

therefore be examined more closely and the meeting of the Working Group would probably be very useful for that purpose. Nevertheless, the meeting would certainly be less productive than it might have been.

26. Mr. MAKEYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he had read the documents in question and was not surprised at the criticisms which had been made of them. However, he wished to stress that the Secretariat was not responsible for the fact that the United Nations bodies had not provided sufficient information.

27. In the opinion of his delegation, the meeting should take place on the planned dates on the basis of the available documentation. However, if the documentation on any agenda item was insufficient, there was nothing to prevent the Working Group from meeting again later.

28. Mr. OLIVERI LOPEZ (Argentina) said that his delegation also attached the greatest importance to the agenda of the meeting and that it had therefore been very disappointed by the announcement made by the Secretary. In his opinion, it would definitely have been possible to prepare a more complete document within the time-limit. The Council was in an impasse: everyone wanted the meeting to produce positive results, but that was not possible with inadequate documentation. Furthermore, there was very little time left before the date fixed for the meeting. He therefore supported the proposal of the representative of Jamaica that informal consultations be held.

29. The PRESIDENT said that it was unfortunate that the Council, or at any rate the members of the Bureau, had not been informed earlier of the situation.

30. The members of the Council seemed on the whole to wish to postpone a decision until later. He therefore suggested that they should hold consultations between themselves before taking a decision at the next meeting.

It was so decided.

31. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) said that he wished first to apologize for having drawn the Council's attention to the matter at such a late stage. However, it would have been difficult to do otherwise because of certain practical considerations: the only time when it would have been possible to warn the Council had been during the organizational session and at that time the Secretariat still thought that it would be able to prepare the necessary documentation. Furthermore, there was a provision in the rules of procedure authorizing the Secretary-General to request the President of the Council to postpone a meeting; however, that provision did not seem to be applicable in the current situation. Finally, consultations on one of the documents in question had only ended on the preceding Friday and it was then that the Secretary-General had decided to recommend to the Council that the session of the Working Group be postponed.

32. He wished to draw the Council's attention to the fact that only 13 days remained before the date planned for the session of the Working Group and that that period was not sufficient to complete the documentation. In particular, the Secretary-General considered that further consultations should be undertaken and more information assembled before the document on institutional arrangements for science and technology was issued. Furthermore, in resolution 1897 (LVII), the Council had requested the Secretary-General to prepare and submit to the Intergovernmental Working Group a report containing his views on the scope of the proposed conference. However, the Secretary-General did not have all the necessary information to be able to give a considered opinion.

33. Having said that, he noted that the change in the date of the meeting of the Working Group would not affect the work of the Committee on Science and Technology for Development in 1976, except in respect of the question of institutional arrangements.

The meeting rose at 12 noon.

1941st meeting

Friday, 18 April 1975, at 11.05 a.m.

President: Mr. Iqbal AKHUND (Pakistan).

E/SR.1941

Revision of the agenda (E/5652)

1. The PRESIDENT said that he had received a communication dated 9 April 1975 from the Permanent Representative of Somalia to the United Nations concerning the tragic situation existing in Somalia as a result of the prolonged severe drought, which had compelled the Government of Somalia to declare a state of emergency. It was clearly the duty of the international community to take immediate action. After consultation with the delegations concerned, he was suggesting that the Council should revise item 2 of its agenda as adopted at the 1940th meeting (E/5652) to include a specific reference to Somalia in the title, which would now read: "Consideration of a system-wide attack on the drought problems in the Sudano-Saharan region, Ethiopia and Somalia".

2. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council agreed to revise the wording of agenda item 2 as he had suggested.

The agenda, as revised, was adopted.

Review of the calendar of meetings

INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP OF THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (E/L.1641)

3. The PRESIDENT recalled that the Council had been informed by the Secretariat at the opening meeting that it would not be possible to issue all the documentation required by the Intergovernmental Working Group of the Committee on Science and Technology for Development. On the proposal of the representative

of Jamaica, the Council had decided to hold consultations, the outcome of which was agreement on a text containing a decision on the question (E/L.1641) to which the Council should now give final approval.

4. If there was no objection, he would take it that the draft decision in document E/L.1641 was adopted.

The draft decision was adopted [decision 71 (LVIII), para. 1].

AGENDA ITEM 4

Rationalization of the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies (E/5633)

DRAFT REVISED RULES OF PROCEDURE (E/5634)

5. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to resume consideration of the question of the draft revised rules of procedure which the informal working group established at the previous meeting had been examining for the past two weeks.

