

2537 (XXIV). Implementation of the recommendations of the *Ad Hoc* Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies

A

The General Assembly

Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on its activities during the first eighteen months of its operations, from 1 January 1968 to 30 June 1969, as transmitted by the Secretary-General.¹⁶

*1829th plenary meeting,
11 December 1969.*

B

The General Assembly,

Noting the views set forth by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its first report,¹⁷ as well as the concern expressed in statements by the Secretary-General¹⁸ and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions¹⁹ about the need to avoid a duplication of effort and a waste of resources in the activities of control and investigative bodies and of organs concerned with administrative and co-ordination questions,

Noting also the views expressed in the Fifth Committee in this respect,²⁰

Desiring to know the number of staff engaged in these activities and the amount of financial resources being expended by these bodies and organs in relation to the benefits in economy,

Desiring also to ensure adequate co-ordination of the activities of these bodies and organs in a framework where the appropriate degree of independence of each such body and organ is preserved,

Conscious of the need to establish and maintain a proper and considered relationship between the machinery for control and investigation, on the one hand, and the institutional machinery and functions, on the other hand,

Taking into account the need to strengthen and improve the whole machinery of the United Nations system for control and investigation of administrative and financial activities in the interests of economy and greater efficiency,

1. Requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To prepare a report setting forth:

- (i) The bodies and organs established for purposes of administrative and budgetary control, investigation and co-ordination, with dates of inception for each;
- (ii) The terms of reference of each such body and organ;
- (iii) The annual expenditures for the financial years 1965 to 1969 inclusive for each body and

organ concerned, in absolute terms and as an aggregate percentage of the total budget for the year;

(iv) The estimated outlay of manpower for the preparation of data for the testimony before or consultation with each such body and organ;

(b) To invite, in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, the executive heads of the specialized agencies to supply the same information for inclusion in this report;

(c) To submit this report to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

2. Expresses the hope that the commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations in 1970 will be the occasion for new efforts to resolve the administrative, budgetary and financial problems of the United Nations in the context of renewed dedication and solemn commitment to the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations.

*1829th plenary meeting,
11 December 1969.*

C

The General Assembly

1. Takes note of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the review of the administrative and management procedures concerning the programme and the budget of the International Telecommunication Union;²¹

2. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit that report, through the consultative machinery of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, to the legislative organ and the executive head of the International Telecommunication Union.

*1829th plenary meeting,
11 December 1969.*

2538 (XXIV). Publications and documentation of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 593 (VI) of 4 February 1952, 789 (VIII) of 9 December 1953, 1202 (XII) and 1203 (XII) of 13 December 1957, 1272 (XIII) of 14 November 1958, 1851 (XVII) of 19 December 1962, 1987 (XVIII) of 17 December 1963, 2116 (XX) of 21 December 1965, 2150 (XXI) of 4 November 1966, 2239 (XXI) and 2247 (XXI) of 20 December 1966, 2292 (XXII) of 8 December 1967, 2361 (XXII) of 19 December 1967 and 2478 (XXIII) of 21 December 1968,

Reiterating its concern at the growing volume of the publications and documentation of the United Nations, which Governments are finding increasingly difficult to use effectively,

Convinced that, by freeing resources currently being utilized in excessive documentation and in activities that may have wholly or largely outlived their usefulness, the United Nations would be better able to implement programmes of real value to the Governments of Member States,

²¹ *Ibid.*, Twenty-fourth Session, Annexes, agenda item 81, document A/7765.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, agenda item 81, document A/C.5/1241.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, Twenty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/7608 and Corr.1).

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, Twenty-fourth Session, Annexes, agenda item 74, document A/C.5/1233.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, document A/C.5/1234.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, Twenty-fourth Session, Fifth Committee, 1321st, 1324th to 1327th, 1329th and 1332nd meetings.

