

reports with reports on specific problems common to the United Nations system.

90th plenary meeting
20 December 1978

B

The General Assembly,

Taking note with satisfaction of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the administrative co-ordination of electronic data processing and information systems,¹⁰²

Concerned about the growing need for effective co-ordination of the activities of United Nations organizations in the field of information systems and with the necessity to minimize duplication and to secure the most effective use possible of all available resources,

1. *Approves* the conclusions and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions as contained in its report;¹⁰³

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take such remedial action as may be necessary in the light of those conclusions and recommendations;

3. *Transmits* the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, bearing in mind the decision of that Committee to consider in depth the question of information systems in the United Nations at its nineteenth session in 1979.¹⁰⁴

90th plenary meeting
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33/143. Personnel questions

The General Assembly,

Having examined the reports of the Secretary-General on the composition of the Secretariat¹⁰⁵ and on the implementation of personnel policy reforms,¹⁰⁶

Concerned that the reforms of personnel policy as well as the implementation of the various resolutions on the composition of the Secretariat are proceeding too slowly and a coherent personnel policy has not yet been realized,

Concerned about the urgent need to secure an improved representation of developing countries at senior and policy-making levels and reiterating the objective of achieving adequate representation of hitherto under-represented and under-represented countries,

Reaffirming that the paramount consideration in the employment of staff at every level is the need for the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity and convinced that this is compatible with the principles of equitable geographical distribution,

Taking note with appreciation of the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit on the implementation of the personnel policy reforms approved by the General Assembly in 1974,¹⁰⁷ on women in the Professional category and above in the United Nations system¹⁰⁸

and on General Service staff of the United Nations and Geneva-based specialized agencies,¹⁰⁹

Welcoming the intention of the Secretary-General to launch a plan of action to improve the geographical distribution of the Secretariat during 1979-1980,

Concerned about the need to improve the proportion of women in the Secretariat within the context of equitable geographical distribution,

Calling upon the Secretary-General and all the United Nations organizations to put an end to any form of discrimination based on sex, as laid down in Article 8 of the Charter of the United Nations, in conditions of employment, recruitment, promotion and training and to ensure that the opportunities for employment and promotion of women in the United Nations system are equal to those of men,

I

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to adopt the following measures and guidelines regarding recruitment of Professional staff:

(a) Bulletins containing a statement of all existing vacancies as well as all those expected to arise in the course of the following year should be issued every six months, in order to facilitate the submission by Member States of candidates for recruitment;

(b) Publicity should be given regarding recruitment of personnel in co-operation with Member States, *inter alia* through United Nations offices, universities and professional organizations, including women's organizations whenever appropriate, to fulfil the recruitment policies outlined in the present resolution;

(c) Composition of the roster of candidates should be improved, in order to make it more geographically representative and make it better reflect the recruitment needs of the Secretariat among various occupational groups as well as to increase the number of women on the roster, and, prior to filling a vacancy, a thorough search should be made of the roster for suitable candidates;

(d) Professional staff of the United Nations should be encouraged to work at more than one duty station and satisfactory performance during such tours of duty should be considered an additional positive factor in evaluating them for promotion;

(e) Information on the over-all results of the staff performance review should be made available to the General Assembly;

(f) Definition of occupational groups together with criteria for new definition of such groups should be established and a list of occupational groups for General Service and Professional categories along with standards for entry, promotion and rotation of staff should be drawn up;

(g) Movement of staff from the General Service category to the Professional category should be limited to the P-1 and P-2 levels and be permitted up to 30 per cent of the total posts available for appointment at those levels and such recruitment should be conducted exclusively through competitive methods of selection from General Service staff with at least five years' experience and post-secondary educational qualifications;

(h) Competitive methods of recruitment should be used in consultation with the Governments con-

¹⁰² A/33/304.

¹⁰³ *Ibid.*, sect. VIII.

¹⁰⁴ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/33/38)*, para. 41.

¹⁰⁵ A/33/176.

¹⁰⁶ A/C.5/33/2.

¹⁰⁷ See A/33/228.

¹⁰⁸ See A/33/105.

¹⁰⁹ See A/32/327.

cerned, organized on a national, subregional or regional basis, for selection of staff at the P-1 and P-2 levels with a view to making the geographical distribution of posts in the Secretariat more equitable;

(i) Necessary measures should be devised to protect the confidentiality and objectivity of the methods of selection described above and to ensure that the methods of testing take into account the cultural and linguistic diversity of the membership of the United Nations;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the above measures, with detailed numerical data wherever appropriate, to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session;

II

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to establish a target of 40 per cent of all vacancies arising in Professional posts subject to geographical distribution during the period 1979-1980 for the appointment of nationals of unrepresented and under-represented countries in order to ensure that all such countries achieve their desirable ranges during that biennium, while ensuring that the representation of countries which are within desirable ranges does not decrease;

