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PROGRAMME PLANNING

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Etien NINOV (Bulgaria)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 22 September 1989, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its forty-fourth session the item entitled "Programme planning" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered agenda item 124 in conjunction with items 38 (Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations) and 123 (Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991) at its 11th to 19th, 23rd to 32nd, 34th, 36th, 37th, 39th, 45th, 46th, 48th and 59th meetings, on 13, 16, 17, 19, 20, 23, 24, 27, 30 and 31 October, 2, 3, 6 to 10, 13 to 15, 21, 22 and 27 November and 19 December 1989, respectively. Comments made in the course of discussion of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/44/SR.11-19, 23-32, 34, 36, 37, 39, 45, 46, 48 and 59).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Fifth Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on the work of its twenty-ninth session (A/44/16); 1/

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/44/16 and Add.1).

(b) Programme budget implications arising from the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on the work of its twenty-ninth session (A/44/16/Add.1); 1/

(c) Report of the Economic and Social Council (A/44/3); 2/

(d) Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991; 3/

(e) Reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991; 4/

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on monitoring, evaluation and management information (A/44/233);

(g) Report of the Secretary-General on statements of programme budget implications (A/44/234);

(h) Letter dated 13 October 1989 from the Deputy Head of the Delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly addressed to the Secretary-General (A/44/645).

II. CONSIDERATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND CO-ORDINATION ON THE PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1990-1991

Section 1. Overall policy-making, direction and co-ordination

4. At its 23rd meeting, on 27 October, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 1 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, which were contained in paragraphs 74 and 80 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (A/44/16).

Section 2A. Political and Security Council affairs: peace-keeping activities

5. At its 27th meeting, on 2 November, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 2A of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraphs 84, 87, 88 and 91 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (A/44/16).

2/ To be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/44/3/Rev.1).

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/44/6/Rev.1), vol. I and II.

4/ Ibid., Supplement No. 7 (A/44/7 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1-7).

Section 2B. Disarmament affairs activities

6. At its 24th meeting, on 27 October, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 2B of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraphs 97 to 100 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (A/44/16).

Section 2C. Office for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea

7. At the same meeting, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 2C of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraphs 104 to 106 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (A/44/16).

Section 3. Political affairs, trusteeship and decolonization

8. At its 48th meeting, on 27 November, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 3 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraphs 113 and 114 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (A/44/16).

Section 4. Policy-making organs (economic and social activities)

9. At its 25th meeting, on 30 October, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 4 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraph 117 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (A/44/16).

Section 5A. Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation

10. At the same meeting, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 5A of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraphs 120 to 124 of part one and in paragraph 19 of part two of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on the first and second parts of its twenty-seventh session (A/42/16 (part one and part two)). 5/

Section 5B. Regional Commissions New York Office

11. At the same meeting, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 5B of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraph 127 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (A/44/16).

Section 6. Department of International Economic and Social Affairs

12. At its 26th meeting, on 31 October, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 6 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraphs 135 to 139 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (A/44/16).

Section 7. Department of Technical Co-operation for Development

13. At the same meeting, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 7 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraphs 143 to 146 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (A/44/16).

Section 8. Activities on global social development issues

14. At its 27th meeting, on 2 November, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 8 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraphs 150 and 151 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (A/44/16).

Section 9. Transnational corporations

15. At its 34th meeting, on 10 November, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 9 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraphs 154 to 159 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (A/44/16).

Section 10. Economic Commission for Europe

16. At its 27th meeting, on 2 November, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 10 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraphs 162 and 163 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (A/44/16).

Section 11. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

17. At the same meeting, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 11 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraphs 166 to 168 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (A/44/16).

Section 12. Economic Commission for Latin America
and the Caribbean

18. At the same meeting, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 12 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraphs 171 to 176 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (A/44/16).

Section 13. Economic Commission for Africa

19. At its 28th meeting, on 3 November, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 13 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraphs 179 to 184 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (A/44/16).