6. Mr. KJELDGAARD-OLESEN (Denmark), speaking as Chairman of the informal working group, said that he regretted that the group had not been able to complete its work and arrive at complete agreement on the proposed draft revised rules of procedure annexed to the report of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group (E/5634). While considerable progress had been made on a number of rules, 16 remained to be completed, at least partially, and that could not be done without resolving the five or six points on which agreement had not been reached. That could be done through informal consultations among the various delegations concerned, and he felt that the group should be allowed additional time for that purpose. The consultations should begin as soon as possible so that the Council could then convene the informal working group, if the results warranted, to finalize the text of the draft rules. That assumed that all members of the Council were prepared to begin the informal consultations immediately and to attempt to reach agreement.

7. Mr. AMIRDZHANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) associated himself with the desire expressed by the Chairman of the working group. He wondered whether the Secretariat might not arrange for the informal consultations to be mentioned in the *Journal*, as they were an important part of the Council's work.

8. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) said that meetings of the informal working group and subsidiary bodies were announced in the *Journal*. It would be difficult to announce the informal consultations because it meant knowing sufficiently in advance when the consultations were to be held.

9. The PRESIDENT said he would leave it to the Chairman of the informal working group to deal with the matter. He hoped that when the consultations had been completed, the group would be able to submit an agreed text of the draft rules of procedure.

AGENDA ITEM 3

Programme budget for 1976-1977 and medium-term plan for 1976-1979 (E/5612, E/5613 and Corr.1-4, E/5614, E/5632, E/5660)

10. The PRESIDENT recalled that it was the second time that the Council was considering the item. The conclusions of its earlier deliberations appeared in resolution 1801 (LV), in which the Council had decided

to transmit the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on its fourteenth session, together with the relevant summary records to the General Assembly, and had requested the Assembly, in considering the question, to take into account the comments and proposals made by the Council during the debate on it. The Council was now considering the question prior to the meeting of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) and therefore might wish to decide in what form the results of its deliberations might be transmitted to ACABQ and the General Assembly.

11. Mr. LAVAU (Director, Budget Division) said that since the Assistant Secretary-General, Controller, had already made a statement in the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC), the main points of which appeared in the report of the Committee on its fifteenth session (E/5632) and in the summary records of the Committee, there was no need to revert to the explanations and technical comments made on that occasion. He would therefore confine his remarks to recalling the main factors which had served as a basis for the medium-term plan and the programme budget in accordance with the directives of General Assembly resolution 3199 (XXVIII). The medium-term plan (E/5614), according to the resolution, should be presented by programme and should provide the framework for the biennial programme budget. Those directives had provided an opportunity for greater freedom and perspective in analysing the objectives and means of attaining the goals established by the Assembly. Accordingly, the medium-term plan and the programme budget had been presented in a different way, with the plan covering United Nations programmes independently of the administrative units responsible for implementing them, and the programme budget distributing the programmes among the various units. An attempt had been made in the latter to achieve some perspective and to retrace the evolution in United Nations activities in order to identify changes in priorities, changes which reflected how the concerns of Member States had developed. The aim had been to establish a point of departure for assessing to what extent past trends should be maintained or redirected.

12. The concluding section of part I of the plan presented a suggested procedure for developing a new way of setting priorities. The favourable response of CPC to the proposed new methodology encouraged the Secretariat to pursue the new course. The Secretariat trusted that the Council would also endorse it, since there were many technical problems which would have to be resolved in applying the new procedure. In any case, it would be difficult to assess its effectiveness before 1976. The need to establish priorities had been recognized for many years, but there had been little progress on the matter to date. In its resolution 3199 (XXVIII), the Assembly had requested the Council to indicate clearly the order of priorities in the economic, social and human rights fields; but, at its fifty-seventh session, the Council had failed to agree on how that order should be determined. That point was of cardinal importance because, while the activities of the United Nations were virtually unlimited in scope, its resources were necessarily restricted.

13. The programme budget for the biennium 1976-1977 (see E/5612) would amount to a total of \$737 million. The figure given CPC had been \$742 million, but it had proved possible to reduce it. Of that total,

\$263 million had been allocated to economic, social and humanitarian activities, the area in which the Council was primarily engaged.

