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REPORT
OF THE
COMMITTEE
FOR PROGRAMME AND CO-ORDINATION
on the work of its twenty-fourth session

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: THIRTY-NINTH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 38 (A/39/38)



UNITED NATIONS

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New York, 1984

NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

[13 June 1984]

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
Abbreviations		vi
<u>Chapter</u>		
I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION	1 - 9	1
II. PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1984-1989	10 - 144	3
A. Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by intergovernmental organs or international conferences	10 - 84	3
B. Preparation of proposed programme budget documentation	85 - 91	15
C. Operation of the new system for setting priorities ..	92 - 101	16
D. Cross-sectional programme analysis of the programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985	102 - 107	19
E. Further implementation of General Assembly resolution 37/214	108 - 113	20
F. Work programme of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization	114 - 121	22
G. Transport and Communications Decade in Africa: implementation of General Assembly resolution 38/150	122 - 129	24
H. Industrial Development Decade for Africa: implementation of section II of General Assembly resolution 38/192	130 - 137	25
I. Location of the Information Systems Unit within the Secretariat	138 - 144	27
III. PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE FOR THE BIENNIUM 1982-1983	145 - 163	29
A. Introduction and summary of results	145 - 161	29
B. Programme performance for the biennium 1982-1983 by budget section	162 - 163	32

CONTENTS (continued)

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
IV. EVALUATION	164 - 217	33
A. Evaluation of the United Nations Development Programme-financed technical co-operation activities of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in the field of manufactures	164 - 189	33
B. Report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development"	190 - 198	37
C. Report on the programme and activities of the Joint United Nations Information Committee	199 - 204	39
D. Tentative timetable for intergovernmental review of in-depth and triennial evaluation studies scheduled for 1986 to 1992, including proposals for a linkage between themes of in-depth evaluation studies and of cross-organizational programme analyses	205 - 211	40
E. Documents dissemination system	212 - 217	42
V. CROSS-ORGANIZATIONAL PROGRAMME ANALYSES	218 - 249	43
A. Cross-organizational programme analysis of the activities of the United Nations system in human settlements	218 - 223	43
B. Mandates of, and problems addressed by, the United Nations system in economic and technical co-operation among developing countries	224 - 234	45
C. Areas for future cross-organizational programme analyses	235 - 242	48
D. Follow-up to the cross-organizational programme analysis of the activities of the United Nations system in marine affairs	243 - 249	50
VI. MEASURES TO IMPROVE SECRETARIAT SUPPORT FOR THE COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND CO-ORDINATION	250 - 257	52
VII. REPORTS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON CO-ORDINATION	258 - 294	54
A. Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination for 1983-1984	258 - 286	54
B. Report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on progress achieved by the ACC Task Force on Rural Development	287 - 294	58

CONTENTS (continued)

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
VIII. REPORTS OF THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT	295	60
IX. PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE	296 - 298	61
X. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	299 - 389	62

ANNEXES

1. Agenda for the twenty-fourth session of the Committee	85
2. List of documents before the Committee at its twenty-fourth session	86

ABBREVIATIONS

ACABQ	Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions
ACC	Administrative Committee on Co-ordination
CCSQ	Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination)
CPC	Committee for Programme and Co-ordination
CSTD	Committee on Science and Technology for Development
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLA	Economic Commission for Latin America
ECWA	Economic Commission for Western Asia
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	Intergovernmental Maritime Organization
INCB	International Narcotics Control Board
JIU	Joint Inspection Unit
JUNIC	Joint United Nations Information Committee
OAU	Organization of African Unity
UNCITRAL	United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference and Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

ABBREVIATIONS (continued)

UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
WFC	World Food Council
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

CHAPTER I

ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

1. The Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) held its 1st meeting, an organizational meeting, at United Nations Headquarters on 22 March 1984.
2. The agenda for the twenty-fourth session, adopted by the Committee at its 1st meeting, is reproduced in annex I. The list of documents before the Committee is contained in annex II.
3. The Committee held its twenty-fourth session at United Nations Headquarters from 23 April to 1 June 1984. It held 56 meetings (2nd to 57th meetings).
4. At its 2nd meeting, on 24 April, and at the 4th meeting, on 25 April, the Committee elected the following officers by acclamation:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mr. Tommo Monthe (Cameroon)
<u>Vice-Chairmen:</u>	Mr. Jan Berteling (Netherlands) Mr. Soemadi Brotodiningrat (Indonesia) Mr. Miodrag Cabrić (Yugoslavia)
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. Roberto Jaguaribe (Brazil)

5. The following States members of the Committee were represented:

Argentina	Liberia
Brazil	Netherlands
Cameroon	Nigeria
Chile	Pakistan
Egypt	Romania
Ethiopia	Trinidad and Tobago
France	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Germany, Federal Republic of	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
India	United States of America
Indonesia	Yugoslavia
Japan	

6. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented by observers:

Algeria	Iraq
Austria	Italy
Bahamas	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Belgium	Mexico
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	Morocco
Canada	Sudan
Finland	Sweden
	Upper Volta

7. The following specialized agencies were represented:

Food and Agriculture organization of the United Nations
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
World Health Organization
International Fund for Agricultural Development

The International Atomic Energy Agency was also represented.

8. Also present at the session were the Under-Secretary-General, Department of Administration and Management, the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination, the Controller, the Assistant Secretary-General, Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters, the Assistant Secretary-General, Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, the Assistant Administrator for the Bureau for Programme Policy and Evaluation of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Assistant Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other senior officials of the United Nations Secretariat, as well as representatives of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA). Representatives of the World Food Council (WFC), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) also attended the session.

9. The Committee considered and adopted its draft report on its twenty-fourth session (E/AC.51/1984/L.5 and Add.1-25), as orally revised, as its 52nd to 57th meetings, held from 30 May to 1 June 1984.

CHAPTER II

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1984-1989

A. Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by intergovernmental organs or international conferences

1. Introduction

10. At its 14th to 30th meetings, from 2 to 14 May, the Committee considered, under item 3, the proposed revisions 1/ to the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989. For the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, see chapter X, section B, paragraphs 301-323.

11. In introducing the proposed revisions, the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination stated that the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 2/ was the first six-year fixed-horizon plan to be prepared by the Secretary-General and also the first such plan to be adopted by the General Assembly. He noted that, pursuant to section I, paragraph 1, of Assembly resolution 37/234 of 21 December 1982, subprogramme 5 of programme 1 of chapter 21 and those elements of chapter 17 affected by the decisions of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea had been reformulated and, after detailed review and approval by the relevant intergovernmental bodies, had been issued in an addendum to the medium-term plan. 3/ As a consequence of the elaborate procedures followed in the preparation and review of the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989, the proposed revisions generally consisted of adjustments to incorporate legislative mandates formulated after the review and adoption of the plan and did not contain proposals for any major revisions at the present time. As indicated in paragraph 7 of the introduction to the proposed revisions, 1/ no significant revision had been deemed necessary by the Secretary-General for 10 major programmes. The methodology used was explained in paragraphs 3 to 6 of that introduction.

12. Regarding the content of the proposed revisions, the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination stated that the proposed revisions fell into three distinct categories: revisions to a major programme, as in the case of chapter 25, Marine affairs; the revision of entire programmes, as in the case of programme 4 of chapter 4, Political affairs, trusteeship and decolonization; and revisions to entire subprogrammes, as in the case of 10 such subprogrammes. He described briefly the background and content of the proposed revisions and pointed out that, as a follow up to the sixth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, a number of revisions had been proposed under chapters 16, 20 and 24; however, they did not constitute major proposals. He called the Committee's attention to two areas in which no revisions had been proposed at the present time pending decisions by intergovernmental organs, namely, programme 1 (World food issues (WFI)) of chapter 13, Food and agriculture, and chapter 18, Population.

13. In conclusion, he emphasized that, as indicated in paragraph 2 of the introduction, the proposed revisions were restricted to those that specifically

affected the objectives and strategies of a subprogramme and that were necessary to provide a legislative framework for the proposed programme budgets for the bienniums 1986-1987 and 1988-1989.

2. Discussion

(a) General debate

14. The Committee generally appreciated the quality of the document before it, was satisfied with the timeliness of the proposed revisions and generally agreed with the orientation of the revised or newly proposed programmes and subprogrammes.

15. Considerable debate ensued concerning the degree to which mandates were open to interpretation by the Secretary-General. The representative of the Secretary-General explained that, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 2 (a), subparagraph (iii), of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX) of 14 May 1976, the Secretary-General interpreted the relevant legislative mandates and translated them into programme proposals by stating the objectives and strategies to be followed under each subprogramme.

16. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the concise presentation of the document and agreed that it should be kept as brief as possible. In discussing the various chapters under which revisions were proposed, delegations stated that they had encountered some gaps in comparison with the procedures for medium-term planning defined by the General Assembly in resolution 34/224 of 20 December 1979; those gaps related particularly to the involvement of the relevant regional and sectoral intergovernmental bodies in the process of reviewing the proposed revisions. The Committee noted that the difficulties encountered in implementing that aspect of the procedures derived from the practical problem of co-ordinating the schedule of the meetings of those bodies.

17. Noting that some proposed revisions to the plan were based on the budgetary proposals contained in the programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985, 4/ the Committee discussed the relationship between the medium-term plan and the budgetary proposals. In the light of the nearly continuous process of formulating and adopting new legislative mandates and the persistent constraints imposed by the timetable of meetings of intergovernmental organs on the one hand and the publication cycle and time needed for the preparation of programme planning and budgeting documents on the other, the Committee agreed that in order to respond adequately and in a timely fashion to some legislative mandates, it would at times be necessary to introduce significant new programme proposals within the context of programme budget. Notwithstanding those difficulties, the Committee was of the opinion that the plan should serve as the framework for budgetary proposals.

(b) Discussion of individual chapters

Chapter 1. Political and Security Council affairs activities

18. At its 15th and 16th meetings, on 2 and 3 May, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to chapter 1 of the medium-term plan.

19. During the discussion of this chapter, questions were raised about the system for gathering and processing political information. In concluding its discussion

of the matter, the Committee decided to express its appreciation to the Secretary-General for outlining his intention to enhance the centralized political information and news service in the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs.

20. Concerning the proposed revisions to programmes and subprogrammes under chapter 1, the Committee agreed to delete the words "and on Antarctica" after the words "to set up reference services on the Mediterranean region" in subparagraph 1.14 (iii) of subprogramme 2 (Service for political and security affairs) of programme 1 (Political and Security Council affairs activities).

21. A number of delegations felt that the recent General Assembly resolution 38/80 of 15 December 1983 should be added to the legislative authority cited for subprogramme 3 (Peaceful uses of outer space).

22. In response to a question raised by several delegations regarding the mandate to modify paragraph 1.23 of subprogramme 4 (Fuller implementation of United Nations resolutions concerning apartheid) by adding subparagraph (xvi), which read "Preparation and publication of semi-annual registers of sportsmen, entertainers, actors and others who have visited South Africa", a representative of the Secretary-General explained that the Special Committee against Apartheid had been given such a mandate in 1980 and 1981 by the General Assembly, which had also referred to the matter in decisions it had adopted in past years. It was pointed out that, in carrying out its obligations in accordance with such a mandate, the Special Committee had been collecting the required information by using public sources and data published in the press. One delegation characterized the activity in paragraph 1.23 as a surveillance operation and expressed its strong objection to it. In response to one delegation's proposal, the Committee decided to add, at the end of the proposed subparagraph 1.23 (xvi), the words "in violation of United Nations resolutions".

23. A number of questions on subprogramme 5 (World Disarmament Campaign) of programme 2 (Activities of the Department for Disarmament Affairs) were raised, in particular with regard to the usage of Secretariat facilities, as specified in subprogrammes 2 and 5 of programme 2, to meet the objectives of the World Disarmament Campaign; how the Secretariat assessed the effectiveness of the efforts of the World Disarmament Campaign to reach the target audience; and the justification for the hiring by the Department for Disarmament Affairs of consultants to carry out studies requested by the General Assembly since the Department had at its disposal highly qualified staff in the field of disarmament.

24. A few delegations inquired as to why the text under subprogramme 5 did not contain the concept of free flow of information which, in the interpretation of those delegations, had been endorsed by the General Assembly at its special sessions devoted to disarmament.

25. The representative of the Department for Disarmament Affairs explained that the objectives of subprogrammes 2 and 5 of programme 2 were different. The primary purpose of subprogramme 5 (World Disarmament Campaign), as specified by the General Assembly at its twelfth special session, the second special session devoted to disarmament, was to inform, to educate and to generate public understanding and support for the objectives of the United Nations in the field of arms limitation and disarmament. Activities undertaken under subprogramme 2 (Information on disarmament) contributed basically to the informational aspect of the World

Disarmament Campaign. Subprogramme 5 was, therefore, much broader since, for example, it included the organization of regional conferences and seminars for World Disarmament Campaign constituencies, regular consultations with non-governmental organizations and co-ordination of the World Disarmament Campaign programme of activities within the United Nations system. As far as the free flow of information was concerned, the representative of the Department explained that the text of the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan followed the language used by the Assembly in resolutions on the subject. He further stated that the Secretariat had hired consultants only for carrying out tasks which required specific knowledge that was not available within the Department and that their expenses had been met from within the resources approved for that purpose by the Assembly.

Reservations

26. One delegation stated that the proposed revision to subparagraph 1.17 (iii) should not deal with a concept but rather should mention the need to search for a mutually acceptable settlement of the issues involved.

27. Some delegations made reservations on the insertion of General Assembly resolution 38/80 to the legislative authority of subprogramme 3 (Peaceful uses of outer space).

28. Two delegations objected to preparation and publication by the United Nations of registers of sportsmen etc. who had visited South Africa, its inclusion in the medium-term plan as a mandated activity of the Centre against Apartheid and the reference in the text to such visits being "in violation of United Nations resolutions".

Chapter 3. International justice and law

29. At its 16th and 17th meetings, on 3 May, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to chapter 3 of the medium-term plan.

30. In considering revisions relating to programme 5 (Progressive harmonization and unification of the law of international trade), one delegation asked whether the wording used in paragraph 3.101 (i) of subprogramme 2 (Co-ordination of the work of organizations in the field of international trade law) meant that the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) was now the main legal body dealing with international trade law, whether UNCITRAL dealt with organizations outside the United Nations system and whether a list of those organizations with which UNCITRAL co-ordinated activities had ever been established. The representative of the Secretary-General replied that, indeed, UNCITRAL dealt with organizations outside the United Nations system, such as the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law and others, but that a list of such organizations had never been established.

Chapter 4. Political affairs, trusteeship and decolonization

31. At its 17th and 18th meetings, on 3 and 4 May, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to chapter 4 of the medium-term plan.

32. In response to questions about the creation of a new programme 4 (Political affairs) under chapter 4, the Committee's attention was drawn to the fact that it

had recommended the approval of the programme and subprogramme in question when it had considered, at its twenty-third session, section 3 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985. As stated in paragraph 51 of the Committee's report, 5/ the representative of the Department for Political Affairs, Trusteeship and Decolonization had described some departures in the proposed programme budget from the medium-term plan for 1984-1989. It was also pointed out that, in the legislative authority for the subprogramme, General Assembly resolution 37/67 was erroneously cited as the mandate instead of General Assembly resolution 38/236 and that a correction would appear in the consolidated corrigendum to be issued.

33. Questions were raised about the use of the phrases "a wider and more systematic fact-finding capability in potential conflict areas" in paragraph 4.63 and "early warning of potential conflict areas" in paragraph 4.64, as well as the use of the word "political" in relation to the responsibilities of the Secretary-General in paragraphs 4.64 and 4.65, and the possibility of duplication between programme 1 (Political and Security Council affairs activities) of chapter 1 and the programme on political affairs, trusteeship and decolonization. Several delegations supported the use of the phrases and the word "political" referred to above. After an extensive discussion of these issues, the Committee agreed to recommend amendments to paragraphs 4.63, 4.64 and subparagraphs 4.65 (i), (iv) and (v).

Chapter 10. Development issues and policies

34. At its 18th and 19th meetings, on 4 May, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to chapter 10 of the medium-term plan.

35. The representative of the Secretary-General orally introduced a number of corrections relating to paragraphs 10.47 and 10.48 under subprogramme 5 of programme 1 (Global development issues and policies (DIESA)) and to subprogrammes 7 and 8 of programme 3 (Development issues and policies in Africa (ECA)), which would be included in a comprehensive corrigendum.

36. After a short discussion, including explanations provided by the representative of the Secretary-General, the Committee agreed that the proposed revisions to paragraphs 10.48 (ii) and 10.49 should be amended to reflect the exact language in Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/45, in response to which the revisions had been proposed. Regarding subprogramme 6 (Monitoring and assessment of emerging trends and problems) of programme 1, the Committee discussed the relevance of the inclusion of two recent legislative mandates, namely, General Assembly resolutions 38/196 and 38/197 of 20 December 1983, which one delegation had proposed under this subprogramme. Delegations voiced differing opinions on whether those mandates related exclusively to the activities to be carried out by the Department for Disarmament Affairs or whether the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs should also explicitly respond by incorporating into its strategy activities to implement those legislative mandates.

37. In reply to questions related to the Pan African Documentation and Information System (PADIS) (subprogrammes 7 and 8 of programme 3), the representative of the Secretary-General explained that it was part of ECA and that it had been operating for some time. PADIS had not previously been included in the medium-term plan, but in response to increased interest by the African member States, it was now proposed to clearly define its objectives and strategies through inclusion in the revisions to the medium-term plan.

38. As to those programmes and subprogrammes under chapter 10 to which no revisions had been proposed by the Secretary-General, the Committee discussed the proposal of one delegation to recommend revisions to subprogramme 2 (Policies for broad-based development) of programme 1. That delegation expressed the opinion that the Secretary-General should co-ordinate the timetable for the preparation of the World Economic Survey in such a way that the regional contributions could be used for the preparation of the global report. It was furthermore stated that no explicit legislative mandate existed for the preparation of the annexes to the Survey and that their publication should therefore be discontinued. The representative of the Secretary-General explained that the use of regional contributions in the preparation of the World Economic Survey had been studied in the context of discussions on decentralization and found to be impracticable. Regarding the necessity for explicit legislative mandates for the publication of annexes to the report, the Secretary-General was of the view that no mandates were needed to publish annexes to a mandated report.

Chapter 11. Energy

39. At its 19th meeting, on 4 May, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to chapter 11 of the medium-term plan. The Committee did not comment on the Secretary-General's proposed revisions.

Chapter 12. Environment

40. At its 19th meeting, on 4 May, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to chapter 12 of the medium-term plan.

41. While some delegations thought that the proposed revisions were an accurate translation of recent legislative mandates, the Committee after a short discussion and explanations provided to queries, agreed on two amendments in order to further clarify the text.

42. The Committee was of the opinion that decision M (XXXIX) adopted by the Economic Commission for Europe at its thirty-ninth session and an appropriate addition to the strategy should be reflected under subprogramme 2 (Policy and management problems) of programme 3 (Environment in Europe (ECE)), to which no revision had been proposed.

Chapter 13. Food and agriculture

43. At its 20th meeting, on 7 May, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to chapter 13 of the medium-term plan. Some delegations inquired about the procedure to be followed to reflect the possible new legislative mandates emanating from the deliberations of the ministerial session of the World Food Council in June 1984. The representative of the Secretary-General responded that the procedure most likely to be followed would be to introduce new programme proposals within the context of the preparation of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987. Proposals for additional activities resulting from new legislative mandates would be based on a programmatic text which would describe the impact of the new legislative mandates on the objectives and strategies of the programme and which would be included in the budget document, a procedure already followed in the case of programme 4 of chapter 4 in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985. 6/

Chapter 14. Human settlements

44. At its 20th meeting, on 7 May, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to chapter 14 of the medium-term plan.

45. Concerning the deletion of the existing text of subprogramme 3 (Regional network on human settlements technology) of programme 4 (Human settlements in Latin America (ECLA)) and the proposal to replace it with a new subprogramme on urban poverty and precarious settlements, one delegation inquired whether the legislative mandates cited were adequate, since all were resolutions of ECLA. It was also pointed out that one of the sources of legislative authority cited, the co-operation agreements between ECLA and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, was not an intergovernmental mandate. One delegation requested clarification regarding the deletion of the original subprogramme 3. In response to these queries the representative of the Secretary-General replied that the Economic and Social Council took note of the reports and decisions of ECLA and that such mandates had been deemed sufficient authorization for numerous subprogramme proposals in other parts of the approved medium-term plan. The original subprogramme 3 had been identified as being of marginal usefulness and listed as such in annex XI to the introduction to the proposed programme budget for 1984-1985. 6/ Upon approval of the 1984-1985 programme budget by the General Assembly and subsequent to discussions with the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, new programme proposals were now proposed under subprogramme 3 to respond to ECLA resolution 444 (XIX).

46. In response to a query by one delegation concerning the specific mandate for the proposed last sentence of paragraph 14.98, the representative of the Secretary-General explained that not all formulations of the Secretariat's strategy were based on specific legislative language but that in interpreting overall mandates, the Secretariat had included a variety of proposals for consideration and approval by the Committee. The Committee agreed to recommend the deletion of the last sentence of paragraph 14.98.

Chapter 16. International trade and development finance

47. At its 20th to 25th meetings, on 7 to 9 May, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to chapter 16 of the medium-term plan.

48. The representative of the Secretary-General orally introduced corrections to paragraphs 16.47 and 16.71 which would be included in the comprehensive corrigendum. Considerable debate ensued in the Committee regarding the procedure to be followed in its deliberations on chapter 16. Since many issues remained controversial, the Committee agreed that in order to ensure that the mandates deriving from the sixth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development were accurately reflected in the proposed revisions, the wording of the proposed changes should conform as closely as possible to the exact phrasing of the relevant resolutions.

49. There was extensive debate on the Secretary-General's proposed revisions to subprogramme 1 (External financing, debt problems of developing countries and international monetary issues) and subprogramme 3 (Economic prospects of developing countries, commodity market prospects and debt management) of programme 1 (Money, finance and development (UNCTAD)). Some delegations were of the opinion that UNCTAD resolution 161 (VI), with the exception of paragraph 6, did not provide a

specific mandate for the UNCTAD secretariat. They therefore took exception to the explicit reference to "debt re-organization" in paragraphs 16.14 and 16.22 of the proposed revisions. Other delegations, on the other hand, pointed out that the proposed strategy was the logical way for the secretariat to address itself to the issues described under the problem addressed by the subprogrammes. They noted that paragraph 42 of the introduction to the medium-term plan for 1984-1989 and UNCTAD resolution 161 (VI) covered generically the theme of debt re-organization and that the term used in the proposed revisions should therefore be acceptable. Following information consultations, the Committee agreed to amend the proposed revisions to paragraphs 16.14 and 16.22.

