

8. *Decides also* to appropriate the amount of 25,373,400 dollars gross (24,615,600 dollars net) for the maintenance of the Force for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997, inclusive of the amount of 632,400 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations, in addition to the amount of 26,296,200 dollars gross (25,538,400 dollars net), already appropriated for the period from 1 July to 31 December 1996 under the provisions of General Assembly resolution 50/243;

9. *Decides further*, as an ad hoc arrangement, and taking into account the amount of 26,296,200 dollars gross (25,538,400 dollars net) already apportioned in accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/243, to apportion an additional amount of 25,373,400 dollars gross (24,615,600 dollars net) for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997 among Member States at a monthly rate of 4,228,900 dollars gross (4,102,600 dollars net) in accordance with the composition of groups set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 44/192 B of 21 December 1989, 45/269 of 27 August 1991, 46/198 A of 20 December 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 49/249 A of 20 July 1995, 49/249 B of 14 September 1995 and 50/224 of 11 April 1996 and its decisions 48/472 A of 23 December 1993 and 50/451 B of 23 December 1995, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the year 1997, as set out in its resolution 49/19 B of 23 December 1994 and its decision 50/471 A of 23 December 1995, subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Force beyond 31 May 1997;

10. *Decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 9 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated additional staff assessment income of 757,800 dollars approved for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997;

11. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Force in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 43/230 of 21 December 1988, 44/192 A of 21 December 1989 and 45/258 of 3 May 1991;

12. *Decides* to keep under review during its fifty-first session the agenda item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force".

*85th plenary meeting  
16 December 1996*

## 51/211. Pattern of conferences

A

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the report of the Committee on Conferences,<sup>21</sup>

*Recalling* its relevant resolutions, including resolutions 40/243 of 18 December 1985, 43/222 B of 21 December 1988, 47/202 A to D of 22 December 1992, 48/222 A and B of 23 December 1993, 49/221 A to D of 23 December 1994 and 50/206 A to F of 23 December 1995,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Committee on Conferences, and takes note of its report;

2. *Approves* the draft revised calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for 1997 as submitted<sup>22</sup> and amended<sup>23</sup> by the Committee on Conferences, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Authorizes* the Committee on Conferences to make adjustments in the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1997 that may become necessary as a result of actions and decisions taken by the General Assembly at its fifty-first session;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all the conference services required as a result of decisions taken by the General Assembly at its fifty-first session, taking into account, as necessary, the procedures established in Assembly resolutions 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and 42/211 of 21 December 1987;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to include in the list of official holidays of the United Nations Id al-Fitr and Id al-Adha;

6. *Decides* that no United Nations meetings shall be held on Id al-Fitr and Id al-Adha, which occur in 1997 on 10 February and 17 April, respectively, and requests the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements to ensure strict implementation of this decision when preparing all future draft calendars of conferences and meetings of the United Nations;

7. *Decides also* that requests for waivers to the headquarters rule contained in General Assembly resolution 40/243 shall be reviewed by the Committee on Conferences prior to consideration by the Assembly;

8. *Invites* all its subsidiary bodies that are authorized to meet away from their established headquarters to review, in the interest of improved efficiency and cost-effectiveness, the

<sup>21</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 32 and corrigendum and addendum (A/51/32 and Corr.1 and Add.1).*

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid., Supplement No. 32 and corrigendum (A/51/32 and Corr.1), annex.*

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid., Supplement No. 32, addendum (A/51/32/Add.1).*

exception to the headquarters rule in the light of the current situation of their work and to make recommendations thereon, through the Committee on Conferences, to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

9. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council to request all its subsidiary bodies to carry out the review referred to in paragraph 8 above;

10. *Requests* the bodies that have not fully utilized their meeting entitlements, including the duration of their sessions, to review their entitlements and to report the results of their review to the General Assembly through the Committee on Conferences;

11. *Expresses concern* that the overall and average factors for the utilization of conference services have fallen further and were below the established benchmark figure of 80 per cent in 1995;

12. *Reiterates its request* to the Committee on Conferences, in consultation with the organs concerned, to examine the cases where the utilization factor is lower than the established benchmark figure for at least three sessions, with a view to reporting on problems and factors that have given rise to such a situation, and to make appropriate recommendations in order to achieve the optimum utilization of conference-servicing resources;

13. *Expresses concern* about the underutilization of conference facilities at duty stations outside Headquarters, and emphasizes the need to make the most effective use possible of such facilities;