14. That amount represented an increase of some \$55.4 million, or 26.6 per cent, over the revised appropriation for the current biennium. However, by making allowance for the amount required to offset the effects of inflation and to finance extraordinary expenditure, to mention only recurring expenses, the real increase was only \$7.2 million, or 3.2 per cent. In constant dollars, that represented a real growth of 3 per cent, which the Secretary-General had considered reasonable to impose on Member States for the next biennium, given the very distressing conditions in the world today. For that reason, an effort had also been made to deal in a rather novel manner with the individual budget sections so as to alleviate the difficulties besetting budget-makers in the prevailing uncertain currency situation. Thus, the requirements were presented in constant dollars and actual dollars for a better assessment of the real growth in the budget.

15. Currency instability and fluctuations in exchange rates had severely complicated the task of making that assessment. Estimates had been made which had proved to be totally unrealistic, like those of most economists, since it had generally been expected that the United States dollar would recover some of its value in relation to the Swiss franc. When the General Assembly was asked to approve the programme budget at its thirtieth session, the figures would have to be revised to bring them into line with the exchange rates in force at that time.

16. It should also be noted that the final texts of the documents under consideration had been improved with respect to presentation, to take account of the comments of CPC, which had rightly pointed out that it was not always easy to see from the presentation of the tables what was meant by non-recurring expenses. An attempt had been made to give the tables a clearer presentation and also to provide additional information on extrabudgetary resources. It had not been possible to do that in the version under consideration by the Council, which had been prepared under difficult conditions because the necessary documents for the preparation of the budget had not become available until well after the prescribed time-limit. In that connexion, it should be stressed that, since the Committee had met on 17 March, the Secretariat had had to finish its work during the first few days of January. Allowance had to be made for the six-week time-limit on the one hand and the period of at least one month required for the translation of the documents into the various working languages on the other hand. It was therefore practically impossible to calculate the figures on the basis of revised figures which had not been transmitted until the end of the General Assembly session. That was a practical problem which, although currently under study, should be settled without delay in order to avoid a recurrence of the same difficulties the following year.

17. Mr. KAUFMANN (Netherlands) commended the Secretariat for its praiseworthy attempt to submit a medium-term plan which represented a definite improvement over the previous plan. He also thanked CPC for its report. Those documents provided useful information, even though they were of limited importance. One of the main conclusions to be drawn from the documents was that the medium-term plan might be

more profitably prepared and considered in years when the adoption of the programme budget was not on the agenda.

18. In order to enhance the decision-making procedure for the medium-term plan and the programme budget, a new advisory committee would be required or, at least, the existing Committee needed to be revitalized along the lines of its existing mandate as laid down by the General Assembly. Whatever the arrangement, the need for a closer working relationship between the new advisory committee or the new-style CPC on the one hand and ACABQ on the other had already become evident at an early stage of programme budget consideration. With regard to ACABQ, his delegation could not but regret that the preliminary comments of ACABQ on the medium-term plan and the programme budget, which were necessary ingredients for the current debate, had not been communicated to the members of the Council.

19. The foreword and various chapters of the medium-term plan clearly reflected the need to develop a close interrelationship between the activities of the United Nations and those of organs and organizations both within and outside the United Nations system. Such contacts would gradually help to bring about a harmonization of medium-term plans and programme budgets.

20. Prior harmonization would also eliminate the danger of divergent action by various agencies on largely interdependent problems. Co-operation at all stages between the organizations, within the framework of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC), which was the ideal setting for joint planning and integration of activities, should therefore be encouraged. Introduction of the concept of global interdependence, which realism demanded, might well result in a clash between the programmatic effects of such an approach and the manageability of specific activities. Thus the network approach became inevitable for a number of global issues. Yet the medium-term plan and related agency plans implied some sort of manageable system in terms of specific activities.

21. In the view of his delegation, the rolling plan principle seemed preferable to a fixed plan because it ensured greater continuity and flexibility. However, the rolling plan should not hinder the setting of a reasonable time-table for the attainment of certain objectives.

22. In paragraph 40 of the foreword to the medium-term plan (E/5614) it was stated that the evaluation of programme efficiency was a key problem in the medium-term planning of the United Nations. His delegation was surprised to note therefore that, despite such an assertion, very little attention had been paid to the function of evaluation. It seemed that no trouble had been taken to search for possible instruments of such a systematic evaluation.

23. With regard to the setting of priorities, it seemed to his delegation that the statement in chapter 3, paragraph 24, that "the whole work programme of the Economic Commission for Africa is of high priority" made nonsense of the term "priority". In paragraphs 17 *et seq.* of the foreword, the Secretary-General posed a number of interesting questions with regard to criteria for determining priorities. Policy-making criteria (para. 19) and technical criteria (para. 20) could surely be mutually supporting. For example, the concept of cost-effectiveness could be elaborated to reflect certain char-

acteristics peculiar to international co-operation and the United Nations system in particular. Perhaps a quantitative evaluation could yet be devised which would result in a clearer insight into the question of priorities.