50. After some discussion concerning the wording of the proposed revisions to paragraphs 16.27, 16.28 and 16.29 under subprogramme 1 (Action with respect to individual commodities and support for the Common Fund for Commodities) of programme 2 (Commodities (UNCTAD)), the Committee recommended some rewording of the paragraphs in order to align the language and intent more closely to the precise language of UNCTAD resolution 155 (VI). Referring to subprogramme 2 (Action with respect to developmental and general objectives of international commodity policy) of programme 2, the Committee agreed on an amendment to clarify the text of paragraph 16.34.

51. In discussing subprogramme 1 (Protectionism and structural adjustment) of programme 3 (Manufactures and semi-manufactures (UNCTAD)), proposals were made by some delegations to incorporate references to the multilateral trade negotiations in paragraphs 16.40 (i) and 16.42 of the proposed revisions. After an exchange of views, the Committee agreed to incorporate the proposed changes. The Committee also agreed to rephrase the proposed revision to paragraph 16.41.

52. Regarding programme 4 (Economic co-operation among developing countries (UNCTAD)), in subprogramme 1 (Trade expansion and promotion), the Committee agreed to recommend two changes of an editorial nature in subparagraph 16.50 (ii). In subprogramme 4 (Monetary and financial co-operation), the Committee, after some discussion, agreed to replace the word "promote" in subparagraph 16.62 (i) by the words "continue to work on".

53. The Committee decided to recommend the deletion of the proposed revision to paragraph 16.74 under programme 5 (Trade among countries having different economic and social systems (UNCTAD)), subprogramme 2 (Promotion of various forms of economic co-operation). After some discussion of the legislative mandate, the Committee agreed to propose an amendment to the original text of paragraph 16.74 of the medium-term plan.

54. Regarding programme 6 (Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries (UNCTAD)), subprogramme 1 (Least developed countries), some delegations inquired about the proposed revision to the strategy contained in subparagraphs (i) and (iv) of paragraph 16.80 concerning UNCTAD's role in relation to that of the World Bank and UNDP. The Committee agreed to draw the secretariat's attention to the need for co-ordination with UNDP and the World Bank, which were the lead agencies in this area, in the implementation of the strategy contained in subparagraphs 16.80 (i) and (iv). The Committee furthermore recommended more appropriate wording in the proposed revision to subparagraph 16.78 (ii).

55. In discussing the proposed revisions to subprogramme 2 (Land-locked and island developing countries) of programme 6, the Committee agreed to clarify the proposed text of paragraphs 16.84 (i) and 16.85 in accordance with paragraph 5 (j) of UNCTAD resolution 137 (VI).

56. Regarding programme 12 (International trade and development finance in Latin America (ECLA)), subprogramme 5 (Economic integration and co-operation among Caribbean countries), the Committee recommended the addition to paragraph 16.167 of a reference to an ECLA resolution 464 (XX).

Chapter 17. Natural resources

57. At its 26th meeting, on 10 May, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to chapter 17 of the medium-term plan.

58. Regarding programme 5 (Natural resources in Latin America), subprogramme 2 (Water resources), one delegation asked for clarification of the reasons for the proposed deletion of some activities. The representative of the Secretary-General explained that the adjustments were due to a shortfall in anticipated extrabudgetary resources.

59. One delegation inquired about the legislative mandate authorizing the deletion of subprogramme 1 (Mineral resources) of programme 6 (Natural resources in Western Asia (ECWA)). That delegation was of the opinion that lack of resources or lack of qualified staff due to a high vacancy rate in the professional establishment in ECWA would not be sufficient reason to delete the entire subprogramme for the duration of the plan period. The representative of the Secretary-General responded that that subprogramme had been identified as being of marginal usefulness within the context of the special review of the ongoing work programme of the United Nations and that that assessment, as indicated in annex XI to the 1984-1985 proposed programme budget, had been endorsed by the General Assembly.

Chapter 20. Science and technology

60. At its 25th and 26th meetings, on 9 and 10 May, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to chapter 20 of the medium-term plan.

61. The Committee agreed to recommend the deletion of the phrase "to elect members to the Executive Board in accordance with criteria stated by the General Assembly" in subparagraph 20.45 (i) under subprogramme 3 (Financing of science and technology for development) of programme 1 (Science and technology (CSTD)).

62. Concerning programme 6 (Science and technology in Western Asia (ECWA)), subprogramme 2 (Transfer of technology), one delegation proposed to restore the original text of paragraph 20.131, since even if, as the representative of the Secretary-General had pointed out, the activities in question would not be implemented during the 1984-1985 biennium, they could be implemented in subsequent bienniums during the plan period. The representative of the Secretary-General explained that the proposed revision had been presented to and endorsed by the ECWA at its eleventh session and that should the Committee decide to restore the deleted text, future proposals for activities to be carried out in subsequent bienniums would not necessarily be included in this area. The Committee decided to delete the proposed revision to subprogramme 2 of programme 6.

63. Concerning the proposed revisions to programme 7 (Science and technology in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)), the representative of the Secretary-General stated that the fortieth session of ESCAP had had as its theme "Technology for development", and he informed the Committee that some amendments to the proposed revisions emanating from that session would be incorporated in a corrigendum. The representative of the Secretary-General read out these amendments, which related to paragraphs 20.135, 20.138, 20.139, 20.142, 20.143, 20.146 and 20.147. The Committee discussed the proposed revisions on the basis of that oral presentation. While some delegations endorsed the proposed revisions, one delegation was of the opinion that the publication of a technology atlas of the region as proposed in the revision to paragraph 20.138 implied that the biennial regional survey presently contained in the work programme would become obsolete, since it would duplicate the information in the atlas, and that reference to the biennial survey should therefore be deleted. The representative of the Secretary-General replied that the biennial survey was to give an overview of policy issues, whereas the proposed atlas was a working document. The representative of the Secretary-General assured the Committee that the Secretariat had taken note of the delegation's view on this matter and would scrutinize ESCAP's specific programme proposals at the time of the preparation of the proposed programme budget for 1986-1987. After a discussion the Committee agreed to recommend a change in the title of subprogramme 3 of programme 7.

Chapter 21. Social development and humanitarian affairs

64. At its 26th and 27th meetings, on 10 May, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to chapter 21 of the medium-term plan.

65. The representative of the Secretary-General orally introduced a correction to be included in the comprehensive corrigendum, informing the Committee that the title of subprogramme 2 of programme 5 (Social development in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)) should read "Social development policies and co-ordination".

66. Several delegations were of the opinion that the proposed revisions of paragraphs 21.10 (i) and 21.12 under subprogramme 1 (Participation of the population in development) of programme 1 (Global social development issues (DIESA)) were not as concise as the original text and suggested amendments to the revisions. The Committee, after some discussion, agreed to recommend changes to paragraphs 21.10 (i) and 21.12.

67. Considerable debate ensued regarding one delegation's proposal to include in paragraph 21.9, under subprogramme 1, additional references to recent legislative mandates, namely, General Assembly resolution 38/25 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/18, concerning, respectively, national experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress and the adverse effects of the arms race on social progress and development. In reply to questions raised during the discussion, the representative of the Secretary-General explained that the Secretariat had not proposed to include those legislative mandates in revisions to the medium-term plan, since as explained in paragraph 6 of the introduction to the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan, in its opinion they did not give rise to changes in the objectives and strategies elaborated under the subprogramme. Furthermore, Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/18 had already been cited as the legislative mandate for proposed revisions to chapter 10, programme 1, subprogramme 6. After a further exchange of views and some consultations, the Committee agreed to include a reference to General Assembly resolution 38/25 in paragraph 21.9.

68. After some discussion concerning the wording of the proposed revisions to paragraph 21.34, under subprogramme 6 (Youth) of programme 1, and the relevance of General Assembly resolution 38/22, particularly on the extent to which the fourth preambular paragraph constituted a mandate for the Secretariat, the Committee agreed to recommend a further revision to paragraph 21.34 by inserting at the end of the second sentence the words "and the strengthening of world peace".

69. The Committee agreed to amend the proposed revision to subparagraph 21.36 (i), under subprogramme 7 (Aging), by replacing the words "to develop national policies" by the words "to assist in promoting national policies".

Chapter 22. Statistics

70. At its 28th meeting, on 11 May, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to chapter 22, of the medium-term plan.

71. The Committee had no comments to offer on the revisions proposed under this chapter and accepted them without debate.

72. Concerning those subprogrammes of programme 1 (World statistics (DIESA)) to which no revisions had been proposed by the Secretary-General, one delegation proposed three revisions to subprogrammes 3 (National accounts, industry, international trade and transport statistics) and 6 (Social, demographic and environment statistics). The delegation proposed (a) deletion of the third sentence in paragraph 22.26, reading "A compilation of industrial statistics covering the countries participating in the 1983 World Programme of Industrial Statistics will be published in 1988", since the data when published would be out of date and the basic data could be published in existing yearbooks, (b) deletion of the first sentence in paragraph 22.27, reading "A Yearbook of Distributive-Trade Statistics will be added to the list of recurrent publications during the 1984-1985 biennium", because the methodology had not been finalized and approved by the Statistical Commission, and (c) to publish the Population and Vital Statistics Report, referred to in paragraph 22.43, on an annual, instead of quarterly, basis because the data in that report did not change significantly from quarter to quarter and the same data were published in the Demographic Yearbook. The representative of the Secretary-General provided clarification of the issues raised regarding the timeliness and usefulness of the publications mentioned and the mandate of the Statistical Office of the United Nations to produce those publications. The Committee, after further debate, agreed that (a) the third sentence in paragraph 22.26 should be retained, (b) the first sentence in paragraph 22.27 should be amended to reflect the actual status of the preparation of the methodology used in compiling distributive-trade statistics, and (c) a recommendation should be made on the Population and Vital Statistics Report requesting the Secretary-General to study alternative methods of publishing the Report with a view to selecting a method that met the needs of users in the most timely and economical manner.

Chapter 24. Transport, communications and tourism

73. At its 26th meeting, on 10 May, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to chapter 24, of the medium-term plan.

74. Regarding programme 2 (Shipping (UNCTAD)), some delegations sought clarification regarding the arrangements for co-operation between UNCTAD and the

International Maritime Organization (IMO), since it seemed that a number of activities included under subprogramme 4 (Maritime legislation) dealt with issues that IMO also covered. The representative of the Secretary-General explained that in Conference resolution 144 (VI), paragraph 7 (b), UNCTAD had been given a mandate which was complementary to that of IMO and which covered the specific activities mentioned in the proposed revisions to subprogramme 4. The Committee agreed to recommend revisions to reflect this situation.

Chapter 25. Marine affairs

75. At its 28th and 29th meetings, on 11 May, the Committee considered proposed revisions to chapter 25 of the medium-term plan.

76. In order to align the English text with the French version, which was worded more clearly, the Committee decided to recommend that the words "should be" at the beginning of the last sentence of paragraph 13 should be replaced by "is".

77. With respect to programme 1 (Law of the sea affairs) and programme 2 (Economic and technical aspects of marine affairs), one delegation noted that all components of the law of sea, including legal, political, economic and technical aspects, were closely related and that, in implementing the medium-term plan, consideration should accordingly be given to placing both programmes within a single administrative structure in the interest of efficiency and logic. Another delegation was of the opinion that there appeared to be too much emphasis in the orientation of the chapter accorded to issues of a legal nature as compared with technical aspects. In this connection, the Chairman of the Committee recalled that the Secretary-General in his report on the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (A/38/570 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1) had examined the question of institutional arrangements and had recommended, inter alia, that the Office of the Special Representative should be continued on an established basis as the core office of the Organization for law of the sea matters. It would continue, as in the past, to work in close co-operation with other departments of the United Nations Secretariat and other organizations of the United Nations system on matters falling within their respective competencies, and call upon their expertise for the purpose of servicing the Preparatory Commission for the International Sea-Bed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. The General Assembly had approved the Secretary-General's recommendation in this respect in its resolution 38/59 A of 14 December 1983.

78. After an exchange of views regarding programme 5 (Marine resources in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)), the Committee agreed to revise the last sentence of paragraph 25.66. A representative of the Secretary-General stated that neither ECE nor ECWA had made proposals for the establishment of a programme in marine affairs because in their view the activities that they respectively had planned did not warrant a separate programme in that field. One delegation pointed out that in the case of ECWA, this should not imply that the Commission did not implement marine affairs activities, noted that relevant economic and technical activities were of particular importance and indicated that the matter might be reopened after consultations with the States members of ECWA at the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

(c) Major programmes to which no revisions had been proposed

Chapter 9. Public information

79. The Committee considered those chapters of the medium-term plan to which the Secretary-General had not proposed any revisions within the context of the document before the Committee but which individual delegations felt might merit revision.

80. The Committee considered chapter 9, of the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 at its 29th meeting, on 11 May.

81. In response to one delegation's proposal to revise paragraphs 9.8 (f), 9.20 (f) and 9.25, the Committee, after some discussion, agreed to recommend an amendment to paragraph 9.25.

Chapter 23. Transnational corporations

82. At its 29th meeting, on 11 May, the Committee considered chapter 23 of the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989.

83. In order adequately to reflect decision III adopted by the Commission on Transnational Corporations at its ninth session, one delegation proposed a number of changes to paragraph 23.18.

84. In view of the divergency of positions, no consensus could be reached by the Committee on proposals to modify chapter 23 of the medium-term plan.

B. Preparation of proposed programme budget documentation

1. Introduction

85. At its 4th and 5th meetings, on 25 April, the Committee considered, under item 3, the report of the Secretary-General on the preparation of proposed programme budget documentation (E/AC.51/1984/10), which had been prepared in response to the Committee's request at its twenty-third session. 7/ For the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, see chapter X, section B, paragraphs 324-326.

86. In his introductory statement, the Director of the Budget Division indicated that the report provided the follow-up requested by the Committee at its twenty-third session, when it had considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/38/7) concerning the preparation of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985. He emphasized the preparation of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987. In that context he stated that the task force on the drafting of instructions for the preparation of programme budget submissions, referred to in paragraph 3 of the report (E/AC.51/1984/10), was about to complete its task and that the text of the revised instructions was scheduled for review by the Programme Planning and Budgeting Board in the second week of May. It was expected that the targeted date of 31 May for the issuance of the instructions would be met; thus the work on the preparation of budget submissions would commence much earlier than in the past. As the deadline for departmental submissions was the end of October, programme managers would have between six and eight additional weeks to complete their work. The Director of the Budget Division also drew the

Committee's attention to paragraph 7 of the report, which outlined a very tight schedule for the central review of budget submissions over a period that overlapped in part with the session of the General Assembly. He emphasized that special efforts would be required from all the offices involved to conform to that schedule.

2. Discussion

87. The Committee expressed satisfaction with the efforts of the Secretariat to improve the budget preparation process and to take measures aimed at expediting submissions of the budget documentation to CPC and ACABQ.

88. However, several delegations voiced their concern regarding the submission on time of the documentation for the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987, namely, by the end of April 1985. Bearing in mind past experience with submission of documents and the status of documentation submission at the present session, they requested the Secretariat to take concrete measures to ensure timely submission, at the Committee's twenty-fifth session, of the documentation for the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987. Several delegations suggested that including the dates of submission in the budget fascicles would be helpful in this regard.

89. It was stated that an earlier date for the organizational session of CPC might be considered in order to allow the Committee more time to deal with the possible late issuance of documentation.

90. A number of delegations considered that there was a need for improvement in document preparation, priority setting and in reducing the length of the budget documentation.

91. In response to questions raised by delegations, the Director of the Budget Division made reference to the various aspects of the complexity of the budget documentation, including its size. He stated that serious efforts were being made to improve the content of that documentation and to keep it at a manageable size. Regarding timely submission of the budget documentation at the twenty-fifth session of CPC, he assured the Committee that no effort would be spared to meet that goal.

C. Operation of the new system for setting priorities

1. Introduction

92. At its 4th and 5th meetings, on 25 April, the Committee considered, under the same item, the report of the Secretary-General on the operation of the new system for setting priorities (A/C.5/39/1 and Corr.1). For the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, see chapter X, section B, paragraph 327.

93. In introducing the report, a representative of the Office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination recalled that it had proved difficult for both intergovernmental bodies and secretariat units to set priorities at the subprogramme level in the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989. However, considerable improvement had been achieved in this regard in the formulation and review of the programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985.

94. As regards the biennium 1982-1983, the Secretary General, in his report, on the programme performance of the United Nations for that biennium (A/39/173 and Corr.1 and Add.1), concluded that, although outputs in programme elements with lowest priority designations had been postponed or terminated at a significantly greater rate than those in programme elements of highest priority or with no designation, the differences in implementation rates between the "highest priority" and "no designation" categories were not as great as might be expected (see A/39/173 and Corr.1, paras. 42 and 43, and table 4).

95. As regards structures, the representative of the Secretary-General recalled that the Programme Planning and Budgeting Board and the Central Monitoring Unit had been set up within the Secretariat. Changes in procedures had been incorporated in both the Regulations Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 37/234, which incorporated recommendations made by the Joint Inspection Unit, and the rules presented to the Assembly at its thirty-eighth session in document A/38/126. Those rules would be issued shortly within the Secretariat. In conclusion, no changes were suggested in the conceptual approach to priority-setting, although the operation of the new system would be kept under review.

2. Discussion

Priority-setting in the medium-term plan and programme budget proposals

96. Several delegations considered that the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/39/1 and Corr.1) was interesting and useful. Some delegations, referring to paragraphs 14 and 15 of that report, inquired why several intergovernmental bodies had not assigned priorities to subprogrammes in the context of the medium-term plan or had followed methods of priority-setting that differed from those indicated in the relevant General Assembly resolutions. Other delegations asked why none of the intergovernmental organs had designated any subprogrammes as having lowest priority (see A/C.5/39/1 and Corr.1, para. 14) and whether programme priorities were linked to resource allocation.

97. As regards the programme budget, in paragraph 20 of document A/C.5/39/1 and Corr.1, it was stated that proposals on priorities within programmes had been based on the designations made by the relevant intergovernmental bodies and, where they had not been made, the Secretary-General had designated priorities on the understanding that the intergovernmental bodies concerned would be expected to review at their next session the identification of high- and low-priority programme elements. Some delegations asked whether the intergovernmental bodies concerned had acted in conformity with that understanding. Other delegations remarked that priority-setting was a highly political subject and that, while the new system allowed Governments to have the final word on the subject, it was well-known that intergovernmental organs, including CPC, had in the past failed to reach a consensus on the matter. In this respect, the view was expressed that the report confirmed apprehensions expressed to the effect that attempts at priority-setting would raise problems that would often not prove amenable to a compromise solution. The Committee generally agreed that, since the new system had been in force only since the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly, it had been difficult in the short time available for intergovernmental organs to assign priorities in their review of medium-term proposals as envisioned by the Assembly in resolution 36/228 A of 18 December 1981.

98. The representative of the Secretary-General replied that some intergovernmental bodies had had difficulty in specifying priorities in the manner required at the subprogramme level because they had previously developed their own methods of priority-setting. The medium-term plan had been formulated and reviewed during the first year of a period of transition between the old and new systems of priority-setting. As regards the relationship between programme priorities and resources, the representative of the Secretary-General remarked that the medium-term plan represented the first phase of the cycle and contained no reference to resources; however, priority designations in the second phase, namely, the preparation of the programme budget, had been made in the context of financial estimates.

Priority-setting in the course of the implementation of the programme budget

99. Some delegations, referring to paragraphs 25 to 29 of the report, regarding priority-setting in the course of the implementation of the programme budget, said that the statements of programme implications would need to provide a detailed explanation of the relationship between programmes and resources. These delegations asked how the Secretariat intended to proceed with the submission of statements of programme and financial implications, whether there would be any restructuring within the Secretariat to deal with the preparation of the statements and how the statements would be considered by the General Assembly and its Main Committees. If there were a willingness to work towards a continuing reallocation of resources in the context of priority-setting, the integrity of the original programme budget would be better maintained.

100. Other delegations stated that the report contained too many references to redeployment; however, the term "priority" in General Assembly resolutions did not provide a mandate for redeployment, decisions on which were the prerogative of Member States. Indeed, in paragraph 8 of section II of its resolution 38/227 A which had been adopted by consensus, the Assembly had decided that the adoption of new resolutions would not imply the elimination of existing activities or programmes carried out as a result of legislative mandates or the elimination or reduction of resources appropriated to them by the Assembly, unless the Assembly expressly decided otherwise. If proposed rule 104.9 of the rules in implementation of the Regulations Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and Methods of Evaluation did not conform to that part of Assembly resolution 38/227 A, the rule would need to be modified. In this respect, and with reference to paragraph 43 of the report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1982-1983 (A/39/173 and Corr.1 and Add.1), some delegations inquired whether any programme elements or outputs had been terminated without the authority of a legislative organ. Furthermore, there was a contradiction between the statement in paragraph 16 of document A/C.5/39/1 and Corr.1 that "the Director-General added that the process of priority-setting should, in the final analysis, be related to the process of resource allocation" and the statement in paragraph 19 of that document that "the setting of priorities had no necessary linkage with increase or reduction of resources".

101. The representative of the Secretary-General noted that, while prima facie there was no apparent contradiction between rule 104.9 and General Assembly resolution 38/227 A, the rule would be modified if on further examination it proved to be at variance with the resolution. As regards activities that had been terminated during the biennium 1982-1983, he stated that the more detailed

discussion that would take place later in the session on the programme performance report would cover that issue. He agreed that, in general, activities to which high priority was accorded should be financed with resources from the regular budget. As regards the timing of the statements of programme implications envisaged in section II of Assembly resolution 38/227 A, preparations could be made before the adoption of a decision by a Main Committee of the Assembly; the statements on financial implications followed an established procedure that would also apply to the integrated statements of programme, financial and administrative implications. The representative of the Secretary-General said that the structure of the central Secretariat units involved in programme planning and budgeting had not changed since the thirty-eighth session of the Assembly.

D. Cross-sectional programme analysis of the programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985

1. Introduction

102. At its 32nd meeting, on 15 May, the Committee considered, under the same item, the report of the Secretary-General on the cross-sectional programme analysis of the programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 (E/AC.51/1984/CRP.1 and Corr.1-2). For the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, see chapter X, section B, paragraphs 328-329.

103. In introducing the report, the representative of the Secretary-General noted that it was essentially a methodological paper, with the population programme used as an illustrative example. The programme categories used in the analysis were based on the subprogrammes of the population programme of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs with two categories added: demographic statistics and training. The matrix showed those units that had at least one final output in the programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 in any given category. Such an analytical process, which was to be considered as a starting point for a more in-depth examination, facilitated the identification of possible gaps or shortcomings in the United Nations programme.

