secretariat guidance on the preparation of the next outline and related estimates.

26. One objective of resolution 41/213 was to create a mechanism for predicting the overall level of resources for the next biennium. Two elements of such a mechanism had been agreed on: the preliminary resources of the outline, and the contingency fund. The third element, additional funds to finance the effects of currency and inflation after the budget had been appropriated, would be considered during the current session in accordance with resolution 43/214. Pending a final decision, the effects of currency fluctuations and inflation would be handled in accordance with present practice.

27. The reorganization and other reforms in progress had prevented the Secretariat from reporting, in the context of the proposed estimates, on a number of improvements recommended by the Advisory Committee. By the time the proposals for the 1992-1993 biennium were considered, in 1991, he hoped that work on improving the budget document and refining work-load standards and statistics wherever feasible would have been completed. Progress would be enhanced by success in the current efforts to improve the content of the medium-term plan.

28. The Advisory Committee recommended an initial expenditure estimate of \$1,976.9 million, compared with the Secretary-General's estimate of \$1,983.8 million. The proposed estimates and related recommendations of the Advisory Committee would be affected mainly by additional amounts relating to the contingency provision, to the recommendations of ICSC as accepted by the General Assembly, and to the effects of inflation and currency changes.

29. For section 2B, Disarmament affairs, and Sub-section 28 H, Jointly financed activities, the amounts recommended were slightly higher than those proposed by the Secretary-General. The adjustment recommended on the expenditure sections related mainly to travel and to administrative and support services; no changes were recommended on the estimates of the regional economic commissions. The provisional reduction of \$1.5 million under section 29 would be reconsidered by the Committee on the basis of a report from the Department of Conference Services. A minor adjustment resulted from the Committee's disagreement with the way the Department had costed requirements for replacing equipment for new technology. Reductions under section 28 were largely due to the Committee's belief that extrabudgetary

/...

(Mr. Mselle)

resources were not being charged a fair share of the cost of support for extrabudgetary activities; the reduction under section 32, Construction, was due to the Committee's recommendation to postpone the projects to modernize conference rooms 1 and 2. He would explain its recommendations in detail when the various budget sections were taken up by the Fifth Committee.

30. The 1990-1991 manning table proposed by the Secretary-General was smaller by eight posts than the revised establishment approved by the General Assembly for 1988-1989. The net effect of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee would be a reduction by six posts instead of the eight proposed by the Secretary-General. The General Assembly had not yet decided where posts at the Assistant Secretary-General and Under-Secretary-General levels should be trimmed. The number to be trimmed had been reduced to 10 from the 14 indicated in the 1988-1989 revised estimates. As one of those 10 had been reclassified to D-2, the actual proposed reduction was 9 posts - or 10, if a post abolished earlier was included.

31. Experience and time would show whether one of the objectives sought under the new budgetary process, namely that Member States should be involved in decisions on the programme budget from the very beginning, had been achieved, and at what cost. The budget outline, as one avenue to such involvement, was partly to blame for recent difficulties with the timely submission of documentation, as were some of the reform measures and the new peace-keeping operations. He hoped that the observations of the Advisory Committee, including those on the outline, would assist the Secretariat in that regard. Effective involvement of Member States in reviewing the programme of work for 1990-1991 required more focused attention by legislative bodies on the activities under their jurisdiction. Too often, their debates on the programme of work did not lead to any definitive conclusion which could guide the Secretariat in its task. In any event, an increased role for the specialized bodies in reviewing the programme of work should in no way infringe on the procedures for decision-making on the programme budget as set out in resolution 41/213.

32. The contingency provision was a challenge to the Secretariat to provide the information and the intellectual guidance necessary for intergovernmental bodies to indicate alternative courses of action in the use of the contingency fund. The procedures for use and the adequacy of the fund would be reviewed by the General Assembly no later than 1992. In the mean time, to avoid serious disagreement, the Secretariat and intergovernmental bodies must come to understand the procedures and co-operate fully in efforts to implement them. Statements of programme budget implications would have to be made more useful. It should be borne in mind, however, that not all legislative decisions could be analysed in detail for programmatic content, and attempts to do so might create excessive and unnecessary work in the Secretariat units concerned.