14. *Endorses* the initiatives taken by the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences with a view to assisting bodies to achieve the optimum utilization of conference-servicing resources and, to that effect, to assess realistically their need for such resources;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure closer cooperation between Headquarters, the United Nations Office at Geneva, the United Nations Office at Vienna and the United Nations Office at Nairobi in order to improve the coordination of conference services;

16. *Requests* the Secretariat to engage on a regular basis in an active dialogue with Member States as a permanent feature at Headquarters, as well as at the United Nations Office at Geneva, the United Nations Office at Vienna and the United Nations Office at Nairobi, in order to improve the coordination of conference services;

17. *Expresses concern* that 35 per cent of requests were denied for interpretation services for meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States, in view of the importance of these meetings for the smooth functioning of sessional bodies, while recognizing that meetings of Charter and mandated bodies must be serviced as a priority;

18. *Urges* intergovernmental bodies to spare no effort at the planning stage to take into account meetings of regional

and other major groupings of Member States, to make provision for such meetings in their programme of work and to notify Conference Services well in advance of any cancellations so that unutilized conference-servicing resources may, to the extent possible, be reassigned to meetings of regional and other major groupings of States;

19. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to provide, within the resources requested for conference services for the biennium 1998-1999, interpretation services for meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States upon request by those groupings, taking into account the priority due to meetings included in the calendar of conferences and meetings, and to submit a report on the implementation of this decision to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session through the Committee on Conferences;

20. *Reaffirms* that, in the use of conference rooms, priority should be given to meetings of Member States;

21. *Decides* that bodies which accept invitations to convene conferences and meetings in host countries should be kept informed, as appropriate, of the progress made in negotiating the host country agreement in the course of preparations for such a conference or meeting, with a view to encouraging the timely conclusion of such an agreement before the conference or meeting takes place.

*89th plenary meeting  
18 December 1996*

B

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions on the control and limitation of documentation, including resolutions 47/202 B of 22 December 1992, 48/222 B of 23 December 1993, 49/221 B of 23 December 1994 and 50/206 B and C of 23 December 1995,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>24</sup>

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to invite Member States to review their document requirements in order to identify and, where possible, reduce the number and types of documents requested;

3. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to review the internal requirements of the Secretariat in order to avoid a surplus of documents provided in the Secretariat;

4. *Notes* that only two intergovernmental bodies have taken positive action in response to paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 of resolution 50/206 C;

5. *Reiterates its recommendations* on the control and limitation of documentation made to intergovernmental bodies in its resolution 50/206 C, and requests these bodies to report to it, through the Committee on Conferences, on measures taken to implement that resolution;

<sup>24</sup> A/51/268.

6. *Requests* the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to continue to keep it informed, through the Committee on Conferences, of its experience with the use of unedited transcripts;

7. *Takes note* of the decision of the Committee on Conferences contained in paragraph 89 of its report,<sup>25</sup> and requests the Committee to report on the implementation of that decision to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

8. *Stresses once again* the need for strict compliance with the existing limits of twenty-four pages for documents originating in the Secretariat and thirty-two pages for reports of subsidiary bodies;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit every two years, through the Committee on Conferences, updated information on the number and length of documents;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, to the extent possible, to inform bodies, at the time they request reports, whether the documents can be produced within established page limits;

11. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to pursue his efforts to improve the quality in the substance and presentation of documentation, applying new publishing techniques to enhance readability and reduce consumption of paper;

12. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to ensure that documentation is available in accordance with the six-week rule for the distribution of documents, simultaneously in each of the six official languages of the United Nations;

13. *Reaffirms its decision* that, should a report be issued late, the reasons for the delay should be indicated when the report is introduced;

14. *Reiterates its request* to the Joint Inspection Unit to conduct a comprehensive survey of the role publications play in implementing mandates of intergovernmental bodies and the extent to which recurrent publications could be made more cost-effective in this regard, and to submit a report on this matter no later than the end of the fifty-first session.

*89th plenary meeting  
18 December 1996*

C

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 50/206 D of 23 December 1995,

*Stressing* the need to provide Member States and United Nations bodies with more comprehensive and accurate information on the costs of meetings and documentation,

*Noting* that the introduction of new technologies enhances the quality, cost-effectiveness and efficiency of conference services,

*Stressing* the importance of equal access to, and benefit from, the optical disk system and other new technologies in all six official languages by all Member States and the need to overcome the difficulties faced by some Member States, in particular developing countries, in acquiring the technology to access the optical disk system, as well as other available technologies,

*Welcoming* the actions taken by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics of the Economic and Social Council to expand and improve connectivity between United Nations databases and those of Member States, including through their permanent missions, and the training programmes initiated to that end,