Convinced that a substantial reduction in the volume of documentation would enable the Secretary-General better to comply with statutory requirements for the preparation and simultaneous distribution within the required time-limits of documents in the working languages of the various United Nations organs,

1. *Appeals* to all United Nations organs, bodies and committees to consider ways of reducing documentation, and in particular the possibility of adopting a form of records less voluminous and less costly than that currently being used;

2. *Takes note* of the recommendations and suggestions for reductions in the volume of documentation contained in the reports of the Secretary-General,²² in reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,²³ in chapter VII, section B, of the report of the Committee on the Reorganization of the Secretariat,²⁴ in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit²⁵ and in the working paper prepared by the Secretariat for the Economic and Social Council,²⁶ notes that many of them have been or are being implemented already, and requests the Secretary-General, in the light of his own comments and those of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on them, to implement as quickly as possible those recommendations and suggestions that fall within his competence and authority and to continue his efforts to reduce documentation;

3. *Notes* that the Economic and Social Council has already achieved a certain measure of success in reducing documentation, as described in paragraphs 615 to 631 of its report for the period from 3 August 1968 to 8 August 1969,²⁷ and that the Trade and Development Board has examined proposals for improving the machinery of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,²⁸ and urges both bodies to continue their efforts to reduce the volume of documentation, without impairing effective positive action on worth-while programmes;

4. *Requests* the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the Trade and Development Board and the Industrial Development Board to consider, when establishing a new subsidiary body, conference or committee, whether or not it should have summary records of its proceedings;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session a list of the resolutions of the Assembly and its subsidiary organs that call for periodic reports, with an indication of the number of pages of each of these documents, and invites the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to submit any recommendations it might wish to offer for shortening, discontinuing or issuing less frequently such reports;

²² *Ibid.*, *Twenty-second Session, Annexes*, agenda item 81, document A/6675; *ibid.*, *Twenty-fourth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 82, documents A/7579, A/C.5/1247 and A/C.5/1257.

²³ *Ibid.*, *Twenty-third Session, Annexes*, agenda item 75, document A/7400; *ibid.*, *Twenty-fourth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 82, document A/7789.

²⁴ *Ibid.*, *Twenty-third Session, Annexes*, addendum to agenda item 74 (A/7359), annex.

²⁵ A/7576 and Corr.1, annex.

²⁶ E/L.1249 and Add.1 and 2.

²⁷ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/7603 and Corr.1)*.

²⁸ *Ibid.*, *Supplement No. 16 (A/7616)*, part three, chapter VI.

6. *Requests* the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Joint Inspection Unit to watch out for activities that give rise to documentation which in their opinion is excessive or of doubtful value, and to include in their reports recommendations for shortening, discontinuing or issuing less frequently such documentation;

7. *Approves* the decision of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples that the proceedings of its meetings should be verbatim records in provisional form only, to which addenda and/or corrigenda might be issued, and to dispense with summary records;

8. *Reaffirms* paragraph 1 (a) (ii) of its resolution 593 (VI), by which it invited the Governments of Member States to restrict both the number and the volume of the documents submitted for processing to what is strictly required by resolutions and other statutory decisions of a United Nations organ, or is clearly relevant to agenda items under discussion, and appeals to the Governments of Member States to exercise restraint in submitting lengthy documents to be distributed as documents of the United Nations;

9. *Notes* that the traditional system of commissioning background papers for international conferences sometimes gives rise to a great deal of documentation, and requests the Secretary-General to draw to the attention of bodies concerned with organizing such conferences the desirability of giving careful consideration to employing whenever possible annotated agenda, lists of headings for discussion, and the like, instead of background papers, or in conjunction with a reduced number of such papers;

10. *Decides* that:

(a) No United Nations body or organ shall have both verbatim and summary records;

(b) Verbatim or summary records shall not be provided for a newly established subsidiary body of the General Assembly—rule 60 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly notwithstanding—or for a special meeting or conference, unless they are specifically authorized in the enabling resolution;

(c) Verbatim records shall not include the texts of routine exchanges of views about the date and place of the next meeting, congratulations, expressions of condolence and the like, but shall merely report them briefly, except that in special circumstances the organ or body concerned may decide otherwise;

(d) In the case of verbatim records, the versions in languages other than the original shall be prepared in accordance with the following principles:

(i) Translations into and from Russian shall be used;

(ii) Translations into and from Chinese shall be used;

