

VIII. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED ON THE REPORTS OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE<sup>1</sup>

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**43/213. Implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/213: progress report and revised estimates for the biennium 1988-1989**

*The General Assembly,*

Recalling its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986 on the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations and its resolution 42/211 of 21 December 1987 on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/213,

Reaffirming that measures to improve the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations and to improve the planning, programming and budgeting process should aim at and contribute to

strengthening the effectiveness of the Organization in dealing with political, economic and social issues in order better to achieve the purposes of and respect for the principles set out in the Charter of the United Nations,

Noting from the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization<sup>2</sup> that the emerging world situation is bound to impose additional responsibilities on the United Nations,

<sup>1</sup> For the decisions adopted on the reports of the Fifth Committee, see sect. X.B.7.

<sup>2</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 1 (A/43/1).*

*Reaffirming* also that all Member States must honour, promptly and in full, their financial obligations as set out in the Charter,

*Re-emphasizing* that the financial stability of the Organization will facilitate the orderly, balanced and well co-ordinated implementation of resolution 41/213 in all its parts,

*Having considered* the relevant reports of the Secretary-General,<sup>3</sup>

*Having considered also* the relevant parts of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on the work of its twenty-eighth session<sup>4</sup> and of the reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,<sup>5</sup>

*Taking into account* the views expressed by Member States during the consideration of this item at its forty-third session,

1. *Renews its appeal* to Member States to demonstrate their commitment to the United Nations by, *inter alia*, meeting their financial obligations on time and in full, in accordance with the Charter and the Financial Regulations of the United Nations;

2. *Stresses* that, in order to carry out successfully the process of reform and restructuring, it is essential that the present financial uncertainties be dispelled;

3. *Welcomes* the determination of the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to implement fully the recommendations of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations<sup>6</sup> which fall within his purview, as adopted in resolution 41/213 and in accordance with paragraph 7 of resolution 42/211;

4. *Reiterates* its support for the Secretary-General in the fulfilment of his responsibilities as chief administrative officer of the Organization;

5. *Stresses* that the implementation of its resolution 41/213 must not have a negative impact on mandated programmes and activities;

6. *Emphasizes* in this respect that, in accordance with the existing regulations and rules, while output revisions in programme budgets may be proposed in order to comply more efficiently with the objectives of those programmes and activities, outputs specifically requested in mandates should be fully delivered;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit his proposed revisions referred to in paragraph 6 above to the General Assembly in the context of proposed programme budgets;

8. *Reiterates* that further implementation of its resolution 41/213 should be carried out in a balanced way and with flexibility so as to improve the structure and composition of the Secretariat;

9. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination<sup>7</sup> on the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of recommendation 15 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Ex-

perts, as adjusted by a 10 per cent reduction in the staffing of conference services in New York and Geneva entailing an overall post reduction of 12.1 per cent by the end of the biennium 1988-1989;<sup>8</sup> and further endorses the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions that the adjustment under section 29 of the programme budget should entail the restoration of 100 posts on the understanding that this restoration would not require additional appropriations for the biennium 1988-1989;<sup>9</sup>

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit, in the context of his proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, concrete recommendations for absorbing the costs of the posts referred to above including, to the maximum extent possible, through the elimination of additional posts, under the criteria set out in paragraphs 5, 8, and 9 above and paragraphs 11 to 13 below;

11. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions pertaining to small offices, regional commissions and other units referred to therein, and also requests the Secretary-General to keep in mind the concerns expressed by Member States in the Fifth Committee on proposed reductions of staff in small units such as the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat);

12. *Concurs* with the comments and observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in paragraph 33 of its report<sup>10</sup> regarding the organization, functions and staffing of the administrative and common services unit at Nairobi;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General in further implementing recommendation 15 to continue to take into account the following guidelines:

(a) This recommendation should be implemented flexibly taking due account of work-load analyses, where applicable;

(b) Its implementation should have no negative impact on programmes;

(c) Its implementation should have no adverse effect on the structure and composition of the Secretariat bearing in mind the necessity of securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity of staff with due regard to equitable geographical distribution;

(d) It should be implemented in a balanced manner, taking into account recommendations 41, 46, 47 and 54;

14. *Invites* the Secretary-General to continue the implementation of recommendations 41, 46, 47 and 54 and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session in the context of the report referred to in paragraph 18 below;

15. *Invites* the Secretary-General, as regards recommendation 19, to proceed with the reclassification of the post as indicated in paragraph 7 of his report;<sup>11</sup>

16. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions as regards recommendation 25, relating to the location of the liaison functions with non-governmental organizations, and recommendation 29;

<sup>3</sup> A/43/286 and Corr.1, A/43/324, A/43/524 and A/C.5/43/1/Rev.1 and Add.1 and 2.