2. Discussion

104. During the discussion, a number of delegations expressed general satisfaction with the report.

105. With regard to the programme on population in Western Asia, one delegation noted that, during the 1984-1985 biennium, the lack of activities that dealt with factors affecting patterns of reproduction and training in population reflected the loss of extrabudgetary resources provided by UNFPA and expressed the hope that efforts would be made towards reinforcing the ECWA population programme in the 1986-1987 biennium, especially concerning those two activities. Another delegation noted that the problem in ECWA was related to recruitment and not to financial restraints since additional posts had been included in the programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 to counterbalance the loss of posts funded by UNFPA. Another delegation suggested that, when making proposals for the programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987, the Secretary-General should take fully into account that ECWA had received some posts for the 1984-1985 biennium as compensation for those lost because of the absence of extrabudgetary resources.

106. A number of delegations noted that the analysis concentrated on gaps and that there were no apparent findings concerning possible duplication. In reply, the representative of the Secretary-General pointed out that in the population programme there were no serious problems in that area; the programme was well-managed and co-ordinated. In the report, there was indeed more emphasis placed on gaps since it was more difficult to detect what was missing from the programme budget than to identify areas that were duplicated.

107. The Committee discussed the procedure to be followed in the future in connection with cross-sectional programme analysis. Some delegations felt that there was no need to carry out such an analysis on a regular basis, others favoured a selective basis, while others considered that it should be done regularly at the Secretariat level but only presented periodically, or on an ad hoc basis, to the Committee. The representative of the Secretary-General replied that this kind of analysis was needed for programme planning, both internally and from the point of view of intergovernmental review, particularly as a guide in examining the programme budget. While cross-organizational programme analyses covered the activities of the system as a whole, the cross-sectional programme analyses were more useful in drawing conclusions on problems of co-ordination in the United Nations system itself. Both kinds of analyses complemented and supported each other.

E. Further implementation of General Assembly resolution 37/214

1. Introduction

108. At its 30th and 31st meetings, on 14 May, the Committee considered, under the same item, the report of the Secretary-General on the further implementation of General Assembly resolution 37/214 (A/39/97-E/1984/59), prepared pursuant to Assembly decision 38/432 of 19 December 1983. For the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, see chapter X, section B, paragraphs 330-333.

109. In his introductory statement, the Director of the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation recalled the provisions of General Assembly resolution 37/214, which were largely based on the recommendations of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Economic Commission for Africa: regional programming, operations, restructuring and decentralization issues" (A/37/119) and the Secretary-General's comments thereon (A/37/119/Add.1). The Secretary-General had decided to undertake a special review of the distribution of responsibilities in selected programme areas (population, science and technology, public administration, development issues and policies and social development), as identified by the regional commissions. The conclusions reached by the Secretary-General, in the light of this review, regarding the type of activities either to be decentralized to the regional commissions or to be carried out jointly by the commissions and global United Nations entities, were outlined in his report (A/39/97-E/1984/59). It was the intention of the Secretary-General to ensure that the guidelines contained in the document, and any action that might be taken thereon by the Committee, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, would be fully reflected in the next programme budget proposals to be considered by those bodies in 1985.

2. Discussion

110. Wide support was expressed for the general considerations outlined in paragraphs 8 and 9 of the report of the Secretary-General. Some members, however, noted that the avoidance of "fragmentation" in the activities of the Secretariat, should not prevent necessary transfers of functions and resources to the regional commissions. Other members stated that the concept of "mutually reinforcing activities" should be carefully applied with a view to avoiding duplication of work. The view was also expressed that decentralization should be pursued, taking into full account the different mandates of the regional commissions. Many members felt that the overall criterion of efficiency and effectiveness of the Secretariat as a whole had not been sufficiently emphasized.

111. Regret was expressed that the activities identified for decentralization were treated in the report only in very general terms, and that no illustration had been provided of the specific programme elements that might be involved, as had been done in respect of activities to be undertaken jointly by the regional commissions and global entities. Some of the concepts and distinctions underlying the guidelines for "decentralization" were, in the view of some delegations, questionable or not sufficiently clear. Also, no indication had been provided in the report of the criteria that had guided the identification of "joint activities". One delegation noted that the global dimensions of population research should not be underestimated. Some delegations stressed that decentralization should not weaken activities at the global level relating to development issues and economic co-operation among developing countries.

112. Some members referred to the provision of General Assembly resolution 32/197, section IV, paragraph 26, that the necessary authority should be delegated to the regional commissions and adequate budgetary and financial provisions should be made for their activities. They remained to be satisfied that the proposals would lead to concrete progress in that direction. Other members noted that it was not possible, on the basis of the information provided to the Committee, to determine whether the proposals in the report would result in savings or additional expenditures. It was important, in their view, that any delegation of responsibility was accompanied by a corresponding release of resources. Any other approach would lead to duplication and an increase in budgetary expenditures.

113. In response to questions and comments from members of the Committee, the Director of the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation noted that the report had not been conceived as the conclusive statement by the Secretariat on the subject of decentralization. Decentralization was part of a continuing process of adjustment by the Secretariat to the evolving requirements of Member States. The Secretariat did not view decentralization as an end in itself, but as a means to increase effectiveness and responsiveness by improving the distribution of functions and responsibilities within the Secretariat. The proposals in the report had been arrived at in the light of the so-called "Rabat criteria", which included considerations relating to efficiency, density of information and multisectoral requirements of decentralization. The need to enhance complementarity and to avoid duplication had been taken into account in proposing joint activities as well as in identifying activities that might be decentralized to the regional commissions. He emphasized that the strengthening of the regional commissions was a deliberate policy of the Secretariat, in line with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 32/197 and 37/214. He also indicated that the programme, financial and managerial

implications of the proposals in the report which had been the subject of many searching questions by members of the Committee - and any adjustments that might be required could be fully established only at the stage at which the guidelines were translated into programme budget proposals. The review of the programme budget proposals for the next biennium would enable the Committee to assess at its next session the usefulness of the exercise undertaken and of the broad guidelines which had resulted from it and to determine the progress made by the Secretariat in pursuing decentralization and enhancing the effectiveness of the Secretariat's work.

F. Work programme of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization

1. Introduction

114. At its 44th meeting, on 23 May, the Committee considered, under the same item, the statement of the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination on the work programme of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). For the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, see chapter X, section B, paragraphs 334-336.

115. The Assistant Secretary-General recalled that the proposals of the Secretary-General for the programme budget of UNIDO for the biennium 1984-1985 had been approved by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Economic and Social Council. The Council, in section VI, paragraph 2, of its resolution 1983/49 of 28 July 1983, had also requested the Secretary-General to report to the Committee at its twenty-fourth session on questions raised at its twenty-third session concerning the various programme elements, in order to enable the Committee to review the issues relating to the avoidance of duplication and the achievement of a more rational organization of the work programme of UNIDO in anticipation of the conversion of that organization to specialized agency status. With reference to the recommendations of the Committee at its twenty-third session 8/ that programme elements 4.4, 4.10 and 4.12 of the System of consultations be deleted, the Assistant Secretary-General stated that the International Development Board, at its eighteenth session, had decided that work on the wood and wood products industry (programme element 4.4) should continue and that work on industrial financing (programme element 4.10) should be pursued with regard to each sector in respect of which consultations had been scheduled, and reconfirmed the decision taken at its sixteenth session on trade and trade-related aspects of industrial collaboration arrangements (programme element 4.12).

116. As regards the other questions raised by the Committee during the first part of its twenty-third session, the Assistant Secretary-General said that a more definitive assessment of the state of co-ordination within UNIDO and between UNIDO and other organizational units would have to await an in-depth examination. In the meantime, however, a preliminary review of the programming documents and reports submitted to various intergovernmental bodies on the work programme of UNIDO did not reveal duplication. As regards the organization of the work programme, while it was possible to envisage alternative ways of organizing its implementation, there was no evidence that a departure from the work programme set out in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 and endorsed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Committee would be more rational and efficient.

2. Discussion

117. The Committee recalled the recommendations discussed in paragraph 115 above and the recommendation for the merger of the two consultations on capital goods and energy-related equipment and technology. 9/ These recommendations were endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1983/49, section VI, paragraph 1, on the understanding that follow-up work on the wood and wood products industry, industrial financing, and trade and trade-related aspects of industrial collaboration arrangements would be carried out by the UNIDO if necessary in accordance with its programme of work, subject to a decision by the Industrial Development Board. The General Assembly also endorsed those recommendations with the same understanding as expressed by the Council. Accordingly, the Industrial Development Board, at its eighteenth session, took decisions relating, inter alia, to the consultations (see ID/B/309).

118. Other delegations recalled that in section VI, paragraph 2, resolution 1983/49, the Economic and Social Council had requested the Secretary-General to report to the Committee at its current session on all the issues that had been raised during the discussion in the Committee at the first part of its twenty-third session, in particular those relating to the avoidance of duplication and the achievement of a more rational organization of the work programme of UNIDO, as well as to an improvement in the System of consultations taking into account the views of developing countries concerned. These delegations regretted that the information provided to the Committee concentrated mostly on the System of consultations.

119. Those delegations expressed doubts concerning the statement by the Secretariat that there was no duplication of work in UNIDO, or that any duplication was only apparent, and recalled that at the twenty-third session of the Committee, the representative of the Office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination had stated that the area of science and technology for development was a problem area and that the Office had initiated a study on potential duplication of work between UNIDO, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Centre for Science and Technology for Development. 10/

120. The representative of the Secretariat stated in reply that a more in-depth study on potential duplication in the work programme of UNIDO could be undertaken in due course. The representative of UNIDO recalled, among other things, that the decision which stated that efforts should be concentrated on some sectors did not imply the exclusion of work on others, and that according to the Board's decisions, 16, and not 12, sectors were involved. He noted that the increase from 12 to 16 sectors was undertaken with no increase in the level of resources.

121. The representative of UNIDO recalled that, in addition to its being evaluated on a continuing basis by the Industrial Development Board, the System of Consultations had been the subject of an evaluation report by the Office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination (E/AC.51/1980/2), which was presented to the Committee at its twentieth session. The concern of the Secretariat was that the dialogue should continue, and it was encouraging to note that all 23 consultations had arrived at their conclusions and recommendations by consensus.

G. Transport and Communications Decade in Africa: implementation of General Assembly resolution 38/150

1. Introduction

122. At its 22nd and 23rd meetings, on 8 May, the Committee considered, under the same item, the report of the Secretary-General, entitled "Transport and Communications Decade in Africa: implementation of General Assembly resolution 38/150" (A/39/223). For the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, see chapter X, section B, paragraph 337.

123. In introducing the report, the representative of the Secretary-General recalled that at its thirty-eighth session, the General Assembly had adopted a comprehensive resolution on the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (resolution 38/150 of 19 December 1983). The impact of the comprehensive programme of work mandated by the Assembly in that resolution on the programme elements and output contained in the programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 was shown in table 1 of the report, the progress made to date in the implementation of that resolution was outlined in paragraphs 8 to 10 and the resource requirements were indicated in section III.

2. Discussion

124. Several delegations expressed satisfaction with the programmatic analysis contained in the report. They noted that the report accurately reflected the programme implications of General Assembly resolution 38/150. Agreement was expressed on the importance of the activities foreseen for the second phase of the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa.

125. Many delegations considered that a serious shortcoming of the report was the lack of a clear indication as to how the provisions of General Assembly resolution 38/150 would be fully implemented should the necessary extrabudgetary resources not be forthcoming. As was noted in the report, the Assembly decided to provide \$1 million from the regular budget; the Secretary-General was to seek another \$1.3 million from extrabudgetary resources. However, as was indicated in paragraph 14 of the report, as at the date of its preparation, no voluntary contribution had been received in response to the appeal made by the Secretary-General to all Member States. In light of this, the question was raised as to what further steps the Secretary-General might take to obtain the necessary funding or what alternative arrangements, including the possibility of requesting additional appropriations, could be envisaged for the full implementation of the resolution. It was also pointed out that the Secretary-General's actions were limited by the provisions of the resolution. Some delegations expressed the view that all the activities called for in the resolution should be financed through extrabudgetary resources. Some other delegations felt that if extrabudgetary resources did not materialize, activities called for in the resolution should be financed from the regular budget of the United Nations.

126. In response to the questions raised with regard to funding, the representative of the Secretary-General stated that the Secretary-General had been requested by the General Assembly, in paragraph 10 of resolution 38/150, to seek additional support from extrabudgetary resources; he had addressed an appeal to the Member States to which, so far, no positive response had been received. While further

attempts to obtain voluntary contributions would be made, the Secretary-General could not go beyond the provisions of that resolution. As to alternative funding, he added that no other extrabudgetary sources could be identified for the purpose of implementing the resolution and that therefore funding should come from the response to the Secretary-General's appeal.

127. The representative of ECA said that, at its most recent session the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning had attached great importance to the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 38/150. In particular, the Conference had stressed the importance of the studies of harmonization and co-ordination, as well as the study of training and manpower needs. He also indicated that in the first phase of the Decade, the efforts made by the African countries had been encouraging, with approximately \$7 billion worth of activities implemented; however, there was concern that the activities envisaged by the Assembly in resolution 38/150 for the second phase of the Decade could be jeopardized owing to a shortfall of funds. The Executive Secretary of ECA had contacted the major donors, as well as various international organizations, but they had been unable to make additional funds available. ECA, therefore, was not very optimistic since the responses received so far had not been encouraging.

128. A number of delegations suggested that the Committee should request the Secretary-General to submit an updated report to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session on the implementation of Assembly resolution 38/150, as well as on the level of financial resources available. One delegation stated that in the updated report, the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa should be placed in a broader context by the provision of information on bilateral contributions made towards the achievements of the goals of the Decade, as well as on the contributions of other organizations in the United Nations system. A few delegations associated themselves with this view; other delegations, however, noted that such an extension of the scope of the updated report would go beyond the mandate given in resolution 38/150 which did not deal with contributions from bilateral sources or other organizations.

129. Some delegations suggested that whenever the Main Committees of the General Assembly recommended activities, they should refrain from recommending levels of funding for the implementation of those activities. Other delegations felt, however, that making recommendations to the Main Committees on how they should proceed would place limitations on them and exceed the Committee's terms of reference.

H. Industrial Development Decade for Africa: implementation of section II of General Assembly resolution 38/192

1. Introduction

130. At its 13th and 14th meetings, on 1 and 2 May, the Committee considered, under the same item, the note by the Secretariat on the implementation of section II of General Assembly resolution 38/192 of 20 December 1983 on the Industrial Development Decade for Africa (E/AC.51/1984/11 and Corr.1). For the conclusion and recommendations of the Committee, see chapter X, section B, paragraphs 338-339.

131. In introducing the report, the Controller indicated that the Secretariat had initiated the necessary reviews and consultations but that the various possibilities for both savings and redeployments could only be perceived after the review of submissions from departments and offices for the first programme budget performance report, which was due in September 1984. A report at the present stage, focusing on redeployments only, would not only be very difficult to prepare but would also risk discounting beforehand the possibility that savings might accrue from the whole programme budget and could possibly curtail unnecessarily the implementation of programmed activities just approved by the General Assembly. In the circumstances, the Secretary-General would be in a position to issue a report on the matter only later in the year during the thirty-ninth session of the Assembly. The Controller added that he had visited Vienna at the end of March 1984 and had discussed various alternatives with the senior officials concerned in UNIDO. He intended to have a further meeting with those officials later in the year and was confident that the proposals requested by the Assembly would be submitted in time for its thirty-ninth session.

132. The Controller also informed the Committee that the eighteenth session of the Industrial Development Board would open in Vienna on 2 May 1984 and that the Industrial Development Decade for Africa would be on the agenda for that session. He therefore expected that the Board, which was considered one of the "appropriate institutions" referred to in paragraph 2 (c) of the note by the Secretariat (E/AC.51/1984/11 and Corr.1), might have something to say on the matter.

2. Discussion

133. During the discussion of the item, the Committee noted the preliminary nature of the note by the Secretariat. Some delegations felt that the note should have been more precise and that the approaches being considered on redeployments should have been clearly set out. They noted that in table 3 of the report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1982-1983 (A/39/173 and Corr.1 and Add.1), there were many departures from programmed commitments, postponements and terminations. They were of the opinion that, in view of the extent of the departures and the priority ascribed to the Industrial Decade for Africa, it was not reasonable for the Secretariat to indicate that nothing could be done until the latter part of 1984.

134. Several other delegations, however, indicated that they agreed with the preliminary nature of the note by the Secretariat. They indicated that since the note had been prepared only a few months after the implementation of the programme budget for 1984-1985 and the start of the medium-term plan for 1984-1989, it was not reasonable to expect the Secretariat to make proposals on savings or redeployments at the current time. In their view, an agreement had been reached in the General Assembly to examine the financing of the relevant activities from savings out of the 1984-1985 programme budget or through redeployment. They were therefore committed to looking for the necessary savings or possible redeployments, but at an appropriate time. They felt that because of the dynamic nature of the budget process, no final conclusions could be drawn at the current time.

135. The question of the reporting arrangements to take account of programme changes during the course of the budgetary biennium was raised during the discussion. It was asked how departures from programme commitments and variations from initially estimated resource requirements were reported by programme managers

to central units. It was suggested that such reporting should be taking place on a continuing basis, thus enabling early decisions to be made on redeployment to respond to changing programme requirements. It was also suggested that redeloyment of resources could only be mandated by Governments and any decision in that regard should only be taken by intergovernmental bodies.

136. On the question of reporting programme changes and redeployments to central units at Headquarters, the Controller explained that the current system provided for ex post facto reporting at the end of the biennium. Thus, there was no formal reporting requirement imposed on programme managers during the course of the biennium. However, he indicated that a proposal was being considered to require reports on programme implementation to be submitted to the Central Monitoring Unit at six-month intervals. In response to the comment that it was not unusual in national administrations to receive proposed revisions to expenditure plans in the first quarter of a financial period, he explained that the system used by the Secretariat also provided for the proposal of such changes. However, since the United Nations had a biennial budget, such proposals in the first three months of the period were rare.

137. The Controller concluded his explanations by assuring the Committee that at the current stage he was confident that the Secretariat would be in a position to provide a comprehensive report to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session in accordance with the decision of the Fifth Committee.

I. Location of the Information Systems Unit within the Secretariat

1. Introduction

138. At its 6th meeting, on 26 April, the Committee considered, under the same item, the report of the Secretary-General on the location of the Information Systems Unit within the Secretariat (E/AC.51/1984/9). For the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, see chapter X, section B, paragraphs 340 and 341.

139. In his introductory statement, the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme and Co-ordination briefly recalled the history of the Unit, its functions and its current projects. He stated that the report under consideration had been prepared in response to the recommendation of CPC at its twenty-third session, endorsed by the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session, that the Unit should be given an institutional base and that the Secretary-General should examine the integration of the Unit within the Dag Hammarskjöld Library. 11/

140. He recalled that, in formulating its recommendation the Committee had taken into account the findings of an evaluation of the performance and utility of the Unit carried out by the Advisory Committee for the Co-ordination of Information Systems (ACCIS). The evaluator had examined various alternatives and recommended in favour of the establishment of the Unit as a distinct and identifiable administrative unit within the Dag Hammarskjöld Library and its identification as a specific programme in the Library's programme and budget with identifiable budgetary support.

141. He stated that discussions had been held between representatives of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs and the Department of Conference Services concerning the modalities for the transfer of the Unit to the

Library. Pending those arrangements, the General Assembly, in resolution 38/234, section XIV, paragraph 2 had decided that the financial arrangements applicable to the Unit in 1982-1983 should be continued in the biennium 1984-1985, namely, absorbing the cost of the Unit from resources in the proposed programme budget for 1984-1985 through savings and economies. Finally he stated that the Secretary-General intended to formulate proposals concerning the Unit in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987.

2. Discussion

142. The role and usefulness of the Unit was unanimously recognized. Delegations noted with satisfaction the rapid growth in the number of users and demand for services of the Unit and the useful work conducted with the regional commissions to update and disseminate a common indexing vocabulary and to merge and disseminate their development information data bases.

143. Concerning the arrangements to allow the Unit to continue its work, many delegations noted that the existing institutional and financial arrangements were not fully satisfactory, as there had been no firm decision on the institutional base for the Unit and because it was necessary to rely on the availability of savings and economies for the financing of the Unit. They emphasized the need for the Unit to have an institutional base and adequate identifiable budgetary resources earmarked for its work. It was also stated that it would be of interest if the Unit could expand its activities.

144. They supported the continuation of the Unit as an identifiable and distinct unit. Some delegations stated that the integration of the Unit in the Dag Hammarskjöld Library was still appropriate. Other delegations stated that the final decision should be left to the Secretary-General in conformity with the recommendation of CPC at its twenty-third session.

CHAPTER III

PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE FOR THE BIENNIUM 1982-1983

A. Introduction and summary of results

1. Introduction

145. At its 8th, 9th and 10th meetings, on 27 and 28 April, the Committee considered, under item 5, entitled "Programme performance for the biennium 1982-1983", sections I and II (introduction and summary of results) of the report of the Secretary-General on programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1982-1983 (A/39/173 and Corr.1 and Add.1). For the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, see chapter X, section C, paragraph 342.

146. In his introductory statement, the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination noted that the programme performance report was prepared in conformity with the instructions given by CPC at its twenty-second session and he recalled the weaknesses pointed out by the Committee in the report for the biennium 1980-1981 (A/37/154 and Corr.1 and 2).

147. Turning to the substantive aspects of the report, the Assistant Secretary-General noted that table 1 showed different categories of specificity of outputs in the proposed programme budget for 1982-1983, while tables 2, 3 and 4 contained information on programme implementation from various perspectives. Concerning terminations, he noted the distinction between mandated and discretionary outputs. Units of the organization produced outputs which ranged, at one end of the spectrum, from those mandated by intergovernmental bodies and financed from the regular budget to outputs which were discretionary with the programme manager and financed from extrabudgetary resources, at the other end, with activities supported by mixed funding in between.

148. In conclusion, the Assistant Secretary-General remarked that the programme performance report could never be better than the programme budget on which it was based. The more precise specification of outputs and more extensive priority designations in the proposed programme budget for 1984-1985 should be reflected in the further improvement of the quality of the next programme performance report.

2. Discussion

149. In the discussion, many delegations expressed their satisfaction with the overall quality of the report stating that, while it still had a number of shortcomings, there had definitely been an improvement over the report for the 1980-1981 biennium.

150. The discussion revolved around three major themes: (a) methodological issues, (b) substantive issues and (c) institutional issues.

(a) Methodology

151. Several delegations remarked that, while the present programme performance report included more units of the Organization than the previous report, coverage

was still not complete. It was suggested that future reports should encompass all activities of the Organization, including not only those that had been programmed, including common services, but also those that could only be reported ex post facto.

