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GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE EIGHTY-FOURTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 21 December 1989, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. GARBA (Nigeria)

- Financing of the United Nations peace-keeping forces in the Middle East: [133]
 - (a) United Nations Disengagement Observer Force: report of the Fifth Committee
 - (b) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon: report of the Fifth Committee
- Financing of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group: report of the Fifth Committee [134]
- Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission: report of the Fifth Committee [135]

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- Financing of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group: report of the Fifth Committee [136]
- Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peace-keeping operations: report of the Fifth Committee [137]
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- Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations: report of the Fifth Committee [38]
- Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991: report of the Fifth Committee [123]

The meeting was called to order at 3.40 p.m.

AGENDA ITEMS 133 TO 137, 12 (continued), 122, 124, 125 AND 40,
128, 129 (continued), 131, 132, 38, AND 123

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING FORCES IN THE MIDDLE EAST:

- (a) UNITED NATIONS DISENGAGEMENT OBSERVER FORCE: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/44/887)
- (b) UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/44/888)

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS IRAN-IRAQ MILITARY OBSERVER GROUP: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/44/889)

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS ANGOLA VERIFICATION MISSION: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/44/890)

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS TRANSITION ASSISTANCE GROUP: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/44/891)

ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY ASPECTS OF THE FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/44/892)

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/44/893)

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1988-1989: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/44/894)

PROGRAMME PLANNING: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/44/902)

FINANCIAL EMERGENCY OF THE UNITED NATIONS
CURRENT FINANCIAL CRISIS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

REPORTS OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/44/900, A/44/899)

PATTERN OF CONFERENCES: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/44/895)

SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR THE APPORTIONMENT OF THE EXPENSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS:
REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/44/896)

UNITED NATIONS COMMON SYSTEM: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/44/898)

UNITED NATIONS PENSION SYSTEM: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/44/897)

REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/44/901)

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1990-1991: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/44/905)

The PRESIDENT: I wish to advise representatives that we shall consider the agenda items in a different order from that listed in the Journal, because some of the documents are still to be distributed in the Hall.

I request the Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee, Mr. Etien Ninov of Bulgaria, to introduce the reports of the Fifth Committee in one statement.

Mr. NINOV (Bulgaria), Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee: I have the honour to introduce the reports of the Fifth Committee on the agenda items listed for consideration today. If I may, I shall introduce them in the order in which the agenda items to which they relate are listed in the Journal.

With regard to agenda item 122, "Programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989", the report of the Fifth Committee is contained in document A/44/894. Paragraph 5 of the report contains the recommendation of the Fifth Committee, which is that the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A and B, concerning the programme budget for the 1988 to 1989 biennium.

The report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 123, "Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991", is contained in document A/44/905. The recommendations of the Fifth Committee, which are in section V of the report, consist of four draft resolutions for the Assembly's consideration. In paragraph 1 (c) in section C of draft resolution 2 A, the figure \$936,617,000 should be replaced by the figure \$934,617,000. The Fifth Committee recommended the adoption of all four draft resolutions without a vote.

The Fifth Committee considered agenda item 124, "Programme planning", in conjunction with items 38, "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations", and 123, "Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991". The Committee recommended without a vote the adoption of the draft resolution in paragraph 36 of its report (A/44/902).

(Mr. Ninov, Rapporteur,
Fifth Committee)

I now turn to agenda items 125, "Financial emergency of the United Nations", and 40, "Current financial crisis of the United Nations". The Fifth Committee considered those two related items together and adopted two reports on them (A/44/900 and A/44/899). Paragraph 5 in each of the two reports contains an identical text of the draft resolution that the Committee decided, without a vote, to recommend to the Assembly.

I turn now to agenda item 128, "Pattern of conferences", on which the Fifth Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of draft resolutions A, B and C in paragraph 7 of its report (A/44/895).

I come next to agenda item 129, "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations", on which the Fifth Committee's report is contained in document A/44/896. The Committee decided without a vote to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft resolution in paragraph 6 of that report.