(iii) Otherwise—that is, as between English and French, English and Spanish, and French and Spanish—transcriptions of the simultaneous interpretations, which shall be checked editorially and revised, if necessary, to guard against serious errors, shall be used;

(e) Speeches or statements by representatives, by the Secretary-General or his representative, or by persons presenting reports on behalf of committees or

other bodies, may be reproduced *in extenso* in summary records or as official documents only if they serve as bases for discussion, provided that the relevant decision is taken by the body concerned after a statement of the financial implications has been submitted in accordance with regulation 13.1 of the Financial Regulations of the United Nations;

(f) Each report on the administrative and financial implications of a proposal for a non-recurrent report to be submitted in accordance with financial regulation 13.1 shall be prepared in accordance with the following rules:

- (i) It shall set forth the nature of the document, the possible number of pages, and the type and number of copies to be printed;
- (ii) It shall state how much time will be required to reproduce the requested document in all the working languages;
- (iii) It shall indicate whether there is any previous publication on the same subject in the organizations in the United Nations system which would duplicate or substantially overlap the proposed publication;
- (iv) Where, in the light of discussion, delegations consider a particular report so useful that it should be printed and bound, the report on administrative and financial implications shall state the cost incurred in preparing the mimeographed version, including drafting costs, and the estimated cost of the proposed new edition;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to widen the existing practice of soliciting bids for external printing of publications of the United Nations from all Member States;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a short document setting forth in clear terms the policies laid down by the General Assembly regarding the control and limitation of documentation and to make this document available to members prior to each session of a council, board, commission, committee or other body;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution and to include in his report:

(a) Any reasons he might have for not implementing the recommendations and suggestions referred to in paragraph 2 above;

(b) The information requested in paragraph 5 above;

(c) Any complementary recommendations that he might deem appropriate.

*1829th plenary meeting,
11 December 1969.*

2539 (XXIV). Composition of the Secretariat

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2480 (XXIII) of 21 December 1968,

Taking note of the Secretary-General's report on the composition of the Secretariat,²⁹

²⁹ *Ibid.*, Twenty-fourth Session, Annexes, agenda item 83, document A/7745.

Reaffirming the need for an equitable geographical distribution of the staff of the Secretariat as between regions, and within each region, in particular at the level of senior posts, and the need for a better linguistic balance in the Secretariat,

Desirous that the principles and factors enunciated in its resolution 1852 (XVII) of 19 December 1962 be adequately reflected in the existing system of desirable ranges,

Recognizing that long-term service is conducive to greater efficiency in certain posts entailing complex duties and responsibilities,

I

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to achieve a better geographical distribution of the staff of the Secretariat at all levels, bearing in mind the requirements of the Charter of the United Nations of efficiency, competence and integrity;

2. *Renews* its invitation to the Secretary-General to give preference to nationals from countries not yet represented or inadequately represented, either in the Secretariat as a whole or specifically at the senior level, in particular with respect to appointments to higher posts;

3. *Requests* that the information included in the reports of the Secretary-General relating to geographical distribution of the staff of the United Nations Development Programme and the staff of the United Nations Children's Fund should reflect the position at the regional as well as the country level;

4. *Welcomes* the Secretary-General's intention to prepare a long-term plan of recruitment as a means of accelerating the achievement of an equitable geographical distribution of the staff;³⁰

II

Requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to achieve a better linguistic balance within the Secretariat.

*1829th plenary meeting,
11 December 1969.*

2540 (XXIV). Amendments to the Staff Rules of the United Nations

The General Assembly

Takes note of the changes made by the Secretary-General in the Staff Rules in the year ending on 31 August 1969, as set forth in his note to the Fifth Committee.³¹

*1829th plenary meeting,
11 December 1969.*

2541 (XXIV). International salary system

The General Assembly

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of that part of the report of the International Civil Service Advisory Board on its seventeenth session which is concerned with the principles underlying the international salary system;³²

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep it informed of the progress made by the Board in the examination of the matters mentioned therein.

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11 December 1969.*

³⁰ *Ibid.*, para. 28 (d).

³¹ *Ibid.*, document A/C.5/1239.

³² *Ibid.*, document A/C.5/1240, annex.