152. Considerable dissatisfaction was expressed by a number of delegations with the current system of implementation rating. The 25 per cent range used in the report was deemed too broad, leaving relatively little room for differentiation between units with widely divergent implementation rates. Suggestions for improvement in this regard included using 10 ranges of 10 per cent each or eliminating the letter rating altogether, indicating instead the exact percentage implementation rate for each unit.

153. A further shortcoming was noted by some delegations in the lack of identification in the report of the source of funding. Since shortfalls in the expected extrabudgetary resources have been identified as one of the major causes of postponements and terminations of programmed outputs, it would be desirable in future reports to show clearly the relation of programme performance to core funding (that is, regular budget) and non-core funding (that is, extrabudgetary resources). It was also suggested that the identification of the source of funding should be made in the programme budget itself.

154. Several delegations noted the largely quantitative nature of the information presented in the report, which made a qualitative judgement on the programme performance extremely difficult.

155. With respect to the quantitative and qualitative aspects of the report, the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination replied that the Secretariat had gone as far as it could in giving precise indicators of programme performance in quantitative terms. The next step was to improve the qualitative aspects. It was also noted that, while the presentation in the report was largely in quantitative terms, the central Secretariat units had, in the hundreds of pages of submissions from the units, a great deal of qualitative information available.

(b) Substantive issues

156. Many delegations expressed concern about the high rates of departures from programmed commitments. Some considered it especially disturbing in light of the considerable effort that had gone into the careful preparation of the programmes. An average rate of departure of 42 per cent, as shown in table 3 of the report, was considered far too high, and it was noted that for some units (for example, UNIDO and UNEP) the rate exceeded 80 per cent. A few delegations, however, also noted that some categories of departures from programmed commitments, such as reformulations or additional outputs resulting from legislative decisions, were not necessarily problems, even though the high average departure rate was undesirable.

157. There was considerable discussion about the various reasons for the high rates of departure. Some delegations expressed severe criticism of the prevailing practice in some units of displacing programmed outputs with outputs added subsequent to the adoption of the programme budget. Some delegations considered that more realistic planning for extrabudgetary resources was needed and that a shortfall in such resources was not sufficient justification for seeking regular budget funding for affected programmes. On the other hand, some other delegations considered that shortfalls in extrabudgetary resources provided sufficient reason

for the Secretary-General to use regular budget resources to fund those programmes. Especially strong concern was expressed by several delegations about the impact of high vacancy rates on programme performance, particularly in the case of ECWA and ECA, but, to a lesser degree, also in the case of the other regional commissions. Some delegations noted that the report failed to address the possible relationship between high rates of programme implementation and over-staffing or under-programming.

158. A number of delegations expressed dissatisfaction with the large number of terminations of programmed outputs and asked whether those terminations had the consent of the intergovernmental bodies concerned. Some delegations also noted, however, that a distinction should be made between mandatory and discretionary outputs. In the case of the former, the Secretariat had no choice but to comply with the mandate. In the case of the latter, on the other hand, the Secretariat should not be denied the initiative to terminate the activity if necessary.

159. With regard to the relationship between programme performance and designation of priorities, several delegations noted with dissatisfaction that only 78 per cent of the outputs designated as highest priority had been implemented. They therefore welcomed the assurance expressed in the report that the objective during the current biennium was to implement the highest priority programmes at a rate close to 100 per cent. In this context, they also questioned the practice of redeploying resources from programmed outputs to outputs added to the approved programme of work by subsequent legislation. As stated in paragraph 50 of the report, those additional activities were treated by programme managers as a matter of urgency and therefore of high priority. It was stressed by some delegations that such redeployment could be done only under proper legislative authority. The Committee considered that the implementation of programme elements proposed by the Secretary-General as being of highest priority should not depend on extrabudgetary funding and that the lowest priority programme elements should be discretionary, but that consideration should be given to duly mandated activities.

160. With regard to terminations of outputs and redeployment, the representative of the Secretary-General noted that it was very difficult to avoid redeployment of resources when intergovernmental decisions added new commitments within existing resources after an effort had been made to match resources and commitments in the programme budget, but the procedure of priority-setting should provide guidelines to programme managers. The programme implication statements to be given to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session and thereafter should help. Two additional points were made in this context. First, an analysis of the termination of outputs in the 1982-1983 biennium revealed that virtually all of them came under the rubric of discretionary rather than mandated outputs. Second, even when an output appeared to be mandated (for example, a report to an intergovernmental body) in the programme budget text, that citation was often an expectation of a mandate which might or might not subsequently materialize. If it did not, then the term "termination" was, of course, misleading, but it was still used as a simple way of accounting.

(c) Institutional issues

161. Several delegations stressed the importance of improving the monitoring of the programme performance, especially in light of the high rate of departures from programmed commitments in the past biennium. They noted the intentions to enhance the functioning of the Central Monitoring Unit and the procedures to be followed in

this regard, as stated in paragraph 52 of the report. One delegation emphasized that the monitoring of outputs should be done in the process of implementation rather than only at the end of the biennium, while another wished to see the steps foreseen in paragraph 52 put into practice even earlier than the "next year" referred to in the report. A number of delegations also attached importance to the improvement of the internal auditing procedure, especially by moving from the current ad hoc audits of programme performance reporting towards a more comprehensive audit system. Some delegations welcomed the assurance made by a representative of the Secretariat that the reinforcement of the functions of the Central Monitoring Unit would be carried out in co-operation with the Internal Audit Unit and would involve no extra resources. Some delegations requested the Secretary-General to report on the requirement to improve the Internal Auditing Unit in order for it to meet its new tasks.

B. Programme performance for the biennium 1982-1983 by budget section

1. Introduction

162. At its 43rd meeting, on 22 May, the Committee considered, under the same item, section III, entitled "Programme performance for the biennium 1982-1983 by budget section", of the report of the Secretary-General (A/39/173/Add.1). For the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, see chapter X, section C, paragraph 343.

2. Discussion

163. A request was made for information regarding the time-schedule followed by the Secretariat in implementing those resolutions which were adopted by the General Assembly in 1982 and 1983 and which contained requests to the Secretary-General to invite the views of Member States. The Secretariat assured the Committee that such information would be provided.

EVALUATION

A. Evaluation of the United Nations Development Programme-financed technical co-operation activities of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in the field of manufactures

1. Introduction

164. At its 42nd, 43rd and 45th to 49th meetings, on 22 to 25 May, the Committee considered, under agenda item 6, entitled "Evaluation", the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on the evaluation of the UNDP-financed technical co-operation activities of UNIDO in the field of manufactures (E/AC.51/1984/7 and Corr.1 and Add.1). Also in connection with the item, the Committee had before it a number of related documents, among them: the full staff evaluation report of 1 February 1983, the Secretary-General's report on the evaluation and the summary of the staff evaluation report (E/AC.51/1983/5 and Add.1), the report of the Permanent Committee of the Industrial Development Board on its eighteenth session (ID/B/309), a note by the UNIDO secretariat (ID/B/C.3/122), the report of the organizational meeting of the Governing Council of UNDP in February 1984 (DP/1984/70) together with relevant summary records, and the report of the Administrator of UNDP on the assessment of findings and recommendations of the staff evaluation report (DP/1984/1) and the related document DP/1984/68 (English only) prepared for the Governing Council at its thirty-first session. For the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, see chapter X, section D, paragraphs 344-356.

165. In introducing the report, the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination recalled the history of the evaluation study on manufactures.

166. The Assistant Secretary-General briefly outlined the twofold purpose of the report under consideration (E/AC.51/1984/7 and Corr.1 and Add.1), which was to examine the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the 1983 staff evaluation report in the light of the critical comments of the two technical intergovernmental bodies, the Governing Council of UNDP and the Permanent Committee of IDB, and to present proposals for the continued monitoring and assessment of those recommendations which were already being implemented by UNDP and UNIDO, and those considered feasible for future implementation. He said that the Committee might wish to consider that the time had come for conclusive action on this particular evaluation study, both to facilitate and accelerate the work of the Committee itself and to permit the Secretariat to pay close attention to the other programmes scheduled to be evaluated.

167. Representatives of UNDP and UNIDO also made introductory statements to clarify or elaborate certain points in the documents before the Committee.

168. The representative of UNDP gave a brief overview of the Governing Council's considerations of the recommendations of the staff evaluation report and the response of the Administrator of UNDP to them. This response, he stressed, despite certain reservations concerning the methodology employed in the study, had been generally positive. Moreover, since a number of recommended actions were already part of UNDP policy, that organization had rejected only two of the study's proposals.

169. With regard to the comprehensive report under consideration, however, the representative noted that his organization did not feel that the views and actions of UNDP, as described in documents DP/1984/1 and DP/1984/68, were fully reflected in all cases. He further stated that although two of the proposals with regard to follow-up to the evaluation recommendations were reasonable and appropriate, others requesting the Governing Council to monitor individual points of implementation were excessive and would impose an undue burden on the Governing Council.

170. The representative of UNDP concluded his remarks by noting the recognition by his organization of the usefulness of the evaluation study, which provided the initiative to further collaboration between UNDP and UNIDO that had led to the production of a more project-specific document, namely, a Programme Advisory Note on programming and formulation of technical co-operation projects in the manufacturing industry subsector.

171. In his statement, the representative of UNIDO informed the Committee that, as reported by the Executive Director of UNIDO to IDB at its eighteenth session, the 13 recommendations addressed specifically to UNIDO were those enumerated under recommendation 5 in paragraph 267 of the full staff report, and under recommendation V of the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General. Of those 13 recommendations, five, namely 5(a)(i) and (ii), 5(b), 5(i) and 5(j) (corresponding to 81(b)(iii), 80(b)(i), 80(b)(ii) and 80(b)(iii), respectively, in the comprehensive report), were said to relate to activities which had been initiated prior to the conducting of the evaluation study. They were in effect an affirmation of what the UNIDO secretariat had already been doing in the context of its management of technical co-operation activities. As far as those five recommendations were concerned, the representative of UNIDO noted that existing mechanisms, such as the regular reviews of progress made in the evaluation programme of the UNIDO secretariat by the Permanent Committee and by IDB at their annual sessions, already provided the required means for reviewing follow-up action.

172. The remaining eight recommendations were said by the UNIDO representative to be new. Of those, seven, namely 5(a)(iii), 5(b), 5(c), 5(d), 5(e), 5(f) and 5(g) (corresponding to 81(b)(iii), 85(b)(ii), 79(b)(iii), 83(b)(i), 83(b)(ii), 79(b)(iv) and 79(b)(v), respectively, in the comprehensive report), were considered either impractical or not ready for implementation. The representative further noted that UNIDO found it extremely difficult to appreciate the merits, or indeed the need, for follow-up action on those recommendations at that stage, for reasons relating either to the imminent conversion of UNIDO into a specialized agency or to the lack of justification under current legislative mandates, priorities and resources.

173. With regard to the last recommendation, 5(k) (outlined in para. 87 of the comprehensive report), the UNIDO representative informed the Committee that it was regarded as having system-wide implications involving the tripartite project information system and therefore dependent upon what UNDP would institute in the future.

2. Discussion

174. The Committee's discussion focused on (a) general comments regarding evaluation and the exercise under consideration, (b) the methodology employed in the evaluation study, and (c) the conclusions and recommendations of the comprehensive report on the joint evaluation of the UNIDO programme in manufactures.

General comments

175. The members of the Committee recognized the importance of evaluation in the United Nations system and to the work of the Committee in the planning, management and increased delivery of programmes and activities. Many delegations made the point that the evaluation of technical assistance was of equal value to both donor and recipient countries in helping to ensure that the scarce resources available were used effectively so that the maximum benefit could be derived from them.

176. With regard to the evaluation on manufactures under consideration, the Committee generally agreed that the exercise represented a commendable effort on the part of the evaluators to carry out a serious analysis leading to conclusions which, although not acceptable in all cases to all parties concerned, nevertheless merited and received serious consideration by the intergovernmental bodies and organizations concerned. However, the view was expressed that the experience of the current evaluation extending over several years indicated that due care should be exercised to ensure that the resources devoted to evaluation did not adversely affect programme delivery.

177. In this regard, the Committee found that the implementation of the recommendations in the report would necessarily be in gradual stages and that they would have to be constantly followed up. It would have to be borne in mind, however, that the rate of implementation might be affected by the following factors:

(a) The scope and major objectives of the study;

(b) The strengths and weaknesses of the methodology used;

(c) The various difficulties and general situation currently faced by UNDP and UNIDO, including, among others, the reduction of resources;

(d) The views of Governments, especially those of the countries in which the 14 large-scale projects subject to field review were situated;

(e) The views of the relevant intergovernmental bodies;

(f) The observations of the governing bodies of UNDP and UNIDO and of their secretariats.

178. Regarding that section of the evaluation study which dealt with the tripartite system, the Committee emphasized that the foundation of the tripartite system, which was based on the 1970 consensus, as stated in General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) of 11 December 1970, should not be called into question, but that ways and means should be considered which might improve its functioning. It was emphasized in this regard, that care should be taken not to lose sight of the fact that, by nature, the tripartite system was not only a technical formula or a mechanism for co-operation and for good management of projects which should be improved constantly, but also a political arrangement where the sovereignty of States in, inter alia, the global appreciation of the projects should be kept in mind, as well as the diversity derived from the different parameters and situations relating to the implementation of programmes.

179. Some members of the Committee also noted with appreciation that both UNDP and UNIDO had reacted positively to the recommendations of the report, even though to a

different degree, and, in accordance with their mandates and with the deliberations of their respective governing bodies, to various proposals contained in the staff evaluation report. Other delegations considered that the nature of the response of UNDP was much more positive than that of UNIDO, regretted that UNIDO demonstrated reluctance to accept the evaluation recommendations and considered that, in their view, legislative mandates existed for most of the action envisaged under the recommendations. The Committee emphasized, however, that the positive trends noted above should be encouraged, and it welcomed the fact that both UNDP and UNIDO had collaborated closely on the recently prepared programme advisory note on the manufactures subsector.

180. The Committee reaffirmed the importance of UNDP and UNIDO in the field of multilateral co-operation for development within the United Nations system for the benefit of developing countries and re-emphasized the need for those bodies to ensure that activities were conducted with maximum effectiveness and impact.

Methodology

181. Concerning the methodology used in the study, the Committee observed that during its previous sessions, it had considered and approved the overall concept of the study and that the major outlines, procedures and principles of the study remained by and large in accordance with that concept.

182. There was some question regarding the representative nature of the sample of projects used, particularly that of the 14 projects in the final field study, and the extent to which generalizations could be applied. After hearing an explanation of the sample selection techniques used and the factors affecting the choice of projects for field study, the Committee generally agreed that although some of the findings and recommendations could only be relevant to the industrial sector, others, for example those concerning the project cycle and some of those relating to the country programming process, would no doubt be found to apply across sectors. The view was, however, expressed that the narrowness of the sample selection left the validity of the generalization even in the industrial sector, open to serious questions.

183. On certain aspects and questions of substance, the Committee felt, however, that the analysis was too broad in nature and that some conclusions and recommendations were too general and could have been examined more extensively. Furthermore, the limitations of the quantitative analysis of the study were noted by some delegations, and it was suggested that qualitative aspects of projects deserved equal consideration. It was the view of other delegations, however, that an adequate balance of quantitative and qualitative aspects had been maintained.

184. The Committee noted with regret that the Governments of those countries in which the field studies were conducted had not received detailed country reports for their comments as envisaged in the original study design.

Comments relating to recommendations

185. With regard to the recommendations of the evaluation study, it was generally agreed that the Committee would not deal with the substance of specific recommendations in the evaluation study, but would concern itself with the modalities proposed in the Secretary-General's comprehensive report (E/AC.51/1984/7 and Corr.1 and Add.1), for follow-up and monitoring of the responses of UNDP and UNIDO to these recommendations.

186. It was felt, however, that in some cases technical clarifications were needed regarding the classification of certain responses of UNDP and UNIDO, as presented in paragraphs 79 through 85 of the Secretary-General's comprehensive report. In this connection, the Committee noted the additional information provided in document E/AC.51/1984/7/Add.1 and in the statements of the representatives of the organizations concerned. The question of whether all recommendations contained in the staff report were addressed by UNDP, as maintained by the representative of that organization, still remained unclear, as there were other opinions expressed in this regard. The representative of UNIDO stated that his organization had not given an operational response to certain recommendations for two reasons: first, because they were related to the project cycle which, in the view of his organization, was within the purview of member States and UNDP; second, because certain recommendations related to impending organizational changes in UNIDO and, in the view of his organization, should be deferred.

187. Under the first category were recommendations appearing in paragraphs 79(b) (ii) and 81(b) (i) and (ii) of the Secretary-General's comprehensive report. In this connection, it was also pointed out that the recommendation appearing in paragraph 79(b) (i) would be more appropriate under 79(a).

188. Under the second category were recommendations appearing in paragraphs 79(b) (iii)-(v); 81(b) (iii); that aspect relating to strengthening of capacities through redeployment proposed in paragraph 267(a) (iii) of the staff report; and 83(b) (i)-(iii).

189. The Committee was also presented with a similar explanation by the representative of UNDP on the acceptance of one recommendation which appeared under paragraph 84(a) (i) as being doubtful. As that recommendation had in fact been accepted by UNDP, it would more appropriately appear under paragraph 82 relating to those recommendations requiring the attention of governing bodies and member States.

B. Report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development"

Discussion

190. At its 38th, 40th and 41st meetings, on 18 and 21 May, the Committee considered, under the same item, the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) entitled "United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development" (see A/38/172) and the comments of the Secretary-General thereon (A/38/172/Add.1). For the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee see chapter X, section D, paragraphs 357-359.

191. Although the JIU report had been available for some time and a number of issues raised by it had been dealt with already, the Committee felt that the report remained relevant in so far as it contained an accurate description of the problems still facing the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development. As an example of issues already addressed, the Committee took note of the recent reorganization whereby the Department was realigned along substantive lines, thereby integrating the backstopping functions with the work of the substantive specialists.

192. Some delegations expressed the view that the real problem facing the Department was lack of resources. Although the work of the Department was very important to all States, especially developing countries, enough funding for its operations had not materialized. These delegations went on to urge the General Assembly to consider the situation with a view to compensating for the non-materialization of extrabudgetary resources from the regular budget.

193. Some other delegations observed that the present difficulties of the Department came from its mandate, structure, methods of procedure and administrative set-up. The difficulty of forecasting extrabudgetary resources had a negative impact on the effectiveness of its operations and the Department was probably insufficiently competitive with other executing agencies.

194. Responding to the questions raised by delegations, the Assistant Secretary-General of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development replied that the issuance of terms of reference for the Department was not yet possible owing to the evolving situation with respect to implementation of related issues concerning General Assembly resolution 32/197. With respect to the relationships of the Department with other entities, especially the Office of Projects Execution of the United Nations Development Programme, there was a need to distinguish the respective role and functions of financial and technical organizations in order to avoid duplication. With respect to the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, however, the research activities of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development were distinctly different in that they related directly to approaches used in technical co-operation activities. The Department's structure and organization had been streamlined and rationalized in July 1983 along the lines recommended in the JIU report, and the Department had now reached the point of minimum critical mass to carry out its responsibilities and needed a period of consolidation. To strengthen its field representation, the Department was using chief technical advisers as much as possible, but no resources were available to outpost staff. A small evaluation unit consisting of one Professional post had been set up, and various actions were in progress to strengthen existing tools for evaluation and to establish new ones, in close collaboration with UNDP. The main thrust was to evaluate the Department's own technical inputs as they contributed to project effectiveness. The Department had decentralized all activities attributed to the regional commissions by the Assembly in its resolution 32/197. These represented all regional and subregional projects and entailed at the same time a corresponding transfer of resources to the regional commissions. The regional commissions were now, therefore, receiving all overhead earnings resulting from the execution of such projects.

195. Representatives of the Department further elaborated as follows:

(a) With respect to field representation, it was explained that the Department was also exploring the use of junior professional officers whose expenses were met through voluntary contributions;

(b) With respect to administrative issues, it was explained that the financial matters related to the payroll and claims of experts, that the phrase "appropriate action" referred to high-level management negotiations which were deferred until such time as the extrabudgetary resources of the Department should increase, and that the criteria used by JIU to settle on \$US 10,000 as the amount (see A/38/172, para. 90, recommendation 6) were not known by the Department but that by comparison the present limits were \$2,500 for local purchases and \$5,000 for international procurement;

(c) With respect to the updated financial situation of the Department, it was explained that the Department had incurred an estimated deficit of \$2.6 million in its programme support account during 1982-1983 as a result of reduced extrabudgetary resources for technical co-operation activities.

196. The Committee expressed its satisfaction at the steps taken by the Department on the question of evaluation and recognized the need to find an appropriate balance between the demands from member States for increased programme delivery and the need for central evaluation.

197. Some delegations expressed objections to the proposal to create a separate evaluation unit in the Department.

198. While several delegations recognized the distinctive roles of the Department and of the Office of Projects Execution of UNDP, they also stressed the importance of avoiding overlapping in their activities.

C. Report on the programme and activities of the Joint United Nations Information Committee

1. Introduction

199. At its 41st and 42nd meetings, on 21 and 22 May, the Committee considered, under the same item, the report of the Secretary-General on the programme and activities of the Joint United Nations Information Committee (JUNIC) (A/AC.198/77) and the note by the Secretary-General on the report (E/AC.51/1984/12). For the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, see chapter X, section D, paragraphs 360-362.

200. In his introductory statement, the representative of the Department of Public Information pointed out that the report before the Committee was a consolidated report for consideration by both CPC and the Committee on Information. He stated that the report did not represent an evaluation of all the various JUNIC activities, nor had it attempted to cover all activities. The approach taken in the report was more analytical and more compatible with programming formulations than last year's report to the Committee and concentrated on highlighting the most important topics. Thus, the question of Development Forum, which was undergoing major changes in its policy and direction, was extensively covered in the report (A/AC.198/77, sect. II, paras. 17-23). Similarly JUNIC's plan of action for 1984-1985 (sect. III) was also selective, covering only the most important areas of joint JUNIC activities.

2. Discussion

201. Delegations expressed general support for the activities of JUNIC and welcomed its efforts at pooling resources through the execution of joint projects. Some delegations, while supporting JUNIC's programmes, raised the question of their effectiveness and encouraged JUNIC to conduct studies in order to evaluate the impact of those programmes, including an evaluation of the usefulness of Development Forum to end users.

202. Several delegations commented on the proposals for new directions for Development Forum. A view was expressed that Development Forum should institute a nominal fee for the general public which would help cover part of its expenses. Other delegations felt that it should continue to be distributed gratis to individual readers in the interest of as wide distribution as possible. The question of the review of the existing Development Forum mailing lists was also commented upon, and the representative of the Department for Public Information explained that the review would be undertaken in 1984 because of the described policy changes, especially those which concerned new criteria for readers.