<sup>4</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/43/16).

<sup>5</sup> A/43/651 and Add.1 and A/43/929.

<sup>6</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 49* (A/41/49).

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, *Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/43/16), part one, para. 36.

<sup>8</sup> A/C.5/43/1/Rev.1, para. 26.

<sup>9</sup> See A/43/651, paras. 15-19.

<sup>10</sup> A/43/651.

<sup>11</sup> A/C.5/43/1/Rev.1/Add.1.

17. *Invites* the Secretary-General to implement recommendation 37 in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination as contained in paragraphs 82 to 88 of its report<sup>12</sup> and the comments and observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions as contained in paragraphs 40 to 60 of its report;<sup>12</sup>

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination to report to the General Assembly on the implementation of resolution 41/213 in accordance with recommendation 71, taking into account the views expressed in the Fifth Committee;

19. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session an analytical report assessing the effect of the implementation of resolution 41/213 on the Organization and its activities as a whole, and the way in which it has enhanced the efficiency of its administrative and financial functioning.

84th plenary meeting  
21 December 1988

**43/214. Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 1990-1991 and use and operation of the contingency fund**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, by which, *inter alia*, it requested the Secretary-General to submit in off-budget years an outline of the programme budget for the following biennium and to include in the programme budget a contingency fund and recognized the necessity of finding a comprehensive solution to the problem of all additional expenditures, including those deriving from inflation and currency fluctuation,

*Recalling also* its resolution 42/211 of 21 December 1987 in which it decided to consider at its forty-third session the question of a comprehensive solution to the problem of all additional expenditures, including those deriving from inflation and currency fluctuation,

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>13</sup> the relevant parts of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination<sup>4</sup> and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,<sup>14</sup>

*Taking into account* the views expressed by Member States during the consideration of this item at its forty-second and forty-third sessions,

1. *Emphasizes* that sound programme budgeting, including a greater level of predictability of resources required, is not fully achievable until the current financial crisis is fully brought to an end by the full and prompt payment of assessments by Member States;

2. *Recognizes* that the outline of the proposed programme budget is part of the process of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Organization;

3. *Affirms* that the outline, being a part of the new budget process defined in its resolution 41/213, is in a developmental period, that its methodology requires further improvement and that the whole exercise should be applied with flexibility, in accordance with resolutions 41/213 and 42/211;

4. *Recognizes also* that the outline should provide a greater level of predictability of resources required for the following biennium, while ensuring that such resources are adequate for the fulfilment of the objectives, programmes and activities of the Organization, as mandated by the relevant legislative bodies of the United Nations, thereby facilitating the widest possible agreement on the programme budget;

5. *Decides* that the Secretary-General should prepare his proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 on the basis of the total preliminary estimate of 1,767,060,000 United States dollars at 1988 rates (equivalent to 1,982,523,700 dollars at 1990-1991 rates) as shown in paragraph 16 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;<sup>14</sup>

6. *Decides also* that the contingency fund of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 shall be established at a level of 0.75 per cent of the preliminary estimate at 1990-1991 rates referred to above, i.e., 15 million dollars, shall be appropriated as needed and shall be used according to the purpose and procedures set out in the annexes to its resolutions 41/213 and 42/211 and relevant regulations and rules;

7. *Decides further* to keep under review, during the implementation of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 and in the light of the evolving situation, the appropriateness and adequacy of the level of the contingency fund, as well as its mode of operation;

8. *Reaffirms* the need for a comprehensive and satisfactory solution to the problem of controlling the effects of inflation and currency fluctuation on the budget of the United Nations;

9. *Notes with appreciation* the work undertaken on this issue by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and its observations on the establishment of a reserve that would cover additional requirements due to currency fluctuation, non-staff costs inflation and statutory cost increases for staff;<sup>15</sup>

10. *Agrees* to the concept of a reserve as described in paragraph 9 above, requests the Secretary-General to formulate a set of procedures for the operation of the reserve to be submitted through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session, and agrees to address further at that time the question of setting up such a reserve for the biennium 1990-1991;

11. *Stresses* the importance of indicating in the outline of the proposed programme budget priorities reflecting general trends of a broad sectoral nature, endorses the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination in this regard,<sup>16</sup> and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on all aspects of priority-setting in future outlines to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session through the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to present his proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 in accordance with the present resolution and paragraph 10 of resolution 43/213 of 21 December 1988.

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21 December 1988

<sup>12</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/43/16), part two.*

<sup>13</sup> A/43/524.

<sup>14</sup> A/43/929.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 27-31.

<sup>16</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/43/16), part two, para. 34.*