

in utilizing the contributions received, the Secretary-General should take account of the financial needs of certain delegations.

56. In the second part of the draft decision, the Secretary-General might be requested to accept new contributions for that purpose.

57. If the Council decided to use voluntary contributions for very specific purposes, there would probably be no legal problem.

58. He requested the Council to consider the question immediately.

59. Mr. SANDERS (United States of America) said that his delegation understood the concern felt by the

representative of Mexico. However, since his proposal conflicted with the rule followed thus far, he would like the draft decision to be submitted in writing so that members of the Council would be in a better position to consider it. He therefore proposed that the Council should revert to the question at a later stage.

60. The PRESIDENT said that the question raised was an important one and members should be able to consider carefully the best way of meeting the understandable concern of the representative of Mexico. Consequently, it would be better to revert to the question at a later meeting.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.

1942nd meeting

Monday, 21 April 1975, at 11 a.m.

President: Mr. Iqbal AKHUND (Pakistan).

E/SR.1942

AGENDA ITEM 3

Programme budget for 1976-1977 and medium-term plan for 1976-1979 (continued) (E/5612, E/5613 and Corr.1-4, E/5614, E/5632; E/5643, chap. I, draft resolution III; E/5660, E/5661; E/L.1642, 1643)

1. The PRESIDENT recalled that at its fifteenth session the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) had recommended that the Secretary-General should reformulate the programme on Science and Technology, taking into account the views expressed in the Committee in order to reflect more precisely existing legislative directives in that field and to present the reformulated programme to the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-eighth session.

2. Mr. STANDKE (Director, Office for Science and Technology), introducing the revised text of the programme on Science and Technology contained in document E/5661, said that, in order to make it easier to understand the programme budget before the Council, he would briefly recall the role of the Office for Science and Technology within the United Nations system.

3. The Office did not undertake operational activities and the results of its work were generally less spectacular than those of other divisions; however, it was no less important, for the Office was responsible for providing secretariat services for the four United Nations organs dealing with science and technology. The activities of those organs, and consequently those of the Office itself, were aimed at achieving the following main objectives: to review and assess on a continuing basis the United Nations programme of work in the field of science and technology, bearing in mind the activities carried out by intergovernmental organs, regional bodies, and national, governmental or non-governmental organizations; to analyse activities undertaken within the framework of the programme in order to avoid any duplication and to fill possible gaps; to disseminate information on all United Nations activities in the field of science and technology to Governments concerned and United Nations bodies; to define United Nations

policy in the field of science and technology and to provide the Economic and Social Council with guidelines on the best way of strengthening programmes in that field.

4. At the fifteenth session of CPC, some delegations had pointed out, quite rightly, that the programme on Science and Technology did not sufficiently reflect certain relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Committee on Science and Technology for Development. The Office for Science and Technology had therefore revised the text of the programme on the basis of existing resolutions and had sought to organize the activities which the Committee on Science and Technology for Development would be required to implement during the biennium in the light of available budgetary resources. As a result of that revision, the programme had five medium-term objectives instead of two and an additional heading "Substantive support for technical co-operation activities"; it placed greater emphasis on the need for co-ordination and co-operation with the other United Nations organs, contained a more detailed description of the three additional posts requested and stated more clearly the legislative authority for each proposed goal and activity.

5. Mr. ROUGÉ (France), speaking on a point of order, said that the Working Group on United Nations Programme and Budget Machinery established by the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session, was to meet that day at the very time when the Council was supposed to consider the question of the programme budget for 1976-1977 and the medium-term plan for 1976-1979 under item 3 of the agenda. Although they were not identical, the two questions were very closely interrelated and it was therefore essential that competent officials from the Secretariat and the missions be able to participate in the work of both the Council and the Working Group so that the Council might duly fulfil the task of co-ordination entrusted to it under the Charter of the United Nations.

6. He therefore proposed, on the one hand, that the Working Group should postpone its meetings until the

Council had completed its consideration of item 3 or that the Council itself should wait for the Working Group's conclusions so as to take them into account in the decisions it would have to take on the subject and, on the other hand, that the President should contact the officers of the Working Group in order to make the necessary arrangements.

7. The PRESIDENT said that he would contact the Chairman of the Working Group in order to avoid any overlapping and to ensure the closest possible co-ordination between the Working Group and the Council.

8. Mr. JEMBERE (Ethiopia) thanked the Director of the Budget Division for his introductory statement to the members of the Council and thanked the Secretariat for the detailed documents that had been prepared for item 3 of the agenda. However, he regretted that CPC had not had time to study the documents in depth. His delegation, for its part, while generally satisfied with the documents, felt that the foreword to the medium-term plan (E/5614) was too long and didactic and that that type of document could be further improved.

9. With regard to priorities and conceptual problems, he said that the term "growth and changing priorities" should be interpreted to mean that resources allocated to certain programmes might be reduced if those programmes had a low priority. In addition, his delegation approved of the idea of taking account of extrabudgetary resources in determining the order in which programmes were to be implemented. In that connexion, it would be necessary, without prejudice to General Assembly decisions, to find ways of implementing each programme, in accordance with the desired order of priority. Moreover, his delegation shared the concern expressed by other representatives at the incomplete nature of part III of the plan, devoted to special analyses and evaluations, and considered that an attempt should be made to carry out systematic and continuing evaluation of the programmes implemented within the framework of the United Nations system.

10. With regard to United Nations activities for 1976-1979, his delegation welcomed the fact that the medium-term plan was aimed at making the activities of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) more specific and action-oriented. With regard to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), it did not agree with the statement in chapter 3, paragraph 62, of document E/5614 that UNIDO could be most influential if it handled problems of industrialization from the international and multicountry point of view. In addition, the medium-term objectives of UNIDO seemed very ambitious in view of that organization's resources. Finally, referring to the programme of work of the

Economic Commission for Africa in 1976-1979, his delegation was concerned that lack of resources prevented the Commission from implementing all the activities mentioned in the relevant resolutions of the sixth special session of the General Assembly.

11. Mr. G. A. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) expressed satisfaction at the Secretariat's efforts to present a revised text of the programme on Science and Technology (E/5661).

12. With regard to medium-term objective 2 of the programme, his delegation welcomed the activities planned within the framework of programmes relating to the New International Economic Order and to the United Nations science and technology policy. However, it felt that the currently crucial question of energy production could not be divorced from the content of the United Nations programmes in the field of science and technology and it considered inexplicable the failure of the Office for Science and Technology to deal with any of the questions relating to energy, specifically the search for new sources of energy, and hoped that steps would be taken to remedy the situation.

13. Mr. DE MOURA (Brazil) welcomed the reformulated programme on Science and Technology; however, as document E/5661 had just been circulated, he reserved the right to speak later on the question.

14. Mr. GONZALEZ DE COSSIO (Mexico) pointed out that the reformulated programme on Science and Technology was directly related to the programme of work of the Intergovernmental Working Group of the Committee on Science and Technology for Development which was scheduled to meet some time that week. He therefore asked if the Council could resume consideration of the reformulated programme at a later stage when the Intergovernmental Group had finished its work.

15. The PRESIDENT said that there was no reason to postpone consideration of the programme on Science and Technology, which was not a separate item on the agenda, for that would mean a similar delay in the consideration of item 3.

16. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) pointed out that the Secretariat was having some difficulty in preparing the calendar of conferences which the Council was to consider in the summer and expressed the hope that the Council would provide it with further information and guidelines concerning outstanding questions relating to the rationalization of the Council's work, such as the question of the future frequency of sessions of CPC and that of the consideration of the United Nations programme and budget machinery.

The meeting rose at 11.35 a.m.