

principles and guidelines for the use of experts and consultants in the United Nations, provided, *inter alia*, that:

(a) The Secretary-General should ensure that expenditure for consultant services is maintained within the approved figure for 1974-1975 and that no supplementary estimates are presented,

(b) The estimates under this heading in future biennial programme budgets should be prepared with determined restraint, with a view to achieving reductions in the funds requested for this field of activities,

Noting with concern that the aggregate appropriation for experts and consultants proposed by the Secretary-General for the biennium 1978-1979 totals \$11,423,000, compared with approved appropriations for 1974-1975 of \$6,784,000,

Noting that the commendable reduction in proposed expenditure on consultant services envisaged in the estimates for the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, in section 5A of the programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979, arising from greater utilization of staff resources available within the Secretariat and highly selective recourse to external assistance,⁷⁴ has not been reflected in the estimates for certain other budget sectors,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to re-examine proposed expenditure on experts and consultants in 1978-1979 following approval of the programme budget with a view to achieving savings in the aggregate allocation for such activities and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session;

2. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that no supplementary estimates are presented for expenditure on experts and consultants during the biennium 1978-1979.

*110th plenary meeting
21 December 1977*

32/210. Form of presentation of the United Nations budget

The General Assembly,

Having considered the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979,⁷⁵

Taking into account that, by its resolution 3043 (XXVII) of 19 December 1972, it approved on an experimental basis the new form of presentation of the United Nations budget directed towards the establishment of programme budgeting,

Recalling the statement in the second preambular paragraph of that resolution that the new form of presentation constitutes a useful basis for proceeding towards the introduction of a system of programme budgeting in the United Nations,

Recalling also the decision in that resolution to keep under continuous review the progress achieved in the implementation by the Secretary-General of the new form of presentation of the United Nations budget,

Recognizing that an over-all view of the programme budget is essential for a global analysis thereof,

⁷⁴ *Ibid.*, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/32/6 and Corr.1 and 2), vol. I, para. 5A.1.

⁷⁵ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 6 (A/32/6 and Corr.1 and 2).

Requests the Secretary-General to endeavour, in preparing the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981, to improve its form, content and structure, taking into account the opinions expressed and suggestions made in the Fifth Committee during the general debate on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979, and in particular to submit a summary of the proposed budget containing, *inter alia*, the following information as far as practicable:

(a) The information contained in the foreword and annexes of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979;

(b) Additional relevant information, including that proposed in chapter I of the first report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979;⁷⁶

(c) Expenditure by programme and subprogramme in absolute figures;

(d) Expenditure by programme and organizational unit;

(e) Expenditure by programme and object of expenditure.

*110th plenary meeting
21 December 1977*

32/211. Presentation of the United Nations budget

The General Assembly,

Having noted that, during the consideration of the item entitled "Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979", and especially during the general debate in the Fifth Committee on that item, important problems of principle and method were raised,

Having observed that there is a large measure of agreement concerning the interest in some of these problems and the need to study them further with a view to improving budgetary procedures in the light of the views expressed in the Fifth Committee,

Recalling, in that connexion, the statement made by the Chairman of the Fifth Committee at the Committee's 16th meeting,⁷⁷ as well as the relevant comments of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination in its report on the work of its seventeenth session⁷⁸ and the relevant passages of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,⁷⁹

1. *Considers* that the most important of the aforementioned problems relate to:

(a) The need to apply effectively the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 3534 (XXX) of 17 December 1975 and 31/93 of 14 December 1976 concerning programmes, projects and activities that are obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective;

(b) The need to assess more accurately the resources required for programme implementation and

⁷⁶ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 8 (A/32/8 and Corr.1).

⁷⁷ *Ibid.*, Thirty-second Session, Fifth Committee, 16th meeting, paras. 95-101.

⁷⁸ *Ibid.*, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/32/38).

⁷⁹ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 8 (A/32/8 and Corr. 1), paras. 3-42.

especially the method to be followed in determining the amount corresponding to "maintenance of programmes" and the composition of that amount;

(c) The best way of dealing with inflationary trends and currency instability in a biennial programme budget;

(d) Refinement of the methods of calculating absolute and real growth of the budget;

(e) The need for a study in depth of problems relating to the implementation of the budget;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make a study of the aforementioned matters and to submit to the General Assembly, through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, a report which shall contain proposals relating to:

(a) The aforementioned provisions of General Assembly resolutions 3534 (XXX) and 31/93;

(b) The method to be followed in making a satisfactory determination of the amount corresponding to "maintenance of programmes" and the composition of that amount, for example by proposing the adoption of a zero base for the calculation of some elements thereof, and in making a more accurate assessment of staff costs;

(c) A study of the advantages and disadvantages of "semi-full budgeting" and the methods used or proposed to apply this system;

and requests the Advisory Committee to submit its observations and recommendations on the Secretary-General's conclusions to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session;

3. *Decides* to consider at its thirty-third session the reports of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions as a preliminary to the preparation of the programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981.

*110th plenary meeting
21 December 1977*

32/212. Questions relating to the programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979

The General Assembly

I

EXPANSION OF MEETING ROOMS AND IMPROVEMENT OF CONFERENCE SERVICING AND DELEGATE FACILITIES AT UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the expansion of meeting rooms and improvement of conference servicing and delegate facilities at United Nations Headquarters⁸⁰ and of the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;⁸¹

2. *Concurs* with the observations and recommendations made by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its report;⁸¹

⁸⁰ A/C.5/32/4 and Corr.1 and Add.1.

⁸¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 8A (A/32/8/Add.1-30), document A/32/8/Add.1.*

II

IMPACT OF INFLATION ON THE BUDGETS OF THE ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the impact of inflation on the budgets of the organizations of the United Nations system;⁸²

2. *Considers* the report of the Secretary-General to be an interim report;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session on the progress achieved with respect to the question of the impact of inflation on the budgets of the organizations of the United Nations system, taking into account the views expressed in the Fifth Committee during its consideration of this question at the thirty-second session;

III

IMPLICATIONS OF EXTENDING TO CERTAIN FORMER STAFF MEMBERS COVERAGE BY THE UNITED NATIONS JOINT STAFF PENSION FUND FOR SERVICE WITH THE UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the implications of extending to certain former staff members coverage by the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund for service with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East during the period 1950 to 1960 inclusive;⁸³

2. *Takes note also* of the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;⁸⁴

IV

HONORARIA OF MEMBERS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

1. *Decides* that the lump-sum payment per annum of honoraria for members of the Human Rights Committee shall be in the amount of \$2,500 for the Chairman and \$1,000 for the other members;

2. *Authorizes* that expenditures for these honoraria be made beginning on 1 January 1977;

3. *Notes* that additional expenditures in the amount of \$19,500 under section 18 of the programme budget for the biennium 1976-1977 will be absorbed within available appropriations for that biennium;

4. *Authorizes* an additional appropriation under section 18 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979 in the amount of \$39,000;

V

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INFORMATION SERVICES UNIT IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the question of the establishment of an information services unit in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat;⁸⁵

⁸² A/C.5/32/5.

⁸³ A/C.5/31/71 and A/C.5/32/14.

⁸⁴ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 8A (A/32/8/Add.1-30), document A/32/8/Add.2.*

⁸⁵ A/32/256 and Add.1.