*Appreciating* the relevance of these actions as part of the effort to increase efficiency and to decrease costs,

1. *Strongly urges* the Secretary-General, as a matter of priority, having recourse to voluntary and internal expertise within the United Nations system, to develop the cost-accounting system for conference services no later than the next substantive session of the Committee on Conferences;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report, through the Committee on Conferences, to each subsidiary organ of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on the cost of conference services it utilized in the year concluded in order to enable those organs to plan more effectively;

3. *Decides* that, in the absence of a General Assembly decision to the contrary, the use of such technologies as the optical disk system and the Internet shall not constitute an alternative to traditional documents;

4. *Strongly urges* the Secretary-General, as a matter of priority, to provide proposals to the Fifth Committee at the first part of the resumed fifty-first session, in accordance with paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 50/206 D, on facilitating access by developing countries to the optical disk system in all six official languages, taking into account the possible savings from reduced reproduction and distribution costs;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the texts of all new public documents, in all six official languages, and information materials of the United Nations are made available through the United Nations Web site daily and are accessible to Member States without delay;

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to complete the task of uploading all important older United Nations documents on the United Nations Web site on a priority basis, so that these archives are also available to Member States through that medium.

*89th plenary meeting  
18 December 1996*

<sup>25</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 32 and corrigendum (A/51/32 and Corr.1).*

D

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 49/221 C of 23 December 1994 and 50/206 E of 23 December 1995,

1. *Notes* the efforts made by the translation services to improve the quality of translation of documents in all six official languages of the United Nations, and encourages those services to continue to spare no effort to that end and to continue to report to the Committee on Conferences on additional efforts made in this regard;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to pay due attention to the rules of management in translation-related matters.

*89th plenary meeting  
18 December 1996*

E

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* its resolutions 49/221 D of 23 December 1994 and 50/206 F of 23 December 1995,

*Expresses its appreciation once again* to the Secretary-General and the Secretariat for the proper and timely implementation of resolutions 49/221 D and 50/206 F.

*89th plenary meeting  
18 December 1996*

**51/212. Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations**

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations,

*Recalling* its resolution 50/207 B of 11 April 1996 concerning the application of Article 19 of the Charter,

1. *Notes* that the Committee on Contributions will report to the General Assembly on the procedural aspects of the consideration of requests for exemption under Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations before the end of its fifty-first session;

2. *Endorses* the conclusion of the Committee on Contributions that the failure of the Comoros to pay the minimum amount necessary to avoid the application of Article 19 of the Charter was attributable to conditions beyond its control;<sup>26</sup>

3. *Decides* that, as a result, the Comoros should be permitted to vote through the fifty-first session of the General Assembly and that any extension that may be requested shall be subject to review by the Committee on Contributions.

*89th plenary meeting  
18 December 1996*

<sup>26</sup> See A/50/11/Add.2, para. 12; see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 11A*.

**51/213. Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission**

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission,<sup>27</sup> the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions<sup>28</sup> and the related comments and observations in the reports of the Office of Internal Oversight Services<sup>29</sup> and the Board of Auditors,<sup>30</sup>

*Bearing in mind* Security Council resolutions 626 (1988) of 20 December 1988, by which the Council established the United Nations Angola Verification Mission, 696 (1991) of 30 May 1991, by which the Council decided to entrust a new mandate to the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (thenceforth called the United Nations Angola Verification Mission II), 976 (1995) of 8 February 1995, by which the Council authorized the establishment of a peacekeeping operation (thenceforth called the United Nations Angola Verification Mission III) and its subsequent resolutions, the latest of which was resolution 1087 (1996) of 11 December 1996, in which the Council extended the mandate of the Verification Mission until 28 February 1997,

*Recalling* its resolution 43/231 of 16 February 1989 on the financing of the Verification Mission and its subsequent resolutions and decisions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 50/209 B of 7 June 1996,

*Reaffirming* that the costs of the Verification Mission are expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations,

*Recalling* its previous decisions regarding the fact that, in order to meet the expenditures caused by the Verification Mission, a different procedure is required from that applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget of the United Nations,

*Taking into account* the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions and that the economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards such an operation,

*Bearing in mind* the special responsibilities of the States permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, in the financing of such operations,

*Mindful* of the fact that it is essential to provide the Verification Mission with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

*Concerned* that the Secretary-General continues to face difficulties in meeting the obligations of the Verification

<sup>27</sup> A/51/494 and Add.1 and 2.

<sup>28</sup> A/51/700 and Corr.1.

<sup>29</sup> See A/51/432, annex.

<sup>30</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 5 (A/51/5)*, vol. II.