

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/4662
16 December 1960

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifteenth session
Agenda item 54

ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY CO-ORDINATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS WITH THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND WITH THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. T.W. CUTTS (Australia)

1. The Fifth Committee considered, at its 809th to 812th meetings held from 5 to 8 December 1960, the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the administrative budgets of the agencies for 1961 (A/4599), as well as chapter VII, section 1, of the report of the Economic and Social Council^{1/} concerning programme appraisals in the economic, social and human rights fields. Other documents before the Committee were: (a) a note by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/820) submitting, in an information annex to the 1961 estimates, data on the 1961 budgets of the United Nations family of organizations; and (b) letters from the Chairmen of the Second and Third Committees (A/C.5/847 and Add.1, and A/C.5/841) regarding the views expressed in those Committees on the subject of the programme appraisals.
2. In introducing the report of the Advisory Committee - the excellence of which was applauded by many representatives - the Chairman of that Committee referred to the fact that its budgetary reviews were made from a single vantage point embracing the United Nations, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the secretariats of the Technical Assistance Board and the Special Fund: that in itself was an important element in the co-ordination process, and each of the Committee's reports bore evidence that the several budgets were appraised, not in isolation, but by reference to the totality of programmes.

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifteenth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/4415).

3. Dealing with points covered in the report (A/4599), the Chairman of the Advisory Committee found it gratifying that the Economic and Social Council had continued its important efforts in the field of co-ordination with even greater vigour in the past year, as was attested by chapter VII of its latest report (A/4415). As regards the conclusions of the Appraisals Committee (E/3347/Rev.1), the principal point of budgetary interest was that an arbitrary stabilization of budgets at present levels was not desirable, and that more programme funds could and should be usefully employed, without any marked increase in administrative costs. It was therefore important - as the Advisory Committee had previously emphasized - that the expansion of programmes should be the subject of orderly planning and be based on a forward appraisal in terms of needs, priorities and capacities. On the subject of the co-ordination of field activities and services, he stressed the need for continuous efforts on the part of all organizations, although useful developments towards the solution of a difficult problem had already taken place; for example, the functions of the Resident Representatives had been enlarged: in addition to the Expanded Programme, they were now serving the Special Fund and, in many instances, regular activities of the United Nations and specialized agencies.

4. Several delegations referred to the important role which the Advisory Committee was called upon to play in the co-ordination of extra-budgetary programmes in general. The rapid growth of the Special Fund had accentuated the need for such co-ordination. It was therefore suggested:

(a) That it might be useful if the Advisory Committee could devote particular attention in its next report on co-ordination in the field to the position of the specialized agencies and UNICEF, and to their relations with each other, as well as with the Technical Assistance Board and with the United Nations itself; and

(b) That the assistance of the Advisory Committee should be invited in connexion with the study to be undertaken by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC), under Council resolution 794 (XXX) of 3 August 1960, regarding the possible effects on the activities of the United Nations family of organizations of an increase in the operations of the Expanded Programme and the Special Fund. Specifically, the Advisory Committee might be requested to review the results of the study and present its comments to the Council in July 1961.

5. Reference was made in the course of the discussion to resolution 799 (XXX) of 3 August 1960 in which the Council invited the Secretary-General and the executive heads of the agencies to take such steps as would assist the ACC to discharge its increasing responsibilities. The Secretary-General's representative assured the Committee that the necessary strengthening of the ACC secretariat would be carried out, without increase in the approved estimates, as early as possible in 1961.
6. The hope was expressed that both the ACC and the Advisory Committee would revert - at not too remote a date - to the question of a consolidated budget for the entire United Nations family. Such a budget would obviously facilitate the application of a rational scale of priorities to all the programmes of the organizations and the development of a concerted approach to the needs and problems with which they were faced. It was recognized, however, that the adoption of a consolidated system was not at present practicable, and that means would have to be found to improve the processes of co-ordination among the various organizations without necessarily interfering with their respective constitutional positions.
7. At the 811th meeting, the representative of the Netherlands introduced a draft resolution (A/C.5/L.632)^{2/} sponsored jointly by Japan, the Netherlands and New Zealand on the subject of the programme appraisals. The sponsors thought it desirable that the General Assembly should take formal note, by way of a resolution, of the very important work which the Council and its Appraisals Committee had recently done in that field. The first part of the draft resolution also sought to ensure the widest possible distribution of the report ("Five-Year Perspective"), while the second part referred to the role which the Advisory Committee could play in connexion with the study to be prepared by the ACC (para. 4 (b) above).