203. The JUNIC plan of action for 1984-1985 received general support. Several delegations, however, commented on certain projects which formed parts of the plan. In respect of development education projects directed mainly to the public in the industrialized countries, some delegations pointed out the need for a more globalized approach. Concerning the project entitled "Agenda for a Small Planet III" (project K in the plan of action), the question was posed as to the origin of a mandate for the project, to which the reply was given that it derived from the Department's responsibilities in respect of the World Disarmament Campaign. Another view was that this project should be a major JUNIC effort which would include interviews with political leaders. A view was also expressed that the project should emphasize the link between disarmament and the development of developing countries. As regards operational activities for development, a view was expressed that JUNIC should not deal with the question of direction and flows of bilateral aid. One delegation reiterated its position that the activities implemented under ACC decision 1982/27, including the system-wide public information campaign by JUNIC, should not be used to exert pressure on Governments.

204. Several delegations favoured the inclusion of the problem of apartheid among the topics dealt with by JUNIC. The formulation of a special project which would contribute to the promotion of a new world information and communication order was also proposed.

D. Tentative timetable for intergovernmental review of in-depth and triennial evaluation studies scheduled for 1986 to 1992, including proposals for a linkage between themes of in-depth evaluation studies and of cross-organizational programme analyses

1. Introduction

205. At its 7th meeting, on 26 April, the Committee considered, under the same item, the note by the Secretary-General on the tentative timetable for intergovernmental review of in-depth and triennial evaluation studies scheduled for 1986 to 1992, including proposals for a linkage between themes of in-depth evaluation studies and of cross-organizational programme analyses (E/AC.51/1984/2). For the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, see chapter X, section D, paragraphs 363-365.

206. In introducing the note, the representative of the Secretary-General recalled that, at its twenty-third session, the Committee had considered the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Strengthening the capacity of the United Nations evaluation units and systems and timetable for review of evaluation programmes requested under General Assembly resolutions 36/228 B and 37/234, section II"

(A/38/133 and Corr.1) and had arrived at a timetable and chosen topics for the years 1984-1992. 12/

207. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the second aspect considered in the note, which responded to the Committee's request that the Secretary-General should examine the feasibility of a linkage between the themes of in-depth evaluation studies and those of cross-organizational programme analyses. 13/ It was noted that the Committee had discussed previously the question of such a linkage under item 7 of its agenda. The representative of the Secretary-General reiterated the Secretariat's agreement with the views expressed previously by the Committee, when several delegations noted that, in view of the differences in their time-frame and coverage, the over-rigid scheduling of the two exercises would be counter-productive and would preclude using the findings of one in the preparation of the other.

2. Discussion

208. The Committee expressed its appreciation of the quality and format of the document before it, which it felt provided a useful basis for the further consideration of the matter. Several delegations stressed the limitations in utilizing in-depth evaluation reviews carried out according to such a timetable as the sole instrument for examining all programmes within the medium-term plan period, as stipulated in regulation 6.2 of the Regulations Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation. In this regard, the representative of the Secretary-General noted, in response to questions raised by the Committee, that, in future, triennial reviews of the implementation of the Committee's recommendations on previous evaluations would not consist merely of the descriptions of their activities transmitted by the organizations concerned, but would be more analytical, evaluative assessments performed by the Secretariat of the extent of the implementation of the Committee's recommendations. Thus, the Committee would cover three or more programmes at each session; for example, in 1985, the Committee would consider an in-depth evaluation of drug control and the triennial reviews of the implementation of its recommendations, based on studies of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, 1976-1978; manufactures, 1976-1979; and mineral resources, 1976-1979.

209. On the whole, the delegations indicated their support for and acceptance of the criteria and principles for the selection of topics, as set forth in paragraphs 3, 5 and 6 of the note by the Secretary-General (E/AC.51/1984/2). One delegation, however, stated that one subject in the economic and social sectors should be reviewed every year and not in alternate years, as indicated in paragraph 6 of the note.

210. Several delegations, while recognizing that long-term forward planning was necessary to the work of the Committee, cautioned that a certain flexibility would have to be maintained in that regard in order to deal with unforeseen circumstances in the future. They stressed that, should the need arise at any time during the period covered by the timetable, the Committee might alter the topics or their order of consideration in order to respond to any specific situation that required its attention.

211. With regard to the linkage between in-depth evaluation studies and cross-organizational programme analyses, the Committee confirmed its previous conclusion that the relationship should be complementary and mutually supporting and that, although, as a general rule, cross-organizational programme analyses and evaluations of the same topic might not be scheduled for the same year, previous relevant findings from one exercise should be used in the preparation of the other and, where appropriate, included in the documentation to be submitted to the Committee. In this connection, the Committee expressed its disagreement with the first sentence in paragraph 15 of the note by the Secretary-General.

E. Documents dissemination system

1. Introduction

212. At its 7th meeting, on 26 April, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the documents dissemination system (E/AC.51/1984/6), which had been prepared in response to the request of the Committee at its twenty-second session. ^{14/} For the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, see chapter X, section D, paragraph 366. ^{14/}

213. In his introductory statement, the representative of the Office of Financial Services referred to the importance of ensuring that the distribution policies and procedures provided a means by which target users could be reached and of examining the best steps to reach them. In the opinion of the Secretary-General, the present machinery for programme review, programme evaluation and performance monitoring - at both the Secretariat and the intergovernmental levels - provided the most effective means of improvement in this area.

2. Discussion

214. The Committee noted that the report of the Secretary-General contained a number of specific details on the distribution process for publications and that improvements could be made to render the process more effective.

215. As regards the orientation of the study, several delegations expressed the view that the report emphasized channels of distribution rather than ways of distributing documents which would facilitate their reaching target users. They also pointed out that the system had weaknesses in the definition and identification of target users.

216. One question raised was whether the existing dissemination system was relevant and only needed improvement to ensure that documentation reached the target users or whether there was a need for new infrastructure involving additional resources. Other questions concerned the publicity for sales publications, the use of information centres for distribution purposes, and in particular feed-back on target users the need for updating the lists of target users and the relationship and division of responsibilities existing between the central units and the programme managers responsible for publications.

217. The Committee was informed that despite some shortcomings which had been pointed out by several delegations, the system was working quite effectively; steps would however be taken to introduce improvements on the lines discussed, which would not require extra resources.

CHAPTER V

CROSS-ORGANIZATIONAL PROGRAMME ANALYSES

A. Cross-organizational programme analysis of the activities of the United Nations system in human settlements

1. Introduction

218. At its 33rd, 34th, 36th and 37th meetings, on 15 and 17 May, the Committee considered, under item 7, entitled "Cross-organizational programme analysis", the report of the Secretary-General (E/AC.51/1984/5 and Corr.1-2) containing the cross-organizational programme analysis of the activities of the United Nations system in human settlements. For the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, see chapter X, section E, paragraphs 367-369. The report was introduced by the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination, who pointed out that it sought to meet all of the criteria for cross-organizational programme analyses set out by the Committee, including in particular its request that the analyses include a critical appraisal of problems in the field. He noted that two innovations were particularly important for this analysis: an initial review of the structure of activities in relation to national needs by a competent intergovernmental body, in this case the Committee on Human Settlements at its sixth session in 1983, and the use of information on activities over three bienniums. He felt that the cross-organizational programme analysis provided the basis for the Committee to make wide-ranging recommendations in a major area of concern for the system.

2. Discussion

219. The Committee's general view of the cross-organizational programme analysis was that, despite problems of definition, the report constituted a major effort of high quality leading to pertinent, useful and important recommendations deserving serious consideration. As a result, it should serve as a useful model for the future analyses presented to the Committee.

220. The Committee made several general comments of substance. First, it noted that the human settlements conditions, as described in the problematique of the cross-organizational programme analysis, remained for developing countries, especially the least developed among them, a matter of grave concern which required serious attention. Certain groups were identified as requiring special attention, for example the elderly, the disabled and youth. In this context, the view was expressed that the situation of women should also receive special attention. This underlined the importance and urgency for effective human settlements activities by the United Nations system to help promote and complement national action. Secondly, the Committee noted that the Commission on Human Settlements, despite having been consulted on the basis of a preliminary report, had not been able to review the final version of the cross-organizational programme analysis and therefore its substantive comments on the conclusions and recommendations were not available to the Committee. Thirdly, the Committee noted that, while most of the relevant activities of the system had been included in the analysis, the activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had not been incorporated. It also noted that full information on the rural settlements

activities of the World Bank had not been reflected in the analysis. Fourthly, the Committee noted that the imperatives agreed by the Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held at Vancouver, Canada, in 1976, did not seem to have led to fundamental changes in the de facto orientation of the activities of the United Nations system and did not seem to have elicited a dynamic response by it.

221. In specific terms, the Committee concluded that the analysis revealed the absence of a practical and functional operational definition which could be used for more effective programming and co-ordination. It was felt that the intermediate definition used in the report, while reasonable, still lacked sufficient precision as would have been desirable. The imprecision of the definition used cast doubt for some members on the conclusions and recommendations.

222. With regard to the question of co-ordination, the Committee recognized that at both global and country levels there was inadequate co-ordination of the activities of the United Nations system. From the analysis, it was observed that the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, although participating in the subsidiary machinery of ACC, was not a member of ACC in its own right and had not been able to support adequately the central co-ordination role of the Commission on Human Settlements. It was felt that the Commission had not been able to discharge that role sufficiently. In addition, the operation of mechanisms of co-ordination of the United Nations system's activities at the country level, including in particular the exchange of appropriate information on ongoing and planned operational projects, was not yet systematic. In view of the relatively reduced resources available for the field and the need to achieve the most effective results within those limits, the mechanisms for co-ordination must function effectively. The view was expressed that the assumption that additional resources would not be available could not be the primary motivating factor for co-ordination.

223. With regard to priorities, the Committee noted that serious problems persisted in the field of human settlements. It was recognized that the appropriate general lines of action were set out by the Vancouver Conference. Since that time, however, the patterns of de facto priorities for activities had not changed. The Committee noted that national priorities, as indicated in the patterns of requests for technical co-operation and other operational assistance, differed from the priorities of programmes which were formulated and approved at the global level. Accordingly, it was desirable to find a way of linking global priorities to national needs so that those actions reinforced each other and that activities defined at an intergovernmental level could support and inspire those which took place at the country level. The Committee noted in the conclusion of the report that the resources in real terms for regular programmes had stagnated since 1976 and, for the most directly-related human settlements activities, had begun to show a decline (E/AC.51/1984/5, para. 101). It felt that this underlay the fact that available resources should be channelled to substantive programmes of high priority in order to achieve a more effective use of resources as well as to minimize administrative and support costs.

B. Mandates of, and problems addressed by, the United Nations system in economic and technical co-operation among developing countries

1. Introduction

224. At its 11th and 12th meetings, on 30 April and 1 May, the Committee considered, under the same item, the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Analysis of the mandates of, and problems addressed by, the United Nations system in economic and technical co-operation among developing countries" (A/39/154-E/1984/46 and Corr.1). For the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, see chapter X, section E, paragraphs 370-374.

225. In introducing the report, the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination recalled that the Committee, at its twenty-third session, had decided that the subject of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries was sufficiently complex and sensitive to merit an early review in terms of concept and approach in order to ensure that the report on the cross-organizational programme analysis of the subject, to be considered by the Committee at its twenty-fifth session, would be as useful as possible. He emphasized that the report did not contain such an analysis, although the analysis contained therein did resemble a cross-organizational programme analysis in certain respects. Among the recommendations made in the report, he drew attention to the importance of those contained in paragraph 98, in which the Secretary-General proposed two criteria for identifying the activities to be included in the cross-organizational programme analysis. Without clear, operationally usable selection criteria, it would be extremely difficult to provide the Committee with a consistent or meaningful analysis on which to base its conclusions and recommendations.

2. Discussion

226. Many delegations emphasized that the area of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries was an integral part of international economic co-operation and that such co-operation must not be seen as a substitute for other forms of co-operation. It was observed that the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries ^{15/} did not appear to have been given its due weight in the report of the Secretary-General in relation to the programmes of action for economic co-operation among developing countries adopted by the Group of 77 and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries. In this context, the Committee noted that, in terms of elaborating the proposed substantive structure of the cross-organizational programme analysis, the Buenos Aires Plan of Action differed from the programmes of action for economic co-operation among developing countries in that its recommendations were focused on means of action rather than on substantive areas and this might have led to its being under-emphasized in the report. The Committee recognized, however, that it remained the most comprehensive general mandate for the United Nations system in the area and was assured that it would be used as a major standard by which to analyse activities in the cross-organizational programme analysis.

227. The Committee felt that the report of the Secretary-General constituted an extremely useful, comprehensive appreciation of the historical and legislative background to the work of the United Nations system in support of economic and

technical co-operation among developing countries. It was noted that the material compiled for the preparation of the report could also be useful to the Committee in connection with its function of assessing the continuing validity of legislative decisions of more than five years' standing. As regards the standard used for the inclusion of resolutions and decisions in the analysis of mandates, the Committee noted that it confined inclusion to those which contained specific injunctions to a secretariat or secretariats of the system to support co-operation among developing countries.

228. The Committee recognized that the major purpose of the report was the limited one of providing a firm conceptual basis for the preparation of the cross-organizational programme analysis, but a number of delegations raised questions on the basis of their consideration of the document. It was noted that there was no comprehensive mandate covering the work of the system in the area of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries or its relationship to the policy guidance emanating from groups of developing countries. Some delegations also raised the problem of the interpretation of the principle of universality and noted that, while it was not dealt with in the report of the Secretary-General, it would be touched on in a report to be submitted by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) to the nineteenth series of joint meetings of CPC and ACC. In view of the importance attached to the area of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries, the view was expressed that it should be the subject of an in-depth evaluation at an early stage and it was noted that this might require an adjustment to the current schedule of such evaluations. It was also suggested that the Secretariat might usefully contact the core of assistants to the Chairman of the Group of 77 during the preparation of the cross-organizational programme analysis.

229. Specific questions were raised in relation to the adequacy of the mandates under which UNDP and UNCTAD operated, the information systems supportive of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries and the role of the Advisory Committee for the Co-ordination of Information Systems (ACCIS) in their co-ordination, the progress made in the implementation of the information referral system (INRES) of UNDP and the possible problems of co-ordination between UNDP and UNCTAD. In reply, the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination stressed that ACCIS had been established only a short time before but that various aspects of its work, such as the Panel on Communications among Data Bases, were of considerable potential value to developing countries in promoting economic and technical co-operation among developing countries. The representative of UNCTAD felt that the question of adequacy of mandates was best determined by the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system and that the relationship between UNDP and UNCTAD was clearly that of a funding agency and an executing agency, respectively. The representative of UNDP expressed the view that there were no serious problems of co-ordination between UNDP and UNCTAD and that issues of concern were jointly reviewed on a regular basis through the ACC machinery. He also announced that approximately 3,000 completed questionnaires had been returned for inclusion in the INRES system and that seminars were being organized to promote the system's wider use.

230. In addition to the points raised in the report, the Committee stressed that the cross-organizational programme analysis should also focus on the relationship between the mandates and the activities of the United Nations system in the area and, in that context, highlight any gaps or obstacles that prevented the comprehensive fulfilment of the mandates. While the difference in function between

cross-organizational programme analyses and in-depth evaluations was recognized, the Committee stressed that the cross-organizational programme analysis should take more than a merely descriptive and quantitative approach and should provide the Committee with the critical analysis and assessment that it would need in order to draw issues of importance to the attention of competent intergovernmental bodies. While it was noted that the focus of the report of the Secretary-General was on the role of the United Nations system in promoting and supporting economic and technical co-operation among developing countries, some delegations felt that the role and achievements of developed countries should also be examined, as should the achievements of the developing countries. Other delegations, however, felt that this would go beyond the proper scope of a cross-organizational programme analysis. The Committee noted that the report did not include information on the World Bank, IMF and the IFAD owing to the absence of specific mandates in the area for these organizations. The Committee was, however, assured that any relevant activities carried out by those organizations would be included in the cross-organizational programme analysis. The importance of increasing the procurement of goods and services from developing countries for the programmes of the United Nations system was also stressed. Some delegations expressed in this regard the view that account should also be taken in the cross-organizational programme analyses of the economic and social impact on developing countries of the relevant activities of the World Bank, IMF and IFAD, in particular IMF conditionality.

231. The Committee considered that the criteria proposed in paragraph 98 of the report should be refined and that they should not be interpreted too broadly. In particular, the formulation of the first criterion, in which mention was made of helping to establish linkages through such means as strengthening national capacities or promoting co-operation, caused concern.

232. Concern was also expressed regarding the inclusion in the cross-organizational programme analysis of activities that were only partially related to economic and technical co-operation among developing countries; it was felt that this would lead to an overstatement of the scale of the activities of the United Nations system. The Committee noted, however, that the inclusion of only those activities that were integrally related to economic and technical co-operation among developing countries would exclude many activities of relevance and importance. It was, therefore, proposed that activities which had a relevant clear component would be included, but that their partial relevance would be reflected by an estimated percentage figure applied to financial data. This would permit a presentation showing both the distribution between activities wholly and partially relevant and realistic estimates of the total financial resources applied through the United Nations system to support economic and technical co-operation among developing countries.

233. The Committee noted the different views expressed concerning the relationship between economic co-operation among developing countries and technical co-operation among developing countries and noted also that, while the question of that relationship would be examined in the cross-organizational programme analysis, it would not constitute the main focus of the analysis. Several delegations stated in this regard that technical co-operation among developing countries could be understood to be one of the dimensions of economic co-operation among developing countries. The question was raised as to whether there was a problem in defining the relative competences of UNDP and UNCTAD in the area. It was felt that this question should be examined in the cross-organizational programme analysis.

234. A number of suggestions were made as to the type of recommendations that might emerge from the cross-organizational programme analysis. One of these related to arrangements for co-operation between the secretariats of the United Nations system and the core of assistants to the Chairman of the Group of 77. Another concerned the possibility of designating a focal point within the United Nations system for economic and technical co-operation among developing countries. Finally, it was felt that it might be possible to draw conclusions about the ways of enhancing and improving the support provided by the United Nations system for information flows to and between developing countries so as to strengthen economic and technical co-operation among them.

C. Areas for future cross-organizational programme analyses

1. Introduction

235. At its 3rd meeting, on 24 April, the Committee, under the same item, discussed areas for future cross-organizational programme analyses. It had before it a report of the Secretary-General on the topic (E/AC.51/1984/3). For the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, see chapter X, section E, paragraphs 375-377.

236. In introducing the report, the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination noted that it had been prepared to assist the Committee in selecting a topic for its session in 1986, in accordance with the Committee's recommendation at its twentieth session that a two-year lead time was needed by the Secretariat to prepare cross-organizational programme analyses. 16/ In connection with the feasibility of scheduling cross-organizational programme analyses and the evaluation on the same subject in the same year, he pointed out that while the CPC mandate in relation to cross-organizational programme analyses was system-wide, its mandate relating to evaluation covered the United Nations only. The typical cross-organizational programme analysis delimited the programme area concerned and identified the organizations having activities in it, analysed what was expected of the United Nations system in terms of the mandates and problems addressed, analysed the activities that were under way in order to identify gaps, overlaps and inconsistencies in coverage, described and appraised the state of co-ordination among the organizations of the system, and finally proposed conclusions and recommendations for consideration by CPC. He noted that the methodology had reached an acceptable level but that there was concern that the analyses had not been effectively used to generate the kinds of recommendations that would enable the Committee to strengthen the role of the Economic and Social Council in programme co-ordination.

2. Discussion

237. The Committee's discussion focused on three issues: the means by which the Committee might make better use of cross-organizational programme analyses in framing recommendations on co-ordination, the question of their linkage with evaluation and plan review and the selection of a topic for 1986.

238. It was generally agreed that following the Committee's previous recommendations, the methodology applied in cross-organizational programme analyses had been developed to the point at which the Committee could now focus its attention on the recommendations to be made on the basis of the analysis. In the

past the reports had perhaps not met the Committee's requirements to the fullest extent. It was also noted that many of the recommendations had been directed to the secretariats of the organizations of the United Nations system and that in the future a more effective approach might be to make recommendations to the intergovernmental bodies concerned. Depending on the subject, such recommendations could be very specific and action-oriented. Some delegations noted in this regard that the analyses should also focus on identifying gaps in coverage by activities and subjects that merited higher priority and that recommendations on the basis of which organizations should fill gaps would be particularly important. It was noted, however, that in making such recommendations the Committee would have to be selective and bear in mind that it should not itself make major substantive judgements but rather should indicate the need for such judgements to the competent specialized intergovernmental bodies and the Economic and Social Council. Some delegations noted that if that process was to be successful, the Committee would also have to include the follow-up of its recommendations in its agenda.

239. With regard to linking cross-organizational programme analyses and evaluations, the representative of the Secretariat stated that the two exercises involved constitutionally different functions of the Committee. In this respect, however, several delegations agreed that, as a minimum, cross-organizational programme analyses and evaluations on the same subject should be scheduled closely enough together that they would reinforce each other. Some delegations pointed out that excessive rigidity in selecting topics in advance might not allow the Committee to respond to changing needs. It was suggested that when the Committee considered a cross-organizational programme analysis or an evaluation on a given subject, previous documentation that was relevant could be brought to its attention. Not only should the preparation of a study take into account previous cross-organizational programme analyses or evaluations on the same subject, but, when desirable, they could be included in the documentation placed before the Committee. With regard to plan reviews, it was noted that the six-year horizon for a medium-term plan limited the number of subjects that could feasibly be examined with an intent to influence the plan. The Committee recalled its decision that the subjects of cross-organizational programme analyses and the discussions of the Joint Meeting of CPC and ACC should be linked.

240. With regard to the selection of a topic for 1986, there was a general support for the subject of economic and social research and policy analysis. Several delegations also noted that there were good reasons for considering the subject of transport, particularly in the light of its importance for trade and in view of the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa. Population and electronic data processing and information systems were also considered possible subjects. While favouring economic and social research and policy analysis, the Committee raised the question about what the selection of that subject would imply in terms of methodology.

241. In response, the representative of the Secretariat noted that current methodological approaches would generally be followed with modifications in two respects. First, a standard would have to be developed against which to assess the coverage of activities and the specific subjects of research and policy analysis which would frame the analysis would have to be clearly defined. It was suggested that those subjects should be of broad intergovernmental concern and could be derived from an analysis of major economic and social policy statements such as the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and the Declaration on Social Progress and Development and the results of major

international conferences. It would be necessary to define those categories carefully in order both to delimit the scope of the study and to permit an examination of diverse sectoral reviews and analyses in terms of their relationship with broader economic and social policy questions. Secondly, it would be necessary to modify the main unit of analysis, which in previous studies had been the activity as reflected in programme planning documents. Instead, the study would focus mainly on the outputs of those programme activities, that is, the major policy studies produced by the system such as the World Economic Survey, the Report on the World Social Situation, the World Development Report, the World Labour Report, The State of Food and Agriculture and similar reports. Those reports could be examined to determine the extent to which they dealt with similar problems, used the same sources of data and arrived at similar conclusions and whether their preparation had involved co-ordination with other organizations concerned.

