

42/206. Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors

The General Assembly,

Having considered the financial reports and audited financial statements for the period ended 31 December 1986 of the United Nations Development Programme⁴ the United Nations Children's Fund,⁵ the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East,⁶ the United Nations Institute for Training and Research,⁷ the voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees⁸ and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities,⁹ the audit opinions and reports of the Board of Auditors¹⁰ and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,¹¹

Having also considered the relevant reports on internal control procedures relating to the benefits and allowances received by staff members of the United Nations¹² and on Headquarters catering and gift-shop operations,¹³

Noting with concern that the Board of Auditors, for the reasons stated in its report,¹⁴ was not able to express an opinion on the financial statements of the United Nations Children's Fund and issued qualified opinions on the financial statements of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities,

Taking into consideration the views expressed by delegations, by the Board of Auditors, by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and by the organizations and programmes concerned during the debate in the Fifth Committee on this item, and the widely expressed support for measures to improve the efficiency, management, financial accountability and budgetary control of the United Nations organizations and programmes concerned,

1. *Accepts* the financial reports and audited financial statements and the audit opinions and reports of the Board of Auditors regarding the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities;

2. *Accepts* the report and conclusions of the Board of Auditors on the financial statements of the United Nations Children's Fund and requests the Board of Auditors, as agreed by the Fund and as recommended in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,¹⁵ to carry out an expanded audit of the fi-

ancial statements of the Fund for the period ended 31 December 1986, and to submit its report in a timely manner through the Advisory Committee at its spring 1988 session, to the Executive Board of the Fund at its 1988 session and to the General Assembly at its forty-third session;

3. *Requests* the governing bodies of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities to require the executive heads concerned to take immediate steps within their competence to correct the situations or conditions that gave rise to the qualification of the audit opinions of the Board of Auditors;

4. *Endorses* the concurring observations and recommendations of the Board of Auditors and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, as contained in their respective reports, and requests the competent governing bodies to ensure that the executive heads concerned take the necessary steps on a priority basis to implement them and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-third session;

5. *Further requests* the governing bodies of all audited organizations and programmes to keep under review the other observations and recommendations of the Board of Auditors that fall within each body's terms of reference, as called for by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-third session;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the executive heads of United Nations organizations and programmes concerned to take without delay remedial action within their competence in response to the comments and observations of the Board of Auditors and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and to report in 1988 respectively to the General Assembly and to the governing bodies of these organizations and programmes on ways to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of financial procedures and controls, including those relating to the payment of benefits and allowances to staff members, and also to improve the accounting system and related administrative and management controls;

7. *Recommends* that all future reports of the Board of Auditors continue to include separate sections that summarize recommendations for corrective action to be taken by the organizations and programmes concerned, with an indication of relative urgency, and that report on specific measures taken by the Secretary-General and executive heads of these organizations and programmes to implement previous recommendations of the Board and comment on the efficacy of such measures and the extent to which problems recur, giving particular attention to recurrent problems related to over-expenditures, incorrect use of funds, control procedures relating to the payment of benefits and allowances, and other instances of non-compliance with financial and budgetary regulations and rules;

8. *Further recommends* that the Board of Auditors in future submit to the General Assembly a concise document summarizing its principal findings and conclusions of common interest, classified by audit area;

9. *Requests* the Board of Auditors to initiate a study on standardization of the presentation and format of financial statements of all audited organizations and programmes and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-third session;

⁴ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 5A (A/42/5/Add.1), sects. I and V.*

⁵ *Ibid., Supplement No. 5B (A/42/5/Add.2), part one, sects. I and IV.*

⁶ *Ibid., Supplement No. 5C (A/42/5/Add.3), sects. I and V.*

⁷ *Ibid., Supplement No. 5D (A/42/5/Add.4), sects. I and V.*

⁸ *Ibid., Supplement No. 5E (A/42/5/Add.5), sect. III.*

⁹ *Ibid., Supplement No. 5G (A/42/5/Add.7), sects. I and V.*

¹⁰ *Ibid., Supplement No. 5A (A/42/5/Add.1), sects. II and III; ibid., Supplement No. 5B (A/42/5/Add.2), part one, sects. II and III; ibid., Supplement No. 5C (A/42/5/Add.3), sects. II and III; ibid., Supplement No. 5D (A/42/5/Add.4), sects. II and III; ibid., Supplement No. 5E (A/42/5/Add.5), sects. I and II; and ibid., Supplement No. 5G (A/42/5/Add.7), sects. II and III.*

¹¹ A/42/579.