24. Some parts of the medium-term plan conveyed the impression that the Secretary-General held a rather passive view as to his responsibility in meeting requests of legislative and supervisory bodies. Even if ultimate decision-making responsibility in that area lay with Governments, the Secretary-General, particularly in his capacity as Chairman of ACC, was supposed to put forward ideas and proposals of his own.

25. Because of the geographical and functional decentralization of the United Nations system, many delegations did not have a clear idea of what was being done in the system in its entirety; consequently, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council were handicapped when it came to taking the right decisions. In order to work out the medium-term plan and programme budget, the legislative bodies needed adequate instruments for their deliberations. His delegation wished to emphasize that the plan and programme budget needed to be scrutinized by a competent advisory body providing member States with sound advice and assistance. Member States should co-operate in developing adequate central machinery to enable the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly to direct and develop the activities of the United Nations system, in the light of the new international economic and social order.

26. In order to attain that goal, a high degree of discipline would have to be observed by member States and the Secretariat. For its part, his delegation was confident that some good would come of the current period of trial and error.

27. Mr. BRITO (Brazil) said he wished to have further information regarding the changes which, according to the Director of the Budget Division, had been made in the proposed budget to take account of the comments of CPC. The examples mentioned by the Director seemed to indicate that the changes had to do with form rather than substance. However, a reading of the report of CPC revealed that some of its comments dealt with substantive questions, as was the case with the section on science and technology, and not merely with questions of form. He would therefore like to receive additional information about the precise nature of the changes which had been made, notably with regard to programmes, and also about the action the Secretary-General intended to take with regard to the comments made by CPC concerning substantive questions.

28. He emphasized, however, that the Council should focus its attention primarily on the various aspects of the programmes and their general orientation and ensure that the medium-term plan adequately reflected the Programme of Action for the Establishment of a New International Economic Order. The Council's deliberations should therefore centre on general policy questions rather than on purely technical points.

29. In conclusion, he reserved his delegation's right to speak at a later stage on the substantive issues involved.

30. Mr. LAVAU (Director, Budget Division), replying to the question put by the representative of Brazil, said that the changes made in the provisional

documentation before the Council affected both form and substance. Fuller information would be given concerning anticipated extrabudgetary resources, as well as indications concerning the portion of resources to be allocated to substantive programmes and the portion that would cover indirect costs, that is, the costs of administrative and conference services arising out of such programmes. It could thus be seen that the changes affected both form and substance as they would permit a better assessment of the real cost of United Nations programmes. Moreover, not only had the presentation of the programmes been improved, but one of them had been reformulated completely. He believed that the Director of the Resources and Programme Planning Office was in the best position to provide members of the Council with any information they might wish to have on the subject.

31. Mr. AHMED (Director, Resources and Programme Planning Office) recalled that CPC had requested the Secretary-General to reformulate the programme on Science and Technology and to present the reformulated programme to the Economic and Social Council at its current session. In accordance with that request, a reformulated programme had been prepared and would be issued as document E/5661.

32. As stated in the note by the Secretary-General on revisions arising from deliberations of the subsidiary bodies of the Council (E/5660), CPC had also decided to delete one specific activity under the programme on Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. It had also decided that the revised document should refer to two General Assembly resolutions concerning co-operation between developing countries and technical co-operation. It had also pointed out that a number of resolutions had been omitted; those resolutions would be mentioned in the revised text. The clarifications provided by the directors of programmes would also be included in the revised document with a view to eliminating some ambiguities in the original text.

33. Mr. DIETZE (German Democratic Republic) said that his delegation had been very interested to read the report of CPC on its fifteenth session and the document concerning the medium-term plan for 1976-1979 (E/5614). Thanks to the efficient preparatory work done by the Secretariat, CPC had been able to do some constructive work although it had not had time to complete its task. He was also pleased to note that the detailed documents provided by the Secretariat had facilitated the co-ordination work of CPC.

34. He felt it would be desirable for CPC to consider the work programmes in greater depth in order to ensure that they were in keeping with the decisions adopted at the sixth special session of the General Assembly and with the provisions of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. The programmes should be co-ordinated more efficiently in order to avoid duplication. Better co-ordination would also prevent uncontrolled budgetary growth and excessive expansion of the Secretariat.

