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Agenda item 128

PATTERN OF CONFERENCES

Report of the Fifth CommitteeRapporteur: 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 "Pattern of conferences" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.
2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 5th, 8th to 10th and 59th meetings, held on 6, 10 and 11 October and 19 December 1989. Statements and observations made in the course of the discussion of the item and replies to queries raised are reflected in the pertinent summary records of the Committee (A/C.5/44/SR.5, 8-10 and 59).
3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Committee on Conferences, 1/ and the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 42/207 C (A/44/502). It also had before it notes by the Secretary-General (A/44/135 and Add.1) transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit and the comments thereon of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, as well as the comments of the Secretary-General thereon (A/44/221), and the letters dated 13 June, 28 August, 1 and 5 December 1989 from the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences to the President of the General Assembly (A/44/341 and Add.1-3).

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 32 (A/44/32, Corr.1-3).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

4. At the 59th meeting, on 19 December 1989, following informal consultations, the Vice-Chairman of the Fifth Committee, Mr. Ado Vaher (Canada), introduced the draft resolution as contained in document A/C.5/44/L.22 and informed the Committee of a revision to operative paragraph 10 of section A as follows: after the words "conformity with", the words "General Assembly" should be deleted; and at the end of that paragraph, the words "as approved by the General Assembly" should be added.

5. At the same meeting, the Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/44/L.22, as orally revised, without objection (see para. 7).

6. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representatives of Uganda and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland made statements (see A/C.5/44/SR.59).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

7. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Pattern of conferences

A

Report of the Committee on Conferences

The General Assembly,

Recalling all its relevant resolutions,

Having considered the report of the Committee on Conferences, 2/

1. Approves the draft calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for the biennium 1990-1991 as submitted by the Committee on Conferences; 3/

2. Authorizes the Committee on Conferences to make any adjustments in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 1990-1991 that may become necessary as a result of action and decisions taken by the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session;

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 32 (A/44/32 and Corr.1-3).

3/ Ibid., annex III.

3. Notes with appreciation the efforts made by a number of United Nations organs to improve the utilization of conference-servicing resources;

4. Requests the Committee on Conferences to review the methodology on conference servicing utilization rates in order to provide, if possible, a more accurate assessment of the overall use of conference resources with a view to enabling United Nations bodies to make the optimum use of conference services and to facilitate, where necessary, continued rationalization of their meeting requirements;

5. Urges all United Nations organs to intensify their efforts to improve their utilization of conference-servicing resources, taking into account the need to reduce costs without adversely affecting their efficiency;

6. Requests the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences and the Secretary-General to maintain their contacts with United Nations organs that have failed to make adequate use of the conference-servicing resources provided to them in order to assist those organs in making better use of their services;

7. Recommends that the Chairmen of those organs bring the concerns on utilization of conference-servicing resources to the attention of the organs concerned;

8. Requests the Committee on Conferences to remain seized of the matter on the basis of further reports from the Secretary-General;

9. Welcomes the intention of the Committee on Conferences to consider further the draft chapter of the medium-term plan for 1992-1997 on conference and library services, bearing in mind that this strategy should have, inter alia, the objective of utilizing to the optimum and in the most cost-effective manner, the conference services, resources and facilities worldwide, in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions and the rules and principles governing conference planning;

10. Takes note of the Committee's intention to play a role in the review of the Department of Conference Services envisaged by the Secretary-General, ^{4/} on the understanding that the role to be determined by the Committee at its 1990 session will be in full accordance with its mandate and in conformity with resolution 43/222 B of 21 December 1988, as approved by the General Assembly;

11. Invites the Committee on Conferences to adopt a more comprehensive programme of work, taking into account its responsibilities as established by the General Assembly.

^{4/} See A/44/222 and Corr.1, para. 104.

B

Control and limitation of documentation

The General Assembly

Recalling its resolutions 2292 (XXII) of 8 December 1967, 2538 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969, 3415 (XXX) of 8 December 1975, 34/50 of 23 November 1979, 35/10 B of 3 November 1980, 36/117 of 10 December 1981, 37/14 C of 16 November 1982, 38/32 E of 25 November 1983, 40/243, section III, of 18 December 1985, 41/177 D of 5 December 1986, 42/207 C of 11 December 1987 and 43/222 C of 21 December 1988,

1. Decides to extend for a further year the experimental period established under resolution 37/14 C, during which no subsidiary organ of the Assembly shall be entitled to summary records, with the exception of the following:

- (a) Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean;
- (b) Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People;
- (c) International Law Commission;
- (d) Legal Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;
- (e) Special Committee against Apartheid;
- (f) United Nations Commission on International Trade Law;
- (g) United Nations Council for Namibia;

2. Takes note of the decision of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research to discontinue its request for summary records;

3. Takes note of the Committee on Conferences' decision to review the issue of control and limitation of documentation in more detail at its 1990 substantive session;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to analyse the printing requirements of the Organization and recommend proposals to maximize the cost-effectiveness of external and internal printing, through the Committee on Conferences and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session.

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C.

Implementation of General Assembly resolution 42/207 C

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 42/207 C of 11 December 1987,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 42/207 C, 5/

1. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to implement resolution 42/207 C;
2. Decides to remain seized of the matter.