242. The Committee agreed that, as had been the case in previous cross-organizational programme analyses, a preliminary report should be submitted to the Committee at its twenty-fifth session, in 1985, setting out the conceptual approach which the Secretariat intended to use in preparing the study. It noted that the study must be carefully designed so as to ensure both that its scope was manageable and that it served a practical purpose.

D. Follow-up to the cross-organizational programme analysis of the activities of the United Nations system in marine affairs

1. Introduction

243. At its 3rd meeting, on 24 April, the Committee considered, under the same item, the question of the follow-up to the cross-organizational programme analysis of the activities of the United Nations system in marine affairs, which it had considered at its twenty-third session (E/AC.51/1983/2 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1). The Committee had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting a report by the Secretaries-General of IMO and of UNCTAD (E/AC.51/1984/4). The report was submitted in response to a request by the Committee to IMO and UNCTAD that they should increase their co-operation in the field of maritime transport and should report to CPC at its twenty-fourth session. ^{17/} For the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, see chapter X, section E, paragraph 378.

244. The report was introduced by a representative of the Office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination, who pointed out that this was the first time that the Committee's consideration of a cross-organizational programme analysis had led to a delineation of responsibilities in a specific programme area.

2. Discussion

245. The Committee considered that the efforts of IMO and UNCTAD to co-ordinate their activities represented progress in the right direction and were to be encouraged.

246. Some delegations noted that an overlap still appeared to occur in the area of maritime liens and mortgages and related subjects. Activities in this area had been included by UNCTAD in the work programme of its Working Group on International Shipping Legislation but were already in the work programme of the Legal Committee of IMO.

247. Some delegations added that the mechanisms for co-operation put forward by the two organizations had not yet led to a clear definition of areas of responsibility and that the possibility of overlapping activities might still exist, should a situation arise where both organizations could be involved. Other delegations, however, noted the difficulty in making a clear distinction between the technical and the economic aspects of the activities and added that, since the consultations between the two organizations were still to be concluded, it would be premature to make concrete recommendations regarding duplication and overlap.

248. The Committee urged that the arrangement between UNCTAD and IMO, as outlined in paragraph 9 of the report, should be flexible to meet the needs of developing countries and should not lead to possible institutionalized duplication. If the arrangement were also to include the regional commissions, as suggested in the report, the Committee would need clarification on how their work would be incorporated.

249. It was stated that the activities carried out by IMO and UNCTAD were mandated by their respective governing bodies. In this connection, it was suggested that a greater awareness by governing bodies of the content of each other's work programmes could help solve the problem of overlap which might eventually occur.

CHAPTER VI

MEASURES TO IMPROVE SECRETARIAT SUPPORT FOR THE COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND CO-ORDINATION

A. Introduction

250. At the 33rd and 35th meetings, on 15 and 16 May, the Committee considered, under item 4, entitled "Measures to improve secretariat support for the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination", a statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management in response to its request for secretariat services. For the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, see chapter X, section F, paragraphs 379-380.

251. The Under-Secretary-General recalled the historical background of the matter and his statement to the Fifth Committee on 31 October 1983, when he affirmed that it was not in the best interest of the Organization to enact piecemeal changes but rather to introduce all necessary interrelated changes as a result of a total inquiry into the methods of work of the Organization. He had assured the Fifth Committee at that time that increased assistance would be provided to CPC pursuant to its request.

252. As to the present situation, the Under-Secretary-General stated that the inquiry referred to above was still being carried out and that he was not yet in a position to report on it. One of the parts of the review concerned the integration of the planning, programming, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation functions - an issue on which Member States had requested to be consulted and on which consultations could take place or be initiated in the month of June. He did not feel that the question of secretariat services for the Committee could be considered in much detail by itself, but should be seen in the broader context he had outlined. He noted, however, two considerations that could be advanced at this stage: the increasing importance of the role and functions of the Committee and the fact that the cycle of planning, programming, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation covered 12 months a year and was not limited to a six-week period coinciding with the annual session of the Committee. There was therefore a requirement for an identifiable focal point within the Secretariat which would be able to ensure the necessary follow-up to the Committee's decisions and would constitute a point of contact from which co-ordinated responses could be given on behalf of the Secretariat to any questions that might arise.

253. The Under-Secretary-General assured the Committee that the Secretary-General fully appreciated that requirement and would ensure that it was addressed. He was confident that a satisfactory solution to the issue would shortly be suggested to Member States in the context of the expressed desire by the Committee and the Secretary-General himself for greater rationalization of the management functions.

B. Discussion

254. The Committee welcomed the assurances given by the Under-Secretary-General regarding the intention of the Secretary-General to follow up the recommendations contained in General Assembly resolution 38/227 A, section II, paragraph 5. It was stated, however, that although there was a connection between them, the

Under-Secretary-General should have separated the questions related to improvement of secretariat services to CPC from those related to the restructuring of the secretariat, since the former had originated in specific deficiencies in direct services to the Committee.

255. The Committee, however, acknowledged that in this regard except for late distribution of documents secretariat services to CPC had generally improved.

256. The Committee had hoped to receive more information on the proposed focal point which would ensure the necessary follow-up action on the information requested by members of the Committee. It was stated that the intentions of the Secretary-General could have been outlined more concretely, particularly with regard to measures for the organization of the Committee's work, the establishment of its timetable, the strengthening and rationalization of the existing structure of the Committee's secretariat or the creation of a new service unit for consideration by the Committee.

257. On the question of the integration of planning, programming, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation functions, it was stated that the Secretary-General could have brought to the attention of the Committee the guidelines and outlines of possible proposals which would have made it possible for Member States to prepare themselves for consultations. It was also stated that such integration should take account of the necessary distinction between the function of programming and the function of budgeting and the implications it would entail for the reorganization of the administrative units of the Secretariat. During reorganization, the planning functions should be kept on an equal footing with the function of budgeting. The view was also expressed that such integration should take into account the precedents of the function of programming over that of budgeting and that this should be borne in mind in the reorganization of the administrative units of the Secretariat.

CHAPTER VII

REPORTS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON CO-ORDINATION

A. Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination for 1983-1984

1. Introduction

258. At its 50th and 51st meetings, on 29 May, the Committee considered, under item 9, entitled "Reports of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination", the annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination for 1983-1984 (E/1984/66). For the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, see chapter X, section G, paragraphs 381-384.

259. In his introductory statement, the Assistant Secretary-General, Office for Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters, noted that, pursuant to the recommendations adopted by CPC at its twenty-third session, the report before the Committee gave more detailed information on actions required from organizations of the United Nations system, addressed the nature of problems in the management of programme activities and proposed some solutions to these problems; in addition the report listed the reports issued by ACC.

260. He noted that for its deliberations on development and international economic co-operation, as described in section I of the report, ACC, at its first regular session of 1984, focused its discussions on a paper on employment and development prepared by the Director-General of ILO.

261. The second section of the report dealt with the review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, an undertaking to which ACC attached the greatest importance. The third section of the report was devoted to the review of programme issues dealt with by the Consultative Committee of Substantive Questions (Programme Matters) and, following CPC recommendations, provided greater detail than previously. In 1983, cross-sectoral reviews of medium-term plans of organizations were conducted for the first time in the areas of population and food and agriculture and a cross-organizational programme analysis was undertaken in the area of marine affairs.

262. The fourth section of the report dealt with issues falling under the responsibility of the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Operational Activities). In this connection ACC was still very much concerned, in spite of some improvement in the past year, about the overall picture regarding resources available for operational activities, the lack of certainty and the inadequate level of resources in real terms made available through multilateral and bilateral channels to assist the development efforts of developing countries.

263. The fifth section of the report covered management and institutional policy issues which were kept under review by the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions. Two particular concerns had been underlined in the report, namely, harmonization of administrative, financial, personnel, planning and procurement procedures and rationalization of the work of ACC. In connection with the latter,

ACC was conscious of the need to keep its subsidiary machinery streamlined and to reduce the number of meetings and reports to the extent allowed by the request by intergovernmental bodies.

2. Discussion

264. The Committee agreed that the annual overview report for 1983-1984 was better than previous reports. The report had been drafted according to the recommendations adopted by CPC at its twenty-third session and contained more detailed and useful information on the work of ACC.

265. The Committee again stressed that ACC should in its reports put emphasis on the action required from the organizations of the United Nations system rather than on the action required from Member States.

266. The Committee reaffirmed the importance of the activities of ACC and of the role of its members in the efforts being exerted to give impetus to multilateral co-operation and co-ordination in the United Nations system. In this regard it welcomed the fact that ACC granted constant attention to numerous activities in various areas and also gave particular attention to follow-up measures in these areas.

267. The Committee formulated specific comments on a number of issues.

(a) Development and international economic co-operation

268. The Committee agreed that the discussion paper entitled "Employment and development: problems and perspectives" by the Director-General of ILO had provided a very interesting focus for the discussion by ACC at its first regular session of 1984 of development and economic co-operation.

269. Some delegations objected to the wording of paragraphs 7 and 8 as it seemed to imply that ACC was dictating to Member States the kind of policy they should develop. It was stated that the decision regarding adjustment measures should be the prerogative of Member States.

(b) Programme issues

Progress in joint planning by the organizations of the United Nations system

270. The Committee noted that the progress achieved in joint planning since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 32/197 had been slow but, nevertheless, satisfactory. It noted with appreciation such achievements as the cross-organizational programme analysis on human settlements which would serve as a basis for joint planning and provide the elements for further co-ordination by the organizations of the United Nations system when they drafted their next proposed medium-term plan or their next proposed programme budget. Other examples of areas where joint planning had been successful were nutrition, which was monitored by the ACC Sub-Committee on Nutrition, and rural development, which was dealt with by the ACC Task Force on Rural Development.

271. The Committee further noted that the process of prior consultations on work programmes and plans, particularly that which took place before programme proposals

were finalized provided a useful tool for joint planning and gave CPC the opportunity to take into account comments made on the proposed activities of the United Nations by other organizations of the United Nations system.

272. Regarding the computerized data base developed by the United Nations, the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination noted that it contained information on all the activities contained in programme budgets of the organizations of the system at the subprogramme level and allowed rapid retrieval and print out of information which was being used informally within the Secretariat as well as made available to the organizations of the United Nations system. The information thus retrieved served as the initial factual basis for COPAs, permitted systematic exchange of information for prior consultations and accordingly made joint planning easier. Further work was under way in adjusting the data classifications used in the data base to broaden indexing tools such as the Macrothesaurus.

Overview of the objectives and plans of the organizations of the United Nations system

273. The Committee agreed that the overview of the objectives and plans of the organizations of the United Nations system was an important document and that it contained useful information and should therefore be completed and published by the Secretariat. In this regard, the Committee discussed the possibility of having the publication issued in connection with the commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations.

Economic and technical co-operation among developing countries

274. The Committee noted the statement adopted by ACC at its first regular session, held in April 1984. It was recalled that the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1983/50 took note of the agreement by ACC at the eighteenth series of Joint Meetings of CPC and ACC to carry out a review of the work in the area of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries, with a view to improving the co-ordination of the activities of the United Nations system and to report thereon to CPC after the nineteenth series of Joint Meetings.

275. Subsequently, ACC decided to formulate a policy statement which it discussed at its session of October 1983 and adopted at its first regular session of 1984. That statement would be considered at the nineteenth series of Joint Meetings of CPC and ACC, which would take place on 2 and 3 July 1984.

Marine affairs

276. The Committee noted with appreciation the progress achieved in the follow-up to the cross-organizational programme analysis of the activities of the United Nations system in marine affairs, especially in terms of follow-up to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and in assistance to developing countries in the fields of marine science, technology and ocean service infrastructure.

Disarmament-related activities of the United Nations system

277. The Committee was informed that focal points designated within the United Nations system had met on 10 April 1984 in order to initiate among other things, preparations for bringing up the issue in ACC itself, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 38/188 J.

(c) Operational issues

278. Regarding the simplification and harmonization of aid modalities, the Committee welcomed the steps pursued by the organizations of the United Nations system to simplify and harmonize aid modalities within the United Nations system and it looked forward to further progress in that direction.

279. A number of delegations addressed the issue of links between technical co-operation and investment activities. Some delegations, while welcoming the steps described in the report, asked for further details as to specific and concrete measures being taken by the organizations of the United Nations system. Other members recalled their positions on this matter stated in other forums.

280. In response to inquiries, the representative of the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation explained the background to the current efforts to promote complementarity between technical co-operation and investment activities, namely the need to enable developing countries to make full use of their capacities and to absorb investments whether financed from public or private domestic or foreign sources. He indicated that the technical assistance component of lending operations of multilateral development banks was increasing, leading to prospects for further collaboration among the banks, their borrowers and the organizations of the United Nations system; the General Assembly in its resolution 38/171 had encouraged this process.

281. Measures were under way to improve the design of pre-investment projects through the introduction of a multidisciplinary element as well as through the provision of the relevant information to the concerned Government in order to permit a sound decision regarding investment. Contacts were being developed between organizations of the United Nations system and prospective financing institutions. Training courses were being arranged for staff engaged in pre-investment activities. Finally, the representative of the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation stated that UNIDO would be hosting an inter-agency meeting on investment promotion in September 1984 and that the World Bank had convened in May 1984 a seminar to promote further collaboration between the World Bank and other organizations of the United Nations system.

(d) Management and institutional policy issues

Rationalization of the work of ACC

282. The Committee expressed satisfaction at the reduction in the number of meetings of the subsidiary bodies of ACC as well as in the volume of documentation; however, it considered that further improvement of the situation was possible and desirable.

283. The Committee was informed that the Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters had issued an administrative circular regarding the convening of meetings of subsidiary bodies of ACC; no inter-agency meeting could be convened without the proper legislative authority and, moreover, the substantive department had to provide justification as to why the subject could not be dealt with through correspondence or by the lead-agency approach. ACC was well aware of the problem of proliferation of meetings and had acted to solve it.

284. The Committee recognized that the establishment of additional subsidiary bodies was in some cases a result of decisions taken by intergovernmental bodies, for example the Interagency Group on New and Renewable Sources of Energy which had been established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 37/250. One delegation suggested that the ACC Task Force on the International Conference on Population be established as a permanent body; the Committee felt that no decision in this regard should be taken until the outcome of the Conference was known.

285. In response to an inquiry, the Committee was informed that in some cases, subsidiary bodies of ACC convened sub-groups with a limited membership for reasons of economy and efficiency; for instance the meeting of the Steering Committee of ACCIS afforded the opportunity to solve many problems while requiring travel by a small number of people and thus avoiding travel by the whole membership of ACCIS. This allowed the maximum of functional representation at a minimum of cost.

3. Reservation

286. One delegation reiterated its position that the activities implemented under ACC decision 1982/27, including the system-wide public information campaign by JUNIC, should not be used to exert pressure on Governments.

B. Report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on progress achieved by the ACC Task Force on Rural Development

1. Introduction

287. At its 49th meeting, on 22 May, the Committee considered, under the same item, the report of ACC on the review and appraisal of the work of the ACC Task Force on Rural Development since 1981 (E/1984/50). For the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, see chapter X, section G, paragraph 386.

288. In his introductory statement, the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination recalled that the Committee had first considered the work of the Task Force on Rural Development in the context of joint planning. The Task Force was originally set up by ACC in 1976 as a major experimental exercise involving joint planning in both operational and programme activities. During the second half of the 1970s, CPC had reviewed progress on an annual basis by way of the ACC annual overview report. Following the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, the Committee had considered a cross-organizational programme analysis on rural development, and it was in this context that the ACC Task Force had reappraised its work and drawn up a new work programme. The Committee had accepted this work programme, noting that the Programme of Action on the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development had set out a number of tasks for inter-agency work and that the proposed specific programme of work of the Task Force was designed to produce specific outputs of direct use to Governments within a limited time period. ^{18/} It had further requested that an appraisal of progress, in terms of concrete results achieved by the Task Force, should be prepared for its twenty-fourth session.

289. The Assistant Secretary-General noted that, in addition to the three priority areas which had been designated previously for inter-agency collaboration, namely, (a) joint action at the country and regional levels, (b) promotion of people's

participation in rural development and (c) monitoring and evaluation of rural development, the Task Force proposed that an additional area, namely, administrative and institutional infrastructure for rural development, should be explored as a possible area of activity in the future. The tasks required in setting up such an infrastructure were described in section VIII (F), paragraph 114, of the report of the Task Force. He also drew the attention of the Committee to paragraph 115 of the report which described the suggested operating procedures for implementation of the proposed future programme of work of the Task Force. Finally, he suggested that the Committee might wish to review again the achievements and direction of the work of the Task Force not later than 1988.

2. Discussion

290. The Committee expressed its satisfaction with the report of the ACC and commended the quality and usefulness of the information it contained. The Committee noted that the report was based on a critical appraisal of its own work by the Task Force and gave an objective picture of the situation. It agreed that much work remained to be done in the area; however, the Task Force was working in the right direction, and its past accomplishments deserved to be praised.

291. The Committee stressed that the area of rural development was of utmost importance, particularly for the developing countries where the majority of the population lived in rural areas; it stated that the organizations of the United Nations system should pursue and strengthen their activities in the area.

292. Some delegations stressed the need for strengthening co-ordination between agencies concerned regarding field projects. It was also pointed out that the Task Force should continue to pay attention to the areas emphasized by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development.

293. Some delegations raised the issue of resource availability in the United Nations system for rural development activities and expressed concern at the decline in the proportion of total World Bank and International Development Association lending for agricultural and rural development projects.

294. The Committee noted that the proposed future programme of work of the Task Force was satisfactory and comprehensive; however, it should be implemented in a flexible manner.

CHAPTER VIII

REPORTS OF THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT

Discussion

295. At its 13th meeting, on 1 May, the Committee held a brief discussion on item 8, entitled "Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit", during which several delegations expressed the view that the reports of JIU were not receiving adequate consideration by the Committee and that it would be desirable for the Committee to consider the reports before they were submitted to the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council or other intergovernmental bodies. For the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, see chapter X, section H, paragraphs 387 and 388.

CHAPTER IX

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE

296. Pursuant to paragraph 2 (e) of Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/41 of 10 May 1979, and paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 34/50 of 23 November 1979, the Committee shall submit to the Council and to the Assembly for their review the provisional agenda for its twenty-fifth session, together with the requested documentation.

297. The twenty-fifth session of the Committee, to be held in 1985, will be scheduled for four weeks, as called for in the terms of reference. The major item to be considered at that session will be the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987.

298. At its 57th meeting, on 1 June, the Committee considered the provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-fifth session on the basis of a draft prepared by the Secretariat (E/AC.51/1984/L.1). At the same meeting, the Committee decided to defer to its organizational meeting in 1985 the question of determining the session at which it would consider the report of ACC entitled "Review of the work in the area of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries". For the recommendation of the Committee, see chapter X, section I, paragraph 389.

CHAPTER X

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Organization of the session

299. At its 2nd meeting, on 24 April the Committee decided that henceforth the post of Chairman, as well as the other posts on the Bureau, should rotate annually among the regional groups. At its 57th meeting, on 1 June, the Committee requested its Chairman to hold informal consultations with the members of the Bureau in order to evolve a suitable pattern of rotation for consideration at its next organizational session.

300. At the 5th meeting, on 25 April, the Chairman drew the Committee's attention to a letter dated 5 April 1984 (E/AC.51/1984/L.3) addressed to him by the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences in connection with General Assembly resolution 38/32 E, which concerned the control and limitation of documentation. The Committee decided to request the Secretary-General to examine all recurrent publications of the United Nations in the light of the criteria set forth by the Assembly in resolution 38/32 E and to report thereon to CPC which would consider that report in the context of the review of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987.

B. Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989

1. Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by intergovernmental organs or international conferences 19/

(a) Conclusions

301. Based on its detailed review of the Secretary-General's proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 20/ the Committee drew several general conclusions.

302. The Committee agreed that the proposed revisions reflected fairly and comprehensively all new mandates having programme implications for the next biennial budgets. The 15 major programmes to which the Secretary-General had proposed revisions were appropriate, although there were two other major programmes where the Committee thought some amendments were called for and accordingly proposed changes. In considering the proposals the Committee generally agreed on the interpretation of the new legislative mandates, although in some instances they had been interpreted too broadly and some proposals for the addition or deletion of activities had not been based on an explicit legislative mandate. On the other hand, in some instances, the legislative mandates had not been interpreted sufficiently widely. It was generally agreed that the revisions to the medium-term plan should not be a mere compilation of new legislative mandates. It was noted that some proposed revisions were not the result of the adoption of new mandates but were due to the lack of anticipated extrabudgetary resources or to a disproportionately high rate of vacancies in some of the regional commissions.

303. Turning to methodological considerations, the Committee considered that there were still gaps in the application of procedures as defined by the General Assembly in resolution 34/224. Although the Committee was aware of the inherent problems regarding the timely and co-ordinated participation of sectoral and regional intergovernmental bodies in the review of plan proposals, it urged the Secretariat to make every effort to fully implement the relevant provisions of Assembly resolution 34/224 in this regard. The Committee felt that the link between the medium-term plan and the programme budget needed careful interpretation. It noted that some programme revisions incorporated in the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan stemmed from programme decisions that had been approved within the context of the 1984-1985 programme budget. The Committee recognized that time constraints might necessitate such procedure at times, but it reiterated that the medium-term plan should continue to serve as the framework for future biennial budgets.

304. This was the Committee's first review of proposed revisions to the medium-term plan since the adoption of a plan based on the new methodology. It was not yet possible to make authoritative recommendations on changes in the methodology. However, in order to contribute to the improvement of future revisions of the plan the Committee suggested the following: (a) further efforts should be made to identify in the revisions the specific paragraphs of new legislative mandates on which the proposed revisions were based; and (b) more systematic efforts should be made to apply fully the methodology adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 34/224, particularly in so far as it concerned the participation of sectoral and regional intergovernmental bodies. The Committee confirmed the format for the presentation of the revisions and the Secretary-General's obligation to interpret legislative mandates and translate them into programme proposals.

(b) Recommendations

Chapter 1. Political and Security Council affairs activities

305. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly that it should adopt the proposed revisions 20/ to chapter 1 of the medium-term plan, with the following modifications:

(a) Subparagraph 1.12 (ii). The words "appropriate action to be taken by the Organization" should read "appropriate measures to be taken by the Secretary-General";

(b) Subparagraph 1.14 (iii). The words "and on Antarctica", after the words "to set up reference services on the Mediterranean region", should be deleted;

(c) Paragraph 1.15. A reference should be added to General Assembly resolution 38/80 of 15 December 1983;

(d) Subparagraph 1.23 (xvi). At the end of the subparagraph the words "in violation of United Nations resolutions" should be added.