Section 14. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

20. At its 27th meeting, on 2 November, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 14 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraph 186 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (A/44/16).

Section 15. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

21. At its 45th meeting, on 21 November, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 15 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraphs 190 to 193 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (A/44/16).

Section 16. International Trade Centre

22. At its 29th meeting, on 6 November, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 16 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraphs 195 and 196 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (A/44/16).

Section 17. Centre for Science and Technology for Development

23. At the same meeting, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 17 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraphs 199 to 202 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (A/44/16).

Section 18. United Nations Environment Programme

24. At its 30th meeting, on 7 November, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 18 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraphs 206 and 207 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (A/44/16).

Section 19. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

25. At the same meeting, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 19 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraphs 211 and 212 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (A/44/16).

Section 20. International drug control

26. At the same meeting, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 20 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraph 217 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (A/44/16).

Section 21. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner
for Refugees

27. At its 31st meeting, on 8 November, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 21 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraph 219 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (A/44/16).

Section 22. Office of the United Nations Disaster
Relief Co-ordinator

28. At the same meeting, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 22 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraphs 221 to 225 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (A/44/16).

Section 23. Human rights

29. At its 32nd meeting, on 9 November, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 23 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraphs 231 to 234 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (A/44/16).

Section 24. Regular programme of technical co-operation

30. At the same meeting, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 24 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraphs 236 and 237 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (A/44/16).

Section 25. International Court of Justice

31. At the same meeting, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 25 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraph 240 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (A/44/16).

Section 26. Legal activities

32. At the same meeting, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 26 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraphs 245 to 249 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (A/44/16).

Section 27. Public information

33. At its 39th meeting, on 15 November, the Committee approved, without a vote, the recommendations regarding section 27 of the proposed programme budget, which were contained in paragraphs 260 to 269 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (A/44/16).

III. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.5/44/L.23

34. At the 59th meeting, on 19 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Kwaku Duah Dankwa (Ghana), introduced draft resolution A/C.5/44/L.23, which had been elaborated following informal consultations.

35. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/44/L.23 without a vote (see para. 36).

IV. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

36. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Programme planning

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 31/93 of 14 December 1976, 32/197 of 20 December 1977, 37/234 of 21 December 1982, 38/227 A and B of 20 December 1983, 41/213 of 19 December 1986, 42/215 of 21 December 1987 and 43/219 of 21 December 1988,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolutions 2008 (LX) of 14 May 1976, 1988/77 of 29 July 1988, 1989/97 of 26 July 1989, 1989/109 of 27 July 1989 and 1989/114 of 28 July 1989,

Having considered the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on the work of its twenty-ninth session 6/ and the relevant parts of the report of the Economic and Social Council for 1989, 7/

Having also considered the reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, 8/

Having also considered the reports of the Secretary-General on all aspects of priority-setting in future outlines of the proposed programme budget, 9/ on statements of programme budget implications, 10/ and on monitoring, evaluation and management information, 11/

Reiterating the importance of an appropriate consultation procedure of functional, sectoral and regional bodies on the planning, programming and budgeting process,

Reiterating also the importance of priority-setting as an integral part of the planning, programming and budgeting process,

Emphasizing the importance of a reliable methodology for monitoring programme performance,

6/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/44/16).

7/ To be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/44/3/Rev.1).

8/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/44/7 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1-7).

9/ A/44/272.

10/ A/44/234.

11/ A/44/233.