2. *Reaffirms* that no post should be considered the exclusive preserve of any Member State, or group of States, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that this principle is applied faithfully in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical distribution;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to apply the regulations regarding the age of retirement and not grant extensions beyond the established age of retirement except for the minimum time required to find a suitable replacement, which shall be initially until the end of 1979 and thereafter not normally for more than six months after the established age of retirement;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take further steps to increase the representation of developing countries at senior and policy-making levels during 1979-1980 in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to reduce the average age of staff at the P-1 and P-2 levels to thirty-five by taking necessary measures for recruitment of young professional persons and the enhancement of their career opportunities within the United Nations;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a progress report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session and a final report to the Assembly at its thirty-fifth session on the implementation of the steps described above;

7. *Expresses its appreciation* for the work of the Panel to Investigate Allegations of Discriminatory Treatment in the United Nations Secretariat and requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Panel with the necessary facilities for its activities;

III

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to increase the number of women in posts subject to geographical distribution to 25 per cent of the total over a four-year period in accordance

with the principle of equitable geographical distribution and requests other United Nations organizations similarly to establish targets for this purpose;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the executive heads of the other organizations within the United Nations system to issue, in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical distribution, policy statements and directives necessary to foster equal employment and career development opportunities for women;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the executive heads of the other organizations within the United Nations system, in pursuit of these objectives:

(a) To ensure that women are henceforth fairly represented on personnel advisory and administrative boards;

(b) To review existing recruitment literature, publicity and promotion procedures, internal training programmes and staff rules in order to ensure that women and men enjoy equal opportunity for promotion and career development;

(c) To review and revise, as necessary, staff rules and procedures covering assignments of married couples to the same duty station, maternity leave, part-time employment and flexible working hours;

4. *Invites* the Administrative Committee on Coordination to review the situation regarding recruitment of, and career development opportunities for, women in the secretariats of the organizations within the United Nations system and to submit periodic reports to the General Assembly incorporating specific proposals to achieve this objective, from the thirty-fourth session of the Assembly onwards;

5. *Calls upon* Member States to assist the United Nations and the specialized agencies to increase the proportion of women in the Professional category and above by nominating more women candidates and co-operating with the Secretary-General in the recruitment measures outlined in the present resolution;

6. *Requests* the Joint Inspection Unit to continue to study and report on the implementation of the provisions of the present resolution dealing with personnel policy reforms and the improvement of the representation of women in the Professional category and above in the United Nations system, from the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly onwards;

IV

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to establish the entrance level qualifications and maximum levels of grades for various occupations of the General Service category at Geneva on the basis of the levels of equivalent grades for the same occupations in New York and to finalize the classification of posts in the General Service category at Geneva before 30 April 1979;

2. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to implement the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit contained in its report on General Service staff of the United Nations and Geneva-based specialized agencies¹⁰⁹ which will improve the efficiency of recruitment and effectiveness of the work of the General

Service category at Geneva, in co-operation with the agencies, with due regard to the need for economy as suggested in the report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination¹¹⁰ and taking into account the comments of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in paragraphs 43 to 47

¹¹⁰ See A/33/129.

of its first report to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session.¹¹¹

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¹¹¹ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/33/7 and Add.1-39), document A/33/7.

33/180. Interim action regarding the programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979

A

REVISED BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE BIENNIUM 1978-1979

The General Assembly

Resolves that for the biennium 1978-1979 the amount of \$US 985,913,300 appropriated by its resolution 32/213 A of 21 December 1977 shall be increased, as an interim measure, pending the consideration at its resumed thirty-third session of the balance of such additional appropriations as may have been proposed, by \$10,459,600 as follows:

Section	Amount appro- priated by resolution 32/213 A	Increase or (decrease)	Revised appropriation
		(US dollars)	
PART I. Over-all policy-making, direction and co-ordination			
1. Over-all policy-making, direction and co-ordination	20 109 300	1 067 100	21 176 400
TOTAL, PART I	20 109 300	1 067 100	21 176 400
PART II. Political and peace-keeping activities			
2. Political and Security Council affairs; peace-keeping activities	48 096 600	1 724 300	49 820 900
TOTAL, PART II	48 096 600	1 724 300	49 820 900
PART III. Political affairs, trusteeship and decolonization activities			
3. Political affairs, trusteeship and decolonization ..	9 732 600	27 000	9 759 600
TOTAL, PART III	9 732 600	27 000	9 759 600
PART IV. Economic, social and humanitarian activities			
4. Policy-making organs (economic and social activities)	5 803 100	36 400	5 839 500
5A. Department of Economic and Social Affairs	43 926 900	—	43 926 900
5B. United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations	6 196 300	—	6 196 300
5C. Department of International Economic and Social Affairs	333 600	649 100	982 700
5D. Department of Technical Co-operation for Development	37 500	—	37 500
5E. Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters	22 700	—	22 700
5F. Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation	482 500	—	482 500
6. Economic Commission for Europe	19 014 200	—	19 014 200
7. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	19 404 800	—	19 404 800
8. Economic Commission for Latin America	24 370 900	—	24 370 900
9. Economic Commission for Africa	23 679 000	44 300	23 723 300