The Fifth Committee considered agenda item 131, "United Nations common system", at its 28th, 31st, 33rd, 35th, 38th, 44th and 59th meetings. I am pleased to report that the Committee recommended without a vote the adoption of the draft resolution in paragraph 9 of its report (A/44/898).

With regard to agenda item 132, "United Nations pension system", the Fifth Committee recommended without a vote the adoption of the draft resolution in paragraph 8 of its report (A/44/897).

I come now to agenda item 133, "Financing of the United Nations peace-keeping forces in the Middle East: (a) United Nations Disengagement Observer Force; (b) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon". The reports of the Committee on these matters are to be found in documents A/44/887 and A/44/888 respectively. The draft resolution with regard to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force is

(Mr. Ninov, Rapporteur,
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contained in paragraph 6 of document A/44/887, and the draft resolution with regard to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon is contained in paragraph 6 of document A/44/888. The Fifth Committee adopted both draft resolutions without a vote and recommends that the General Assembly also adopt them.

(Mr. Ninov, Rapporteur,
Fifth Committee)

With regard to agenda item 134, "Financing of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group", the report of the Fifth Committee appears in document A/44/889. The Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft resolution which appears in paragraph 6 of the report. This draft resolution was also adopted by the Committee without a vote.

I turn now to agenda item 135, "Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission". The report of the Fifth Committee is contained in document A/44/890. The draft resolution, which appears in paragraph 6 of the report, was adopted without a vote. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly that it too adopt the draft resolution without a vote.

Agenda item 136 is entitled "Financing of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group". The Fifth Committee considered this item at its 56th and 58th meetings. The draft resolution which appears in paragraph 6 of its report (A/44/891) was adopted without a vote. The Committee recommends that the General Assembly adopt it without a vote.

I turn next to agenda item 137, "Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peace-keeping operations". The report of the Fifth Committee is contained in document A/44/892. Draft resolution A, B and C, which appears in paragraph 5 of that report, was adopted without a vote. The Committee recommends that the General Assembly also adopt this draft resolution without a vote.

With regard to agenda item 12, "Report of the Economic and Social Council", the Fifth Committee noted the various chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council in the context of its consideration of other items, notably item 38, entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning

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Fifth Committee)

of the United Nations"; item 123, "Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991"; and item 124, "Programme planning". In paragraph 4 of its report (A/44/893), the Committee recommends that the General Assembly adopt a draft decision, in which it would take note of chapters I, III (section C) and VI (sections B and D) of the Economic and Social Council's report.

I turn now to agenda item 38, "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations". The Fifth Committee's report on this item is contained in A/44/901. In paragraph 7 of that report the Committee recommends that the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A, B and C contained therein without a vote.

Owing to the time constraints under which we were working, some of our reports contained technical errors. These were pointed out early enough so that they could be corrected at the Fifth Committee's 61st meeting. The corrections will be duly reflected in all future issuances of the reports concerned.

In conclusion, I should like to express my appreciation to all the delegations here that elected me Rapporteur. It was a pleasure for me to work with Ambassador Ali Masri of the Syrian Arab Republic, Chairman of the Fifth Committee, and the other officers of the Committee. I thank the Secretariat also for all the assistance it gave me as Rapporteur.

The PRESIDENT: If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the reports of the Fifth Committee before it today.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote.

(The President)

The positions of delegations regarding the various recommendations of the Fifth Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records.

May I remind members that under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401 the General Assembly agreed that

"When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee."

May I also remind delegations that, again in accordance with decision 34/401, explanations of vote should be limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

We shall now consider the reports of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 133, relating to the financing of peace-keeping forces in the Middle East.

We shall first consider the report of the Fifth Committee (A/44/887) on agenda item 133 (a), which concerns the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force.

I call on the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic, who wishes to speak in explanation of vote.

Mr. SHAHEED (Syrian Arab Republic) (interpretation from Arabic): My delegation wishes to state its position on the draft resolution on the financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), contained in document A/44/887. If this draft resolution were put to the vote we would vote against it, in keeping with our position of principle, which we stated last year in the General Assembly. We believe that the occupying force should provide the financing for UNDOF.