¹² A/42/437 and A/42/438.

¹³ A/42/399.

¹⁴ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 5B (A/42/5/Add.2), part one, sect. III.*

¹⁵ A/42/579, para. 28.

10. *Also requests* the Board of Auditors and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to continue to cover in their reviews the areas relating to the efficiency and effectiveness of the financial procedures and controls, the accounting system and the related administrative and management areas, in accordance with regulation 12.5 of the Financial Regulations of the United Nations, and to recommend measures, as appropriate, to strengthen financial and management controls;

11. *Decides* that while the Board of Auditors should continue to submit its reports in accordance with the relevant financial regulations of the audited organizations and programmes, the Board should retain the capacity to submit specific annual reports to the General Assembly and to governing bodies, should circumstances so warrant;

12. *Requests*, in this regard, the governing bodies of the audited organizations and programmes to keep under review the question of the periodicity of their financial reporting and its relationship to their budgetary cycles, bearing in mind the most recent reports of the Board of Auditors and the discussions in the Fifth Committee, and to report on this matter to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session;

13. *Invites* Governments that are represented on the governing bodies of organizations and programmes for which audited financial statements have been considered by the General Assembly to ensure that full consideration is given to the reports of the Board of Auditors and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and to the related comments made in the Fifth Committee;

14. *Requests* the Board of Auditors to provide the General Assembly with more detailed reports on the special accounts that the audited organizations and programmes manage, such as the accounts of the non-core programmes of the United Nations Development Programme;

15. *Underlines* the importance of an effective internal audit function in the organizations and programmes reported on, and requests the Board of Auditors, the Secretary-General and the executive heads to ensure that close co-operation is maintained between the internal audit department of each organization or programme and the Board of Auditors, particularly with respect to planning, executing and reporting procedures.

97th plenary meeting
11 December 1987

42/207. Pattern of conferences

A

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3351 (XXIX) of 18 December 1974, 32/72 of 9 December 1977, 36/117 B of 10 December 1981, 38/32 of 25 November 1983, 40/243 of 18 December 1985, 41/177 B of 5 December 1986 and 41/213 of 19 December 1986,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Committee on Conferences for its report¹⁶ and its continuing efforts to achieve optimum use of conference-servicing resources within the United Nations;

2. *Decides* to extend the current mandate and status of the Committee on Conferences for a further year from 1 January to 31 December 1988;

3. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to reappoint the current States members of the Committee for that further year, without this constituting a precedent;

4. *Requests* the Committee on Conferences to continue and complete its consideration of the outstanding issues with respect to its mandate and status and, taking into account the views expressed by Member States during the forty-second session, to make specific recommendations thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-third session.

97th plenary meeting
11 December 1987

B

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Committee on Conferences,¹⁶

1. *Approves* the draft calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for the biennium 1988-1989 as submitted by the Committee on Conferences;¹⁷

2. *Authorizes* the Committee on Conferences to make any adjustments in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 1988-1989 that may become necessary as a result of action and decisions taken by the General Assembly at its forty-second session;

3. *Requests* United Nations organs, in order to make optimum use of the conference-servicing resources allocated to them, to indicate with greater precision the actual number of meetings with conference services that they will require in their coming sessions;

4. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to consider inviting the Committee on Conferences to review the Council's draft calendar of conferences and meetings and to make comments and recommendations on that draft where appropriate;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to examine the possibility of having all organizational aspects of conference-servicing in the United Nations as a whole centrally planned and co-ordinated, with a view to ensuring optimum efficiency and cost-effectiveness by, *inter alia*, minimizing duplication and overlapping, taking into account the outcome of the deliberations of the Special Commission of the Economic and Social Council on the In-depth Study of the United Nations Intergovernmental Structure and Functions in the Economic and Social Fields and the implementation of paragraph 4 of the present resolution, and to submit his findings and recommendations to the General Assembly, through the Committee on Conferences.

97th plenary meeting
11 December 1987

¹⁶ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 32 (A/42/32).*

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, annex III.