Stressing the importance of evaluation for the systematic and objective determination of the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and impact of programmes and activities in relation to their objectives,

Recognizing that co-ordination should aim at greater compatibility and mutual complementarity of the activities and programmes of the United Nations system,

Recognizing further the co-ordinating role of the Economic and Social Council in the economic and social sectors,

Reaffirming the importance of the programming and co-ordinating functions within the United Nations carried out by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, as the main subsidiary organ of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council for planning, programming and co-ordination;

Noting the co-ordinating role of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination at the secretariat level;

Reaffirming in this regard the role of the Secretary-General of the United Nations as the Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination in co-ordinating the activities of the United Nations system;

Taking into account the comments and observations made in the Fifth Committee concerning programme planning,

I

Role of intergovernmental bodies

1. Approves the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on the consultation procedure for the preparation of the programme budget; 12/
2. Takes note of the observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the extent of involvement of specialized bodies in the planning and programming process; 13/
3. Invites the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Committee on Conferences to take appropriate action, within their respective mandates, with a view to assisting the functional, sectoral and regional

12/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/44/16), para. 48.

13/ Ibid., Supplement No. 7 (A/44/7 and Corr.1 and 2), paras. 69-72.

bodies to play a more effective role in the planning, programming and budgeting process in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

4. Invites also the functional, sectoral and regional intergovernmental bodies to consider, in a timely manner, the draft medium-term plan and programme budget proposals within their areas of responsibility, in order that their recommendations may be taken into account by the Secretary-General when preparing his proposed medium-term plan and programme budget;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the necessary advice to the organs and bodies mentioned in paragraphs 3 and 4 above, in order to enable them to effectively carry out the tasks herein entrusted to them;

II

Priorities

1. Approves the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on priority-setting; 14/

2. Takes note of the relevant comments of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions; 15/

3. Requests all relevant entities and bodies to continue to make every effort to set and apply priorities in accordance with the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation;

4. Requests the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination to complete at its thirtieth session its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on all aspects of priority-setting in future outlines of the proposed programme budget, 2/ including the relationship between priorities and extrabudgetary resources and taking into account the pertinent observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in paragraph 85 of its report, 8/ and to make recommendations thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session;

14/ Ibid., Supplement No. 16 (A/44/16), paras. 271-275.

15/ Ibid., Supplement No. 7 (A/44/7 and Corr.1 and 2), paras. 92-97.

III

Programme performance monitoring

1. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to improve the methodology for monitoring and reporting on programme performance in order to enhance the meaningful ~~determination~~ of implementation rates and comparison between actual delivery of final output and commitments set out in the programme narratives of the approved programme budget;
2. Requests further the Secretary-General to develop a methodology for the harmonization of programme performance and budget performance reporting;

IV

Evaluation

1. Approves the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on evaluation; 16/
2. Welcomes the efforts made by the Secretariat to refine the methodology for evaluation, stresses the need for further improvements, and urges the Secretariat to adopt a more qualitative approach in its evaluation analyses wherever justified by programmatic considerations;
3. Stresses the importance of self-evaluation in relation to the preparation and implementation of the medium-term plan and of the programmatic content of the programme budget;
4. Renews its request in its resolution 43/219 that programme performance and evaluation reports, together with the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination thereon, as endorsed by the General Assembly, should be submitted to the relevant intergovernmental and expert bodies to ensure follow-up action;

V

Co-ordination questions

Approves the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination relating to co-ordination contained in chapter IV of its report; 17/

16/ Ibid., Supplement No. 16 (A/44/16), paras. 286, 288-290, 292-297, 299-307, 314 and 316-320.

17/ Ibid., paras. 325-331, 333, 335-340, 344-352, 357-361 and 364-368.

Requests the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to modify substantially the format and content of its annual overview report in accordance with the relevant conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination;

Invites the Economic and Social Council and the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination to improve their consideration of the annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, in accordance with their respective mandates;

Requests the Secretary-General to present the annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its thirtieth session and the Economic and Social Council and subsequently to make it available to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, together with the relevant conclusions and recommendations of those bodies on that report in accordance with existing practice;

Invites the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, at their joint meeting in 1990 to discuss, in a thorough manner, all measures for improving the efficacy of the joint meetings, including their structure and level of participation;

VI

Implementation

Requests the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of all aspects of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation;

VII

Other conclusions and recommendations

Approves those other conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its twenty-ninth session 5/ which have not otherwise been approved by the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session.