Chapter 2. Special political affairs and special missions

Subparagraph 2.4 (i). A reference should be added to General Assembly resolution 38/58 C of 13 December 1983.

Chapter 3. International justice and law

306. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly that it should adopt the proposed revisions 20/ to chapter 3 of the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989, with the following additional modification made to the medium-term plan: 21/

Paragraph 3.23. A reference should be added to General Assembly resolution 38/140 of 19 December 1983.

Chapter 4. Political affairs, trusteeship and decolonization

307. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly that it should adopt the proposed revisions 20/ to chapter 4 of the medium-term plan, with the following modifications:

(a) Paragraph 4.63. The proposed revised text of paragraph 4.63 should be replaced by the following:

"(b) Objectives

"4.63 The objectives of this subprogramme are: (i) to assist the Secretary-General in the fulfilment of mandates of good offices and assistance emerging from the above-mentioned resolutions, as well as on any other issues that the Secretary-General may wish to assign to the Department; and (ii) to assist, in co-operation with other departments and offices concerned, the Secretary-General in the discharge of his responsibilities under the Charter and other tasks entrusted to him, as well as on other issues that the Secretary-General may wish to assign to the Department.";

(b) Paragraph 4.64. The words "as well as early warning of potential conflict areas" should be deleted;

(c) Subparagraph 4.65 (i). The word "political" should be deleted;

(d) Subparagraph 4.65 (iv). After the words "by the Secretary-General", the following text should be inserted: ", including the gathering and processing of relevant information in co-operation with other departments and offices concerned,";

(e) Subparagraph 4.65 (v). The subparagraph should be deleted.

Chapter 9. Public information

308. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly that it should adopt the following modification to the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989: 21/

Paragraph 9.25. At the end of the paragraph, the words "and the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations" should be added.

Chapter 10. Development issues and policies

309. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly that it should adopt the proposed revisions 20/ to chapter 10 of the medium-term plan, with the following modifications:

- (a) Subparagraph 10.48 (ii). The words "for reducing possible incompatibilities in national tax systems and for combating international tax evasion and avoidance;" should be replaced by "combating international tax avoidance and evasion and reducing as far as possible incompatibilities in tax systems;"
- (b) Paragraph 10.49. The text after "United Nations Model Double Taxation Convention between Developed and Developing Countries" should be replaced by "would enable developing countries to attract greater amounts of foreign resources to supplement their domestic financial resources.";
- (c) Paragraph 10.53. A reference should be added to General Assembly resolution 38/196 of 20 December 1983;
- (d) Subparagraph 10.82 (i). At the end of the text, the words "in accordance with the recommendations of the General Assembly and the Economic Commission for Africa" should be added;
- (e) Subparagraph 10.82 (iii). After the words "degree of implementation of" the words "the legislative decisions related to" should be added;
- (f) Paragraph 10.84. At the end of the paragraph, the sentence "Use will be made to the extent possible of the information available in the relevant sectoral organizations." should be added.

Chapter 12. Environment

310. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly that it should adopt the proposed revisions 20/ to chapter 12 of the medium-term plan, with the following modification:

Subparagraph 12.20 (e). At the end of the subparagraph, the words "together with the development of inland fisheries and aqua-culture" should be added.

311. The Committee further recommended the following modifications to the medium-term plan: 21/

- (a) Paragraph 12.61. A reference should be added to Economic Commission for Europe decision M (XXXIX);
- (b) Paragraph 12.64. At the end of the paragraph, the sentence "A long-term strategy for the protection of the environment and the rational use of natural resources to the year 2000 will be developed." should be added.

Chapter 14. Human settlements

312. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly that it should adopt the proposed revisions 20/ to chapter 14 of the medium-term plan, with the following modification:

Paragraph 14.98. The last sentence of the paragraph, which reads: "A theoretical and methodological basis for the design of alternative governmental and private organizations' policies and strategies in this field will be formulated", should be deleted.

Chapter 16. International trade and development finance

313. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly that it should adopt the proposed revisions 20/ to chapter 16 of the medium-term plan, with the following modifications:

(a) Paragraph 16.14. In the second sentence, after the words "continuous and increasingly assured and effective management of external indebtedness", the phrase "where necessary involving the commitment to implement Trade and Development Board resolution 222 (XXI) as envisaged in paragraph 4 of UNCTAD resolution 161 (VI)." should be added;

(b) Paragraph 16.22. In the first sentence, after the words "following respects", the following should be inserted: "(a) continuing consultations with the Chairman of the Paris club and with the relevant multilateral organizations and Governments with a view to augmenting the basis for the review of the implementation of Trade and Development Board resolution 222 (XXI) as envisaged in paragraph 6 of UNCTAD resolution 161 (VI);" and the remaining subparagraphs should be renumbered (b) to (d), accordingly;

(c) Subparagraph 16.27 (i). The subparagraph should be replaced by the following text:

"to promote for commodities not covered by international commodity agreements a dialogue on problems relating to them and possible policies to deal with them within the objectives of the Integrated Programme for Commodities; and to examine, in the area of commodities of particular export interest to developing countries which are not covered by international commodity agreements or arrangements, the feasibility of provisional agreements or arrangements, as appropriate, which could be applied on a temporary basis by interested producing and consuming countries with the objective of mitigating sudden collapses in prices.";

(d) Paragraph 16.28. Following the words "research and development" the text should read as follows: "development of processing of commodities, problems related to access to markets and the need to avoid or minimize disruptions of international commodity markets from the disposal of government-held non-commercial reserves and stock-piles.";

(e) Paragraph 16.29. The proposed revision should be replaced by the following:

"The feasibility of provisional agreements or arrangements for commodities of particular interest to developing countries which are not covered by international commodity agreements or arrangements, which could be applied on a temporary basis by interested producing and consuming countries with the objective of mitigating sudden collapses in prices, will be examined; the problem of disruptions to international commodity markets from the disposal of government-held non-commercial reserves and stock-piles will be studied.";

(f) Paragraph 16.34. In the second sentence, after the words "In this connection," the words "an ad hoc expert group will be convened, in support of which, inter alia," should be added;

(g) Subparagraph 16.40 (i), fifth to seventh lines. The text which reads "removal of unjustifiable impediments to trade in existing trade legislation, regulations and procedures relating to antidumping and countervailing duties" should read "review of existing trade legislation, regulations and procedures relating to antidumping and countervailing duties to ensure that there are no justifiable impediments to the trade of other countries, in particular to that of the developing countries;"

(h) Subparagraph 16.40 (i), fourteenth line. The text after "effective international division of labour" should be replaced by the following:

"to make proposals as to the strengthening and improvement of the trading system with a view to giving it a more universal and dynamic character, as well as to making it more responsive to the needs of developing countries and supportive of accelerated economic growth and development, particularly of developing countries; to improve understanding of the role of services in the development process; and to review development in international trade in particular as arising from the implementation of the multilateral trade negotiations and especially its impact on the trade of developing countries.";

(i) Paragraph 16.41. The second sentence should be replaced by the following:

"In addition, the world economic environment has implications for the operation of the trading system and its ability to meet the needs of accelerated economic growth and development, in particular of developing countries. Services are a growing phenomenon world-wide which need further study and understanding.";

(j) Paragraph 16.42. The following sentence should be inserted immediately after the fourth sentence:

"Particular attention will be focused on measures affecting such trade and developments in the international trading system resulting, inter alia, from implementation of the agreements reached in the multilateral trade negotiations.";

(k) Subparagraph 16.50 (ii). At the beginning of the subparagraph, the word "initiative" should be replaced by the word "initiatives" and, at the end of the same subparagraph, the word "their" should be replaced by the words "co-operation among";

(l) Subparagraph 16.62 (i). The word "promote" at the beginning of the text should be replaced by the words "continue the work on";

(m) Paragraph 16.74. The proposed revision should be deleted;

(n) Subparagraph 16.78 (ii). In the last part of the sentence the words "speedier" and "more effective" should be replaced by the words "full" and "expeditious", respectively;

(o) In the context of its discussion on chapter 16, programme 6, subprogramme 1, the Committee drew the Secretariat's attention to the need for co-ordination with UNDP and the World Bank in the implementation of the strategy as envisaged under that subprogramme;

(p) Subparagraph 16.84 (i). At the end of the subparagraph, the words "of the land-locked developing countries;" should be added;

(q) Paragraph 16.85. The first sentence should be replaced by the following:

"On a pilot basis, an assessment will be made of the potential for restructuring the economies of land-locked countries through the promotion of import substitution industries producing high-bulk, low-value products and developing high-value, low-bulk products for export.";

(r) Paragraph 16.167. A reference to Commission resolution 464 (XX) should be added.

314. The Committee further recommended to the General Assembly the following modification to the medium-term plan: 21/

Paragraph 16.74. At the end of the second sentence the following text should be added:

", including industrial co-operation, specialization in production and compensatory arrangements, the establishment of new production capacities in the developing countries, and co-operatives aimed at strengthening the industrial base; economic and technical co-operation in the field of agriculture (agro-industrial complexes); recent trends and existing forms of long-term East-West economic co-operation; and an analysis of the evolution of various forms of economic co-operation in the annual reports on trends and policies."

Chapter 17. Natural resources

315. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly that it should adopt the proposed revisions 20/ to chapter 17 of the medium-term plan, with the following modification:

Programme 6. Natural resources in Western Asia (ECWA).

The revision to subprogramme 2 (Water resources) should be deleted.

Chapter 20. Science and technology

316. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly that it should adopt the proposed revisions 20/ to chapter 20 of the medium-term plan, with the following modifications:

(a) Subparagraph 20.45 (i). The last subclause, which reads "and to elect members to the Executive Board in accordance with criteria stated by the General Assembly;", should be deleted;

(b) The title of subprogramme 3 of programme 7, which reads "Monitoring major breakthroughs in science and technology", should read "Assimilation, application and monitoring".

Chapter 21. Social development and humanitarian affairs

317. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly that it should adopt the proposed revisions 20/ to chapter 21 of the medium-term plan, with the following modifications:

(a) Subparagraph 21.10 (i). The subparagraph should be replaced by the following:

"(i) Intergovernmental objectives: to formulate policies and strategies for social integration through participation of the entire population, with special emphasis on women and other specific groups.";

(b) Paragraph 21.12. At the end of the first sentence the phrase "notably co-operatives, for increased popular participation in development" should read "notably through organizations, including co-operatives, for effective participation of the population in development";

(c) Subparagraph 21.36 (i). The word "develop" should be replaced by the words "assist in promoting".

318. The Committee further recommended the following modifications to the medium-term plan: 21/

(a) Paragraph 21.9. The reference to "General Assembly resolution 36/19" should be replaced by "General Assembly resolution 38/25";

(b) Paragraph 21.34. At the end of the second sentence, the words "and the strengthening of world peace." should be added.

Chapter 22. Statistics

319. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly that it should adopt the proposed revisions 20/ to chapter 22 of the medium-term plan, with the following modification to the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989. 21/

Paragraph 22.27. The first sentence should read "Work will continue on preparing a methodology for a Yearbook of Distributive-Trade Statistics with a view to beginning its publication".

320. The Committee saw merit in the proposal to publish the Population and Vital Statistics Report referred to in paragraph 22.43 of the medium-term plan 21/ on an annual basis with quarterly updating of only those tables with new data. The Committee requested the Secretariat to study alternative methods of publishing the Report with a view to selecting a method that meets the needs of users in the most timely and economical manner.

Chapter 24. Transport, communications and tourism

321. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly that it should adopt the proposed revisions 20/ to chapter 24 of the medium-term plan, with the following modification:

Paragraph 24.33. At the end of the first sentence, the words "in accordance with arrangements between the secretariats of UNCTAD and the International Maritime Organization in order to avoid possible duplication of work between them." should be added.

322. The Committee further recommended the following modification to the medium-term plan: 21/

Paragraph 24.40. At the end of the paragraph, the following sentence should be added:

"The work of this programme will be carried out in accordance with arrangements between the secretariats of UNCTAD and the International Maritime Organization in order to avoid possible duplication of work between them."

Chapter 25. Marine affairs

323. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly that it should adopt the proposed revisions 20/ to chapter 25 of the medium-term plan, with the following modifications:

(a) Paragraph 13. At the beginning of the last sentence, the words "should be" should read "is";

(b) Paragraph 25.66. The last sentence should be replaced by the following text: "Since many known geological features and resources are distributed across national boundaries it is necessary that exploration, investigations and research to obtain that information transcend boundaries."

2. Preparation of proposed programme budget documentation 22/

324. The Committee expressed satisfaction with the efforts of the Secretary-General to improve the budget preparation process and to ensure timely submission of the budget documentation. There was however a need for these efforts to result in substantial improvements in presentation of budget proposals for the 1986-1987 biennium. CPC thought it would be useful to include with each fascicle submission dates and it invited the Secretariat to keep this suggestion in mind.

325. The Committee, while commenting favourably on the intention of the Secretariat (see E/AC.51/1984/10, para. 4) to present the programme budget instructions in the form of a manual, felt that the content of the manual should reflect the ideas, principles and budgetary procedures established by the General Assembly and other intergovernmental bodies.

326. The Committee requested the Secretary-General to ensure that the arrangements indicated in his report on the preparation of the proposed programme budget documentation would be followed, and that special attention would be paid to

regulation 4.7 of the Regulations Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation.

3. Operation of the new system for setting priorities 23/

327. The Committee shared the view of the Secretary-General, expressed in paragraph 30 of document A/C.5/39/1 and Corr.1, that it was too early to draw any clear conclusions concerning the effect of priority-setting on the implementation of the work programme and that, while for the time being no changes were suggested in the current system of priority-setting, its operation would be kept under review. The current system of priority-setting had still to be fully implemented by some intergovernmental bodies and Secretariat services, and there was still no system for submitting Secretariat proposals for priorities to intergovernmental bodies. The Committee therefore requested the Secretariat to redouble its efforts to ensure that in future, in a spirit of realism and pragmatism, the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolutions 36/228, 37/234 and 38/227, would be implemented more systematically.

4. Cross-section programme analysis of the programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 24/

328. The Committee took note of the report of the Secretary-General (E/AC.51/1984/CRP.1 and Corr.1 and 2) and concluded that it contained a useful analysis that made it possible to grasp the way in which an activity was covered in the budget, as well as to identify certain gaps, shortcomings and overlapping. The Committee further concluded that cross-sectional programme analyses could usefully complement the cross-organizational programme analyses. However, the Committee also noted that some aspects of the methodology used required clarification. In particular, the final conclusion of the analysis was not systematic enough and the basis on which programmes would be chosen for this kind of analysis was not clear.

329. In view of the above, the Committee recommended that the Secretary-General should submit to it, on an ad hoc basis, analyses of a cross-sectional nature for certain programmes that the Committee would choose or that, in the view of the Secretary-General, presented specific problems or difficulties that could be usefully examined by carrying out such analyses.

5. Further implementation of General Assembly resolution 37/214 25/

330. The Committee noted that the report submitted to it covered a wide range of issues and set forth the intentions of the Secretary-General as to measures that could be taken to further promote the implementation of resolution 37/214 as it related to the provisions of resolution 32/197. At the same time, the report presented a certain number of imbalances, shortcomings and omissions and was, therefore, to be regarded as a preliminary report. The following particular points were made:

(a) The general orientation of the report did not seem to fully respond to the thrust of resolution 32/197, particularly the provisions relating to the means of strengthening of the role of the regional commissions. In the same context, the

Committee considered that insufficient attention had been devoted to the analysis of activities to be decentralized and that greater emphasis had been placed on activities to be carried out jointly by the regional commissions and global entities;

(b) Several fundamental questions had not been analysed in sufficient depth to enable the Committee to form an opinion in full knowledge of the facts. In this connection, the Committee noted that:

- (i) No specific proposals had been put forward for programme elements to be decentralized to the commissions;
- (ii) The way in which it was intended to reconcile the need to decentralize with the need to avoid compartmentalization of activities, and measures proposed to avoid the proliferation of co-ordinating mechanisms and duplication of activities, had not been adequately analysed;
- (iii) Issues relating to the respective technical capacities of the regional commissions and global entities and to concentration of relevant data and information had not been adequately explored;
- (iv) The financial, administrative, and personnel implications of the proposals should have been clarified in order to determine their overall impact and to identify the managerial measures that may be required to support and supplement decentralization of activities.

331. On the basis of these considerations, the Committee concluded that it was not appropriate at this stage to take final decisions on the question and that additional analysis was necessary to place decentralization in the context and perspective of the provisions of section IV of the annex to resolution 32/197. The Committee reiterated in that context that decentralization remained one of the reliable means to enable the regional commissions to become centres of initiative for development, provided that that notion was used as an effective management tool.

332. The Committee recommended that the Secretary-General should update his report on the matter after having analysed in greater depth the issues above in order to further clarify and refine the criteria and the guidelines employed and on this basis, after the customary consultations with regional commissions and other departments concerned, that he should identify in the report the specific activities the decentralization of which the Committee should consider during its consideration of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987.

333. The Committee also recommended that the Secretary-General should give this matter the priority which it deserved; further analyses should be action-oriented and should lead as soon as possible to complete and concrete proposals in order to ensure the most economical and effective use of resources.

6. Work programme of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization 26/

334. The Committee, while considering that the information contained in the statement of the Secretariat was very useful, regretted that it had not been provided with the report on the work programme of UNIDO requested in Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/49.

335. The Committee agreed that the financial aspects of the matters discussed should be considered by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

336. The Committee took note of the decision taken by the Industrial Development Board during its eighteenth session on the System of consultations. The Committee recommended that UNIDO continue to see to the improvement of the System of consultations, taking into account the views of the developing countries concerned, and in this respect, it encouraged the Board in the evaluation being made. The Committee recommended that another report on other questions raised in Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/49, notably the problem of co-ordination and rationalization of UNIDO's activities, be submitted to it at its next session.

7. Transport and Communications Decade in Africa: implementation of General Assembly resolution 38/150 27/

337. The Committee took note of the report of the Secretary-General (A/39/223) and recommended that:

(a) Considering the importance of General Assembly resolution 38/150, the Secretary-General should redouble his efforts as a matter of urgency to ensure the implementation of the resolution in all its aspects;

(b) The Secretary-General should submit an updated report to the Assembly at its thirty-ninth session on the implementation of resolution 38/150, in which all the activities foreseen therein would be indicated and the status of resources available for the full implementation of those activities would be noted.

8. Industrial Development Decade for Africa: implementation of section II of General Assembly resolution 38/192 28/

338. The Committee recommended that the Secretary-General should continue to watch over and ensure the speedy implementation of the activities envisaged in section II of General Assembly resolution 38/192, taking into account the priority assigned thereto, on the basis of the expenditure plan set out by the Controller.

339. The Committee took note of the note by the Secretariat (E/AC.51/1984/11 and Corr.1) and recommended that the Secretary-General should speed up the efforts that were under way to make it possible for Member States to have, at an early date, the comprehensive report on his proposals to achieve the necessary reimbursement of funds through savings out of the 1984-1985 programme budget or through redeployment, as requested by the Fifth Committee.

9. Location of the Information Systems Unit within the Secretariat 29/

340. The Committee supported the efforts of the Secretary-General to resolve all the difficulties arising from the current temporary arrangements concerning the Unit, and recommended that a final solution to the question of the Unit's institutional and financial base should be provided by the Secretary-General, in the context of the 1986-1987 biennium budget, so as to permit the Unit to continue its useful work.

341. The Committee recommended the continuation of the Information Systems Unit as an identifiable and distinct administrative unit and further recommended that the Secretary-General should ensure the identification of the Unit in this sense in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987.

C. Programme performance for the biennium 1982-1983

1. Introduction and summary of results 30/

342. The Committee recommended that:

(a) Steps should be taken to improve further the methodology of the programme performance report, especially by:

(i) Expanding gradually and completely the scope of the next report so as to include the greatest possible number of administrative units in the Organization and all categories of activities, while also considering the possibility of introducing additional categories or qualitative elements as mentioned in paragraph 9 (h) of document A/39/173;

(ii) Improving the current system of implementation rating by using ranges narrower than 25 per cent;

(b) Programme elements and outputs with greater than 50 per cent financing from extrabudgetary resources should be separately identified in the next programme budget;

(c) Outputs designated as highest priority should have an implementation rate close to 100 per cent;

(d) Urgent steps should be taken to alleviate the vacancy situation prevalent in several units, which was adversely affecting programme implementation;

(e) The procedure envisaged in paragraph 52 of the report (A/39/173) for strengthening monitoring should be implemented as soon as possible;

(f) Internal programme performance auditing should be on a comprehensive basis;

(g) The programme performance report, together with the comments of CPC thereon, should be forwarded to the relevant intergovernmental bodies;

(h) A review of the submissions to the specialized and central intergovernmental bodies of the instruments constituting the integrated management (that is, medium-term plan, programme budget, programme performance report and evaluation report) should be undertaken in order to bring about their closer harmonization.

2. Programme performance for the biennium 1982-1983 by
budget section 31/

343. The Committee took note of chapter III of the report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1982-1983 (A/39/173/Add.1).

D. Evaluation

1. Evaluation of the United Nations Development Programme-financed
technical co-operation activities of the United Nations Industrial
Development Organization in the field of manufactures 32/

344. The Committee took note with appreciation of the implementation of those recommendations cited in paragraph 79 of the report of the Secretary-General (E/AC.51/1984/7 and Corr.1 and Add.1), which UNDP and UNIDO had stated in documents DP/1984/1 and ID/B/C.2/122, respectively, were already under implementation prior to the staff evaluation report.

345. The Committee recommended that the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly should request the Governing Council of UNDP and the Industrial Development Board of UNIDO to ensure that those recommendations continued to be implemented systematically and that follow-up would be pursued actively.

346. The Committee recommended further that the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly should monitor those recommendations which were reported in paragraph 80 of the Secretary-General's report, as being implemented pursuant to the recommendations in the staff report.

347. The Committee recommended that the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly should invite the Governing Council of UNDP and the Industrial Development Board of UNIDO, after considering and adopting the recommendations referred to in paragraph 81 of the Secretary-General's report - which although deemed acceptable had so far not been implemented because they posed certain difficulties - to seek ways and means of overcoming those difficulties.

348. The Committee took note of the recommendations in paragraph 82 of the report of the Secretary-General, which were addressed primarily to Member States and to the governing bodies of UNDP and UNIDO.

349. The Committee recommended that the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly invite the governing bodies of UNDP and UNIDO to request their secretariats to continue to keep under careful review those recommendations in paragraph 83 of the report, which they considered required further study.