33. The changed international climate and expanding role of the United Nations in world affairs had had an immediate impact in two areas of concern to the Committee: the administrative and financial aspects of peace-making and peace-keeping, and the use and management of extrabudgetary funds. With regard to

/...

(Mr. Mselle)

peace-making and peace-keeping, the Secretary-General had indicated that, in addition to the operations already set up, a number of others were under active consideration. A number of reports and studies aimed at establishing policy guidelines for the effective financing and management of existing and future operations were due for submission at the current session.

34. The extrabudgetary aspect of United Nations activities had been an area of concern to the Advisory Committee for many years. The effect of extrabudgetary resources on the priority activities of the Organization was a matter of long-standing concern. From one half to two thirds of the funds made available to the United Nations system in recent years had been extrabudgetary, and at times it had been easier to raise extrabudgetary funds for activities than to have them financed through assessed contributions.

35. The bulk of the extrabudgetary resources shown in the budget document, \$2.500 million, against which some 2,549 staff, excluding those engaged in project activities, were to be charged, came from semi-autonomous entities such as UNDP, UNHCR, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNEP and UNRWA, and were under the overall policy supervision of the respective legislative bodies. With the exception of UNRWA, the Advisory Committee submitted recommendations on the administrative and programme-support budgets of those entities to the legislative bodies concerned.

36. The second category of extrabudgetary funds included trust funds and sectoral funds like those of UNRWA and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control. For 1990-1991, \$130 million was estimated for activities on drug abuse control; interim United Nations accounts showed expenditure of about \$156 million in 1988 under general trust funds, or more than the 1989 estimated spending under each of the net regular budgets of seven specialized agencies. He did not intend to discourage donations of trust funds or other extrabudgetary resources. In view, however, of the growing volume of such funds and their impact on the programme of work and the administrative and other support services of the Secretariat, a mechanism should be established to ensure adequate control not only by the Secretary-General, but also by the intergovernmental bodies concerned.

37. The Fifth Committee would during the session be considering topics such as administration, management, Secretariat capacity, performance and support for peace-making and peace-keeping. He trusted that all the essential documentation would be available in time for the Advisory Committee to study it and submit recommendations to the Fifth Committee.

38. The extraordinary international movement away from confrontation towards peaceful co-existence, together with renewed enthusiasm for a more assertive Organization, afforded the United Nations a unique opportunity. To play an effective role, the Organization must have, and must be seen to have, effective administration and sound financial management. He hoped that the current session would consolidate the progress made towards achieving the most realistic possible budget and help to provide the United Nations with the tools to carry out the tasks entrusted to it by the international community.

/...

39. Mr. TOMMO MONTHE (Cameroon) (Chairman of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination) introduced the report of CPC on its twenty-ninth session (A/44/16 and Add.1). The Committee's conclusions and recommendations on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 (paras. 47 to 69) concerned such matters as the interpretation of the new budgetary process, the clear identification of changes in programmatic content from the previous budget, documentation, programme implementation, the implementation in the various sections of the budget of the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 41/213, the growth of programmes and overall resource requirements. In that connection, the Committee, while stressing the necessity for the Secretary-General to adhere to the consensus reached by Member States as expressed in resolution 43/214, nevertheless recognized the equally important need for flexibility, taking into account the factors listed in paragraph 55 of the report. As the Committee noted, it would be the task of the General Assembly to take a final decision on the question of the total estimated requirements in the light of those factors and of the recommendations of ACABQ.

40. The Committee had noted with interest the Secretary-General's very useful report on the various aspects of priority-setting in future outlines of the proposed programme budget (A/44/272). In transmitting that report to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly for further consideration, the Committee had noted that it shed only partial light on the problem, given its complexity and that such important issues as mandates and sources of funding warranted further analysis with a view to weighing their effects and defining more closely the parameters of priority-setting. The Committee's conclusions and recommendations on that very important topic appeared in paragraphs 271 to 275 of the report. In the resolution adopted at its summer session, the Economic and Social Council had requested CPC to redouble its efforts in that area, and he was sure that the Committee would do so at its future sessions, with the assistance of any additional analysis provided by the Fifth Committee.