35. He supported the idea put forward by CPC at its fifteenth session that CPC should remain an intergovernmental body responsible for preparing and co-ordinating programmes. Such an important political task, however, required the co-operation of all States and should not be restricted to a group of experts acting in their personal capacity.

36. Mr. AMIRDZHANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) considered that United Nations resources should be expended more efficiently and more rationally and that its budget should be stabilized. It was no secret that the continuing rise in the budget was a matter of concern to many Members.

37. His delegation felt it was necessary to establish some scheme of priorities, to adhere to it, and to ensure that activities undertaken under various programmes matched the available resources. It was for the Secretary-General to evaluate ongoing programmes to determine whether they were urgently needed and whether they could be executed within the time-limit that had been set. Priority should be given to the most important and most urgent programmes.

38. His delegation opposed the inclusion in the medium-term plan and programme budget of Secretariat proposals for the development of programmes concerning social and economic activities. Nor was it for the Secretariat to encourage foreign investments by analysing new methods in the economic field.

39. As for the work programme of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, his delegation approved of the proposed budget but felt that priority should be given to the study of the world economy, the review and appraisal of the Second United Nations Development Decade, reports on the world social situation, and studies on the public sector and the links between development and disarmament.

40. He felt it was not the right time to expand the staff of the Secretariat, particularly that of the Division of Human Rights. Nor did he see any need to call upon outside consultants.

41. His delegation believed that expenditure pertaining to seconded staff should be reduced and was disturbed at the inequitable geographical distribution in the Secretariat.

42. In spite of decisions taken by the Commission for Social Development, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, the report did not make provision for any activities in some major social and economic areas such as the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, the experience gained by countries in the matter of income distribution, the influence of international relations on the social development of different countries, the use of science for peaceful purposes, and social aspects of industrialization. Moreover, there was no justification for not including some of the activities recommended by the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development—such as research on new sources of energy which were not harmful to the environment—in the programme on science and technology. The Office for Science and Technology should be given an opportunity to collect information on those subjects in 1976 and 1977, taking into account the work of the specialized agencies in that area.

43. In revising the programmes, an effort should be made to ensure that every project was justified by United Nations resolutions.

44. The USSR had always done its best to help the United Nations to carry out its tasks, and would continue to do so in the future.

45. Mr. BARCELO (Mexico) emphasized the significance of the medium-term plan in terms of the questions it dealt with.

46. With regard to part I of the plan (see E/5614), he felt that, in the economic and social fields, it should be possible to organize a type of management that would enable planned activities to be undertaken, using the experience acquired by some countries in other countries with a similar structure and at a similar level of development. That was an important point that should be given due consideration in future programme budgets.

47. It was hard to see what evaluation system should be used to ensure that meaningful objectives were set for projects and to ensure that, over the short term, programmes had a greater impact at the economic and social level in the developing countries.

48. In view of the situation in those countries it was important to undertake activities in the economic and social fields that would yield short-term results rather than to view projects solely in terms of cost benefit. It would be useful to study the possibility of executing projects and plans which involved the participation of several countries.

49. In part II of the plan, CPC had made recommendations which stressed action at the national level, particularly in the fields of human rights, science and technology, and transnational corporations; those recommendations overlapped with the objectives set forth in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. Perhaps that should be stated more clearly.

50. In part III, it might be useful to seriously consider the possibility of evaluating progress made in the implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. In that connexion a preliminary study might perhaps be undertaken which would later lead to a programme on the subject.

51. All those activities indicated that CPC should improve its working methods and work towards the implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States for the benefit of the peoples of all countries.

52. On the subject of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, he wondered whether the United Nations could provide financial assistance for certain delegations which would otherwise have some difficulty in attending the Conference. His delegation, together with others, had therefore prepared a draft decision which they intended to submit to the Council in case the Secretariat did not already have the possibility of providing financial assistance to those who wished to go to Mexico.

53. Mr. LAVAU (Director, Budget Division) said that the proposal by the representative of Mexico raised the question of responsibility for travel costs for representatives of Member States wishing to attend United Nations conferences.

54. He recalled that, under General Assembly resolution 1798 (XVII) of 11 December 1962, the Secretariat could not cover travel expenses of representatives of Governments, even if extrabudgetary funds were to be used. Any exception to that rule would have to be authorized by a General Assembly resolution.

55. Mr. BARCELO (Mexico) took note of the explanation provided by the Director of the Budget Division and formally introduced a draft decision calling for an increase in the amount of contributions to the International Women's Year and recommending that,

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