350. The Committee took note of those recommendations in paragraphs 84 and 85 of the report, which were considered doubtful or unacceptable by the secretariats of UNDP and UNIDO, and drew the attention of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly to them.

351. The Committee took note of the recommendation contained in paragraph 86 of the report and drew the attention of the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly and of the governing bodies of UNDP and UNIDO to it.

352. The Committee drew the attention of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council to those recommendations in paragraph 87 of the report, to which there had been no reaction so far and to the explanations provided in the Committee to that by the representatives of UNDP and UNIDO.

353. The Committee also took note with appreciation of the efforts currently under way for improving evaluation methodology in UNDP and UNIDO and encouraged both those organizations to continue this work, particularly with regard to the collection of information and data on the effectiveness and impact of projects undertaken which, in turn, would facilitate objective verification for evaluation purposes.

354. The Committee recommended that the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly should invite the Governing Council of UNDP and the Industrial Development Board of UNIDO to study regularly the means likely to further strengthen the effectiveness and impact of technical co-operation activities in the manufactures sector.

355. The Committee agreed that the recommendations appearing in paragraphs 345-347, 349-351 and 354 above, should be presented to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session through the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1984, and also transmitted to the Governing Council of UNDP at its thirty-first session in June 1984 and to the Permanent Committee of the Industrial Development Board at its twenty-first session in November 1984.

356. The Committee decided to review this question again at its twenty-seventh session on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General to be prepared in the context of its triennial evaluation review of the UNDP-financed technical co-operation activities of UNIDO in the field of manufactures in order to determine the extent to which the Committee's recommendations listed above had been implemented.

2. Report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development" 33/

357. The Committee recognized that the activities of the Department were of great importance to developing countries and, therefore, warranted full support. Since there were competing claims for an organizational structure that emphasized substance over geography, the Department needed to review constantly the question of its structure in order to function as effectively as possible. The Committee decided to support most of the JIU recommendations, but it was recognized that the lack of extrabudgetary resources would hamper in the foreseeable future the Department's efforts to implement them fully.

358. The Committee recommended that:

(a) The Department should be given a clear mandate as soon as possible, which involved:

(i) Clustering within the Department all technical co-operation functions in the Secretariat;

(ii) Co-ordination of guidelines and methods used by offices, including the Office of Projects Execution, in their functions relating to technical co-operation activities;

(b) In recognition of the need to strengthen co-ordination of the Department's activities in the field, the machinery proposed by JIU could be resorted to;

(c) Attention should be paid to various activities in the Department and all existing capabilities should be used to the full;

(d) Evaluation should be given continuous attention. To that end, the quality and impact of programmes executed should be ensured and present measures of evaluation should be more effective. Furthermore, all existing possibilities in this area within the Department as well as UNDP should be utilized as much as possible.

359. The Committee acknowledged that the JIU recommendations on structure and operation were not yet fully implemented and requested that their future implementation when the recommendations were approved by appropriate intergovernmental decision should be reported in due course.

3. Report on the programme and activities of the Joint United Nations Information Committee 34/

360. The Committee considered that the report on the programme and activities of JUNIC (A/AC.198/77, see also E/AC.51/1984/12) contained useful information which reflected overall, the large number of activities in which JUNIC was engaged. However, some of these activities were not presented in detail. The Committee requested that such reports in future should contain more information as regards the orientation, the mandates and the degree of co-ordination among the organizations of the United Nations system.

361. The Committee considered that an effort could have been made for the report to reflect more completely the activities contained in the JUNIC plan of action for 1984-1985. Some specific points were stressed, such as the relation between disarmament and development, the campaign to make the world more aware of development issues, the need to keep a sales policy for Development Forum under continuing review and the problem of apartheid. Finally, the Committee stressed that the report could have highlighted all of the measures taken to ensure the effectiveness of JUNIC activities.

362. The Committee decided to take note, with appreciation, of the JUNIC plan of action for 1984-1985.

4. Tentative timetable for intergovernmental review of in-depth and triennial evaluation studies scheduled for 1986 to 1992, including proposals for a linkage between themes of in-depth evaluation studies and of cross-organizational programme analyses 35/

363. In view of the requirement that all programmes in the medium-term plan be reviewed within the six-year plan period, the Committee recommended that other types of evaluation be considered in order to supplement the coverage of in-depth evaluation. In particular, the broadening of scope should be envisaged through the employment of the following kinds of programme review:

- (a) Self-evaluation by the Administrative Management Service of the Department of Administration and Management;
- (b) External evaluation, such as that undertaken by the Joint Inspection Unit;
- (c) Evaluations undertaken by Governments.

364. The Committee recommended the acceptance of the proposed timetable set out below, bearing in mind the principle that flexibility should be exercised in following it, according to the dictates of circumstances and the changing priorities in programming over time:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Session</u>	<u>Evaluation topic</u>	<u>Triennial review</u>
1986	Twenty-sixth	Population	Department of Public Information (evaluation study presented at twenty-third session)
1987	Twenty-seventh	Electronic data processing and information systems	Technical co-operation and activities of UNIDO in manufactures; and activities of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (evaluation studies to be presented at twenty-fourth session)
1988	Twenty-eighth	Development issues and policies	Drug control (evaluation study to be presented at twenty-fifth session)
1989	Twenty-ninth	Human rights	Population
1990	Thirtieth	Human settlements	Electronic data processing and information systems
1991	Thirty-first	Political and Security Council affairs	Development issues and policies
1992	Thirty-second	Science and technology for development	Human rights

365. The Committee reconfirmed its recommendation that the relationship between in-depth evaluations and cross-organizational programme analyses should be complementary, in that linkage should be maintained by scheduling such evaluations and analyses of the same or related topics as close as practicable to each other and that in each, to the extent possible, use should be made of the information generated by the other.

5. Documents dissemination system 36/

366. The Committee recommended that:

(a) Appropriate steps should be taken by the Secretary-General to make the documents dissemination system more effective, in particular by clearly identifying end-users;

(b) Efforts should be made to find alternative means of distributing documentation and to follow up the results in order to reach effectively the target users;

(c) Criteria could be defined to assist distribution services in their attempts to systematically bring different United Nations publications to end-users, particularly in developing countries.

E. Cross-organizational programme analyses

1. Cross-organizational programme analysis of the activities of the United Nations system in human settlements 37/

367. The Committee agreed that the Secretariat had presented a useful report, the conclusions and recommendations of which (E/AC.51/1984/5, sect. V) merited careful review and follow-up by all relevant bodies of the United Nations system. The Committee considered that the report could be helpful to the intergovernmental bodies concerned, as well as to national governments, in making recommendations and policy decisions on human settlements activities of the system.

368. The Committee made several general recommendations. First, the Committee confirmed its earlier recommendations that cross-organizational programme analyses should be reviewed, whenever possible, by the competent substantive intergovernmental body. Second, the Committee recommended that the conclusions and recommendations of the report, together with the observations and conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, should be reviewed and followed up by relevant intergovernmental bodies, especially by the Commission on Human Settlements and other institutions of the system. The Committee recommended that the analysis, along with the Committee's assessment and recommendations, should be placed before the Commission on Human Settlements at its eighth session in 1985 and that the Committee should revert to the question at its twenty-sixth session on the basis of a report containing, *inter alia*, the views of the Commission on Human Settlements. The Committee further recommended that the analysis should be the subject of a future joint CPC/ACC meeting in the event that subsequent developments make that desirable.

369. The Committee made the following specific recommendations:

(a) With regard to the problem of definition it was considered necessary and urgent to reach a more precise definition which could be based on the two criteria underlined in paragraph 20 of the report in order to produce more practical results. This definition should be more narrowly drawn than that used in the cross-organizational programme analysis which precluded an unambiguous identification of relevant activities;

(b) Intergovernmental bodies and, in particular, the Commission on Human Settlements, should exhaustively review, in the light of the discussion of the Committee, the question of programme priorities of human settlements in the light of relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and its subsidiary bodies, in particular the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade. In this regard, intergovernmental bodies concerned should determine whether it was desirable to adjust or to modify the orientation of work and should suggest what implications this might have on the allocation of resources in the area;

(c) Co-ordination should be reinforced at both the inter-agency and intergovernmental levels, particularly for programme activities and their link with operational activities. This co-ordination should not only seek to eliminate negative duplication and overlap wherever that might exist, but should also make more coherent and effective the implementation of programmes, particularly those which were closely related but sectorally specific. The Commission on Human Settlements should more vigorously exercise its mandated co-ordination role and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements should more effectively assist the Commission in discharging that function. For this purpose, the Centre should help to organize a systematic exchange of information, to promote programme cohesion through the process of prior consultations on programme budgets and to determine possible revisions to the current medium-term plan, which could be considered during the next round of revisions;

(d) While recognizing that co-ordination at the country level was essentially a national responsibility, it was recommended that the existing tools for co-ordination of the operational activities of the United Nations system, namely, the resident co-ordinators and assistance to Governments in the process of country programming, should be more effectively focused on human settlements concerns. In particular, the exchange of information among concerned organizations on their operational activities in each country was especially important. The net result of that should be to increase effective programme delivery in response to national needs;

(e) New efforts should be undertaken to identify ways and means of optimizing resources for human settlements. Such resources should be judiciously allocated in accordance with priority activities. Support costs in all cases should be minimized in order to achieve a maximum mobilization for substantive activities.

2. Mandates of, and problems addressed by, the United Nations system in economic and technical co-operation among developing countries 38/

370. The Committee endorsed the methodology proposed in the Secretary-General's report (A/39/154-E/1984/46 and Corr.1) for the preparation of the cross-organizational programme analysis, especially the elements proposed in

paragraph 108 thereof relating to the level of information collection and the collection of financial data and of information on funding sources and on co-operation with other organizations. It considered, however, that some aspects of the criteria proposed in paragraph 98 of the report needed further refinement so as to ensure realistic results.

371. In addition to quantitative and descriptive material, the report on the cross-organizational programme analysis should contain a critical analytical assessment of the role of the United Nations system and the relationship between its activities and the mandates it had been given, including the difficulties encountered, in order to permit the Committee to make recommendations for improving the work of the United Nations system in the area of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries.

372. In considering the distinction between economic co-operation among developing countries and technical co-operation among developing countries, the cross-organizational programme analysis should take into consideration whether any problems existed in defining the relative competences of UNDP and UNCTAD or in co-ordination between the activities of the two organizational units.

373. For reasons of continuity, it was decided that, at the nineteenth series of Joint Meetings, CPC and ACC should consider a report by ACC on a follow-up to the discussions on economic and technical co-operation among developing countries held at the eighteenth series of Joint Meetings.

374. The Committee recommended that the relevant activities of the World Bank, IMF and IFAD should be included in the cross-organizational programme analysis.

3. Areas for future cross-organizational programme analyses 39/

375. The Committee recommended that future cross-organizational programme analyses should provide a basis for making recommendations of a specific nature to other intergovernmental bodies and to secretariats of the United Nations system, particularly on gaps in coverage of the activities mandated and on questions of priorities, as well as on overlaps and co-ordination.

376. Cross-organizational programme analyses and evaluations on the same subject should be linked by scheduling them closely together and should be mutually supporting.

377. The Committee decided to consider a cross-organizational programme analysis on economic and social research and policy analysis at its twenty-sixth session, in 1986, and for that purpose requested the Secretariat to prepare a preliminary report on the scope and general approach to be followed for consideration by the Committee at its twenty-fifth session, in 1985.

4. Follow-up to the cross-organizational programme analysis of the activities of the United Nations system in marine affairs 40/

378. The Committee considered the report of the Secretaries-General of IMO and UNCTAD (E/AC.51/1984.4, annex) to be a preliminary one and requested them to report to CPC at its twenty-fifth session, taking into account the views of the Committee

and the need to eliminate duplication and overlap in their activities. The report should further clarify the arrangement proposed by the two organizations to meet the needs of developing countries in the area of maritime transport as envisaged in paragraph 9 of the interim report. The Committee also requested additional information on the proposed involvement of the regional commissions in the exercise to assure itself that duplication and overlap would not occur.

F. Measures to improve secretariat support for the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination 41/

379. The Committee took note of the statement of the Under-Secretary-General that consultations would be held in June 1984. It considered that concrete proposals related to measures for integrating the planning and budgeting functions would make possible a more thorough-going and exhaustive analysis during these consultations. It added that the consultations should be held with the widest possible participation of Member States and that it would be appropriate to attach due importance to the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 38/227 and 32/197.

380. The Committee expressed the view that proposals by the Secretary-General should take into account the integrity of the programming and co-ordinating functions of the Committee, as reflected in its mandate.

G. Reports of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination

1. Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination for 1983-1984 42/

381. The Committee decided to take note with appreciation of the annual overview report of ACC for 1983-1984 (E/1984/66) and to commend ACC on the quality of the information contained therein. The Committee decided to endorse the conclusions contained in section VI of the report and in particular paragraph 145 relating to the value of multilateral diplomacy.

382. The Committee decided to recommend that the positive efforts towards progress in joint planning should be pursued by ACC.

383. The Committee decided to recommend that:

(a) The overview of the objectives and plans of the organizations of the United Nations system should be published by the United Nations Secretariat in connection with the commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations;

(b) The overview should contain a short introduction which would include a critique of the strengths and weaknesses of the United Nations system;

(c) Further work on the abstract of the overview should not be pursued.

384. The Committee decided to request the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to rationalize the work of ACC and to streamline its subsidiary machinery.

385. The Committee recommended that all the documents which formed part of ACC decisions but did not appear in the official ACC documentation, should be made available to member States.

2. Report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on progress achieved by the ACC Task Force on Rural Development 43/

386. The Committee decided to take note of the report (E/1984/50) and to commend ACC for the quality of the document and for the information contained therein. The Committee decided to approve the proposed future programme of work of the Task Force and to recommend that it should be implemented in a flexible and pragmatic manner, while taking into account the objectives of the World Conference on Agricultural Reform and Rural Development.

H. Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit 44/

387. The Committee decided that JIU reports would, in future, be reviewed first by the Committee as to programming aspects and that, to that end, the Committee should be authorized to examine them even without the written comments of the Secretary-General if they were not available. The comments of the Secretary-General could be made orally to the Committee.

388. The Committee further decided that at its organizational meeting each year, it would select the JIU reports to be considered at its regular session of that year from a list of titles to be made available by the Secretariat, including the titles of reports projected for the following two years. JIU should be requested to plan its submission of reports in accordance with a time-frame that would permit their issuance in time for the sessions of the Committee.

I. Provisional agenda for the twenty-fifth session of the Committee 45/

389. Pursuant to paragraph 2 (e) of Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/41 of 10 May 1979, and paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 34/50 of 23 November 1979, the Committee submits to the Council and the Assembly for their review the provisional agenda for its twenty-fifth session, together with the requested documentation:

Provisional agenda for the twenty-fifth session of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987.

Documentation

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987

Report of the Secretary-General on recurrent publications prepared in the light of the criteria set forth in General Assembly resolution 38/32 E

Progress report of the Secretary-General on co-operation and co-ordination between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in the area of food and agriculture activities in Asia and the Pacific

Report of the Secretary-General on the experience gained in implementing paragraph 7 of section II of General Assembly resolution 38/227 regarding providing the Assembly with programme implications of draft resolutions

Report of the Secretary-General on the further implementation of General Assembly resolution 37/214

Report of the Secretary-General: Aspects of co-ordination and rationalization of the activities of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization

4. Cross-organizational programme analyses.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the cross-organizational programme analysis of activities of the United Nations system in the area of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries

Preliminary report of the Secretary-General on the scope and general approach to be followed in the preparation of the cross-organizational programme analysis on economic and social research and policy analysis for submission to the Committee at its twenty-sixth session

Report of the Secretaries-General of IMO and UNCTAD on activities in the field of marine transport

5. Evaluation

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General: In-depth evaluation of drug control

Report of the Secretary-General: Triennial review of the implementation of recommendations taken by the Committee on the in-depth evaluations of the programmes on transnational corporations, manufactures, and mineral resources

6. Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit.

Documentation

Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit and comments thereon by the Secretary-General, if available, before submission to the Economic and Social Council or the General Assembly

7. Reports of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination.

Documentation

- Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination
8. Provisional agenda for the twenty-sixth session of the Committee.
9. Adoption of the report of the Committee.

ANNEX I

Agenda for the twenty-fourth session of the Committee

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by intergovernmental organs or international conferences.
4. Measures to improve secretariat support for the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination.
5. Programme performance for the biennium 1982-1983.
6. Evaluation.
7. Cross-organizational programme analyses.
8. Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit.
9. Reports of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination.
10. Consideration of the provisional agenda for the twenty-fifth session of the Committee.
11. Adoption of the report of the Committee.

ANNEX II

List of documents before the Committee
at its twenty-fourth session

A/38/172 and Add.1	Joint Inspection Unit: Department of Technical Co-operation for Development: note by the Secretary-General
A/38/505 and Add.1 and Corr.1	Implementation of General Assembly resolution 37/214: report of the Secretary-General
A/39/6 and Corr.1	Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989
A/39/97-E/1984/59	Further implementation of General Assembly resolution 37/214: report of the Secretary-General
A/39/154-E/1984/46 and Corr.1	Analysis of the mandates of, and problems addressed by, the United Nations system in economic and technical co-operation among developing countries: report of the Secretary-General
A/39/173 and Corr.1 and Add.1	Programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1982-1983: report of the Secretary-General
A/39/223	Transport and Communications Decade in Africa: implementation of General Assembly resolution 38/150: report of the Secretary-General
E/1984/50	Review and appraisal of the work of the Task Force on Rural Development of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination since 1981: report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination
E/1984/66	Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination for 1983/84
A/AC.198/77	Report on the programme and activities of the Joint United Nations Information Committee
A/C.5/39/1 and Corr.1	Operation of the new system for setting priorities
E/AC.51/1984/1	Provisional agenda
E/AC.51/1984/1/Add.1 and Rev.1	Report on the state of preparedness of documentation for the session
E/AC.51/1984/2	Tentative timetable for intergovernmental review of in-depth and triennial evaluation studies scheduled for 1986 to 1992, including proposals for a linkage between themes of in-depth evaluation studies and of cross-organizational programme analyses: note by the Secretary-General

E/AC.51/1984/3	Areas for future cross-organizational programme analyses: report of the Secretary-General
E/AC.51/1984/4	Follow-up to the cross-organizational programme analysis of the activities of the United Nations system in marine affairs: note by the Secretary-General
E/AC.51/1984/5 and Corr.1 (E only) and Corr.2 (F only)	Cross-organizational programme analysis of the activities of the United Nations system in human settlements: report of the Secretary-General
E/AC.51/1984/6	Documents dissemination system: report of the Secretary-General
E/AC.51/1984/7 and Add.1 and Corr.1	Evaluation of the United Nations Development Programme-financed technical co-operation activities of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in the field of manufactures: report of the Secretary-General
E/AC.51/1984/8	Agenda adopted by the Committee at its 1st (organizational) meeting on 22 March 1984
E/AC.51/1984/9	Location of the Information Systems Unit within the Secretariat: report of the Secretary-General
E/AC.51/1984/10	Preparation of proposed programme budget documentation: report of the Secretary-General
E/AC.51/1984/11 and Corr.1	Industrial Development Decade for Africa: implementation of section II of General Assembly resolution 38/192: note by the Secretariat
E/AC.51/1984/12	Progress report on the activities of the Joint United Nations Information Committee: Note by the Secretary-General
E/AC.51/1984/L.1	Draft provisional agenda for the twenty-fifth session
E/AC.51/1984/L.2	Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters: draft programme of work: note by the Secretariat
E/AC.51/1984/L.2/Rev.1	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work: proposed revised programme of work: note by the Secretariat
E/AC.51/1984/L.3	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work: letter dated 5 April 1984 from the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences addressed to the Chairman of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination

E/AC.51/1984/L.4

Letter dated 1 May 1984 from the Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme addressed to the Chairman of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination

E/AC.51/1984/L.5 and
Add.1-25

Draft report

E/AC.51/1984/CRP.1 and
Corr.1 (English only)
and Corr.2

Cross-sectional programme analysis of the programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985: report of the Secretary-General

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/39/6 and Corr.1).

2/ Ibid., Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/37/6) and Supplement No. 6 (A/37/6/Add.1).

3/ Ibid., Supplement No. 6A (A/37/6/Add.1).

4/ Ibid., Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/38/6 and Corr.1).

5/ Ibid., Supplement No. 38 (A/38/38), part two, para. 51.

6/ Ibid., Supplement No. 6 (A/38/6 and Corr.1).

7/ Ibid., Supplement No. 38 (A/38/38), part two, para. 397.

8/ Ibid., part one, para. 286 (c) and (d).

9/ Ibid., para. 286 (a).

10/ Ibid., para. 285.

11/ Ibid., para. 116.

12/ Ibid., paras. 171-197.

13/ Ibid., para. 197.

14/ Ibid., Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/37/38), para. 367.

15/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August to 12 September 1978 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11), part one, chap. I.

16/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/35/38), para. 359 (a).

17/ Ibid., Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/38/38), part one, para. 19 (b).

Notes (continued)

18/ See FAO, Report of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, Rome, 12-20 July 1979 (WCARRD/REP), part one.

19/ For the Committee's discussion of the subject, see chap. II, sect. A, paras. 14-84.

20/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/39/6 and Corr.1).

21/ Ibid., Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/37/6).

22/ For the Committee's discussion of the subject, see chap. II, sect. B, paras. 87-91.

23/ See chap. II, sect. C, paras. 96-101.

24/ See chap. II, sect. D, paras. 104-107.

25/ See chap. II, sect. E, paras. 110-113.

26/ See chap. II, sect. F, paras. 117-121.

27/ See chap. II, sect. G, paras. 124-129.

28/ See chap. II, sect. H, paras. 133-137.

29/ See chap. II, sect. I, paras. 142-144.

30/ See chap. III, sect. A, paras. 149-161.

31/ See chap. III, sect. B, para. 163.

32/ See chap. IV, sect. A, paras. 174-189.

33/ See chap. IV, sect. B, paras. 190-198.

34/ See chap. IV, sect. C, paras. 201-204.

35/ See chap. IV, sect. D, paras. 208-211.

36/ See chap. IV, sect. E, paras. 214-217.

37/ See chap. V, sect. A, paras. 219-223.

38/ See chap. V, sect. B, paras. 226-234.

39/ See chap. V, sect. C, paras. 237-242.

40/ See chap. V, sect. D, paras. 245-249.

41/ See chap. VI, paras. 254-257.

Notes (continued)

- 42/ See chap. VII, sect. A, paras. 264-285.
- 43/ See chap. VII, sect. B, paras. 290-294.
- 44/ See chap. VIII, para. 295.
- 45/ See chap. IX, paras. 296-298.

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