^{2/} The text of document A/C.5/L.632, which reflected certain amendments suggested orally at the 811th meeting, was identical with that appearing under paragraph 11 of the present report as draft resolution I, except that operative paragraph 2 of the last part read as follows:

"2. Invites the Governments of Member States to give the report entitled 'Five-Year Perspective' the widest possible distribution within their respective administrations;"

8. At the 812th meeting, the sponsors of the joint draft resolution (A/C.5/L.632) accepted a proposal of the representative of Venezuela amending operative paragraph 2 of the first part to read as follows:

"Calls the attention of Member Governments to the report entitled 'Five-Year Perspective' and expresses the hope that they will give it the widest possible distribution within their respective administrations;"

They also agreed, on the proposal of the representative of the United Arab Republic, to the insertion of the words "the importance and usefulness of" before the words "the report".

9. At the 812th meeting, the Committee approved - in a separate vote - by 37 votes to 9, with 13 abstentions, the following phrase in operative paragraph 2 of part I of the draft resolution (A/C.5/L.632): "and expresses the hope that they will give it the widest possible distribution within their respective administrations;". The Committee then approved by 54 votes to none, with 4 abstentions, the draft resolution, as amended by the sponsors.

10. The Committee also approved, without objection, a related draft resolution (A/C.5/L.634), subject to an amendment proposed by the representative of the Netherlands by which the words "with appreciation" would be added after the words "Takes note" in the first paragraph.

Recommendations of the Fifth Committee

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

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Programme appraisals in the economic, social and human rights fields (five-year perspective)

A

The General Assembly,

Recalling part I of its resolution 1094 (XI) of 27 February 1957,

Having considered chapter VII of the report of the Economic and Social Council for the period 1 August 1959 to 5 August 1960, and, in particular section I thereof, dealing with programme appraisals in the economic, social and human rights fields,

Having considered also the valuable comments made by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the programme appraisals, and, in particular, on the consolidated report, entitled "Five-Year Perspective", prepared by the Committee on Programme Appraisals of the Economic and Social Council, and transmitted to the General Assembly in the Council's resolution 791 (XXX),

Believing that the appraisals exercise has been a valuable step in the process of developing progressively the effectiveness of the activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies in these fields, and that its results represent a substantial achievement of the objects the General Assembly had in mind in adopting resolution 1094 (XI),

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Council and to its Committee on Appraisals for the work they have done in this respect;

2. Calls the attention of Member Governments to the importance and usefulness of the report entitled "Five-Year Perspective", and expressed the hope that they will give it the widest possible distribution within their respective administrations.

B

The General Assembly,

Noting the view expressed in paragraph 371 (iv) of the "Five-Year Perspective" that the growth in the role played by voluntary funds in the work of the United Nations and its related agencies gives rise to certain problems both for the agencies concerned and for the management of these funds,

Noting further that in its resolution 794 (XXX) of 3 August 1960 the Economic and Social Council has invited the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to submit to the Council at its thirty-second session a study of the possible effects on the activities of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency of an increase in the operations of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and the Special Fund in coming years, bearing in mind the need to ensure the co-ordinated development of these activities,

Believing that the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions can offer valuable assistance and advice in the consideration of such a study,

1. Invites the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to transmit the results of its study to the Advisory Committee for whatever administrative and budgetary comments it may deem desirable;

2. Requests the Advisory Committee to submit its comments in time for the thirty-second session of the Council for its consideration together with the study prepared by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Administrative budgets for 1961 of the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency

The General Assembly,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the administrative budgets for 1961 of the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency,

2. Invites the attention of the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency to the comments and observations made in the Advisory Committee's report and to the views expressed in the Fifth Committee at the fifteenth session of the General Assembly.