41. He drew attention to the Committee's conclusions and recommendations on the question of statements of programme budget implications (paras. 277 to 284). The Committee noted that the matter was a complex one and merited further consideration; that paragraph 7 of section II of General Assembly resolution 38/227 A together with regulation 4.9 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, constituted a valid framework for action for the time being; that the new budgetary process instituted by resolution 41/213 offered a further opportunity to improve the programmatic content of statements of programme budget implications.

42. In addition to those general questions, the Committee had, in accordance with its terms of reference, engaged in a detailed examination of all the programmatic sections of the proposed programme budget. An account of its discussions and its conclusions and recommendations appeared in paragraphs 70 to 269 of the report. During its consideration, such questions as the updating of references to revisions to the medium-term plan, the division of responsibilities between the Department for International Economic and Social Affairs and the Vienna Centre (sections 6 and 8), and the orientation and perspective of programmes in the light

/...

(Mr. Tommo Monthe, Cameroon)

of the various mandates of the legislative bodies (for example section 27) had received detailed attention. Consensus had been reached on many of those questions; others remained pending. He noted that in accordance with its mandate, the Economic and Social Council at its summer session, had endorsed the Committee's conclusions and recommendations on the various sections of the budget relating to economic and social questions (E/1989/134).

43. In addition to its work on the proposed programme budget, the Committee had considered a number of other matters, including questions relating to evaluation. Its conclusions and recommendations on the implementation of its recommendations on the evaluation of the population programme and on three evaluation reports - on development issues, the disarmament programme and the human rights programme - were contained in paragraphs 285 to 320 of the report. The Committee recognized that some of those reports, in particular those relating to human rights, had important substantive aspects and would need to be examined in detail by other appropriate bodies.

44. During its consideration of co-ordination questions, the Committee had had before it a very full and useful background note by the Secretariat on the rationalization of co-ordination instruments (E/AC.51/1989/CRP.1). It noted in its conclusions (paragraph 330) that, in its resolution 1988/77, the Economic and Social Council had put an end to cross-organizational programme analyses in their current form and that the Council would need to define the scope and character of the future thematic analyses called for in the resolution. At its summer session in Geneva, the Council, after lengthy and difficult consultations, had adopted a resolution providing guidelines in that connection and requesting CPC to continue to assist it in formulating appropriate recommendations on matters of programme and co-ordination.

45. The Committee had also discussed the scope and general approach of the cross-organizational programme analysis chosen for 1990, on the activities of the United Nations system related to industrial development (paras. 335 to 340) and the cross-organizational programme analysis on the activities related to the advancement of women (paras. 344 to 352). With regard to the reports of ACC, the Committee recommended that future reports should be more forward-looking and analytical and should receive more attention (para. 358). Lastly, the Committee recommended topics for the Joint Meetings of ACC and CPC for 1989, 1990 and, in part, for 1991 (para. 365), indicating that the environment might be a possible second topic for discussion in 1991. The Committee emphasized that participation in such meetings should be at an appropriate level, particularly on the part of CPC, and reserved the right to reconsider the quality of their duration at its thirty-first session.

46. Lack of time had prevented the Committee from considering the various reports of the Joint Inspection Unit that had been submitted to it. It had therefore transmitted them to the General Assembly while reserving the right to take up in the near future the question of more satisfactory arrangements for the consideration of future reports.

/...

(Mr. Tommo Monthe, Cameroon)

47. On the important question of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/213, the Committee welcomed the progress so far achieved through the efforts of Member States, the Secretary-General and the staff as a whole, although it noted that results differed in different sectors. In the economic and social sector in particular, the Special Commission established by the Economic and Social Council was still only starting its work, and a fresh impetus was required for the implementation of certain important recommendations of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts. The Committee suggested an overall methodological framework for the Secretary-General's next report on the implementation of the reform process. Its conclusions and recommendations in that connection appeared in paragraphs 13 to 28 of the report. He drew attention, in particular, to paragraph 22, in which the Committee emphasized the importance of keeping its mandate under resolution 41/213 in mind when the report on the economic and social sectors requested in General Assembly resolution 43/174 was considered.

48. In conclusion, he stressed that the Economic and Social Council had taken note at its summer session of the report of CPC as a whole and had specifically endorsed its conclusions and recommendations.

The meeting rose at 12.05 p.m.