The PRESIDENT: The draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee is contained in paragraph 6 of its report (A/44/887). It is entitled "Financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force" and was adopted by the Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 44/187).

The PRESIDENT: We have concluded our consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 133.

The Assembly will now consider the report of the Fifth Committee (A/44/888) on agenda item 133 (b), which relates to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

I call on the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic, who wishes to speak in explanation of vote.

Mr. SHAHEED (Syrian Arab Republic) (interpretation from Arabic): My delegation wishes to state its position on the draft resolution on the financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). If this draft resolution were put to the vote we would vote against it in accordance with a position of principle that we have stated at earlier sessions of the General Assembly. We think that the financing of UNIFIL should be provided by the occupying force.

The PRESIDENT: The draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee, contained in paragraph 6 of its report (A/44/888) and entitled "Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon", was adopted without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly also wishes to do so?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 44/188).

The PRESIDENT: We have concluded our consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 133.

(The President)

The Assembly will now consider the report of the Fifth Committee (A/44/889) on agenda item 134, "Financing of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group".

The Assembly will take a decision on the draft resolution contained in paragraph 6 of that report. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 44/189).

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly has concluded its consideration of agenda item 134.

The Assembly will now consider the report of the Fifth Committee (A/44/890) on agenda item 135, "Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission".

The Assembly will take a decision on the draft resolution contained in paragraph 6 of that report. The Fifth Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly also wishes to do so?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 44/190).

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly has concluded its consideration of agenda item 135.

The Assembly will next consider the report of the Fifth Committee (A/44/891) on agenda item 136, "Financing of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group".

The Assembly will take a decision on the draft resolution contained in paragraph 6 of that report. The Fifth Committee decided without a vote to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of that draft resolution. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 44/191).

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly has concluded its consideration of agenda item 136.

(The President)

We turn now to the report of the Fifth Committee (A/44/892) on agenda item 137, "Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peace-keeping operations".

The Assembly will take a decision on the draft resolution (A, B and C) contained in paragraph 5 of that report. It was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 44/192 A-C).

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly has concluded its consideration of agenda item 137.

The Assembly will now consider the report of the Fifth Committee (A/44/893) on agenda item 12. This report deals with those chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council which were allocated to the Fifth Committee.

The Assembly will take a decision on the draft decision in paragraph 4 of the report of the Fifth Committee. The Committee recommends that the General Assembly adopt that draft decision. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do so?

The draft decision was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now consider the report of the Fifth Committee (A/44/894) on agenda item 122, concerning the programme budget for the biennium 1988 to 1989.

The Assembly will take decisions on the draft resolution and the draft decision recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraphs 5 and 6 of its report.

The draft resolution (A and B) deals with the programme budget for the biennium 1988 to 1989. In paragraph 5 of its report the Fifth Committee recommends the adoption of this draft resolution. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to adopt it?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 44/193 A and B).

The PRESIDENT: The draft decision in paragraph 6 of the Fifth Committee's report concerns the standards of accommodation for air travel. The Committee recommends the adoption of this draft decision. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt it?

The draft decision was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly has concluded its consideration of agenda item 122. I now invite members to turn to the report of the Fifth Committee (A/44/902) on agenda item 124, "Programme planning".

The Assembly will take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 36 of that report.

The Committee adopted that draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 44/194).

The PRESIDENT: The General Assembly has concluded its consideration of agenda item 124.

The Assembly will next consider together the reports of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 125, "Financial emergency of the United Nations", and agenda item 40, "Current financial crisis of the United Nations". These reports are contained in documents A/44/900 and A/44/899, respectively.

The Assembly will take a decision on the draft resolution (A and B) recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 5 of each of the reports.

The draft resolution, entitled "Current financial crisis and financial emergency of the United Nations", was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 44/195 A and B).

The PRESIDENT: I now call on the representative of India, who wishes to speak in explanation of vote.

Mr. GUPTA (India): My delegation has asked to be allowed to speak in order to point out that it joined the consensus on the draft resolution on agenda item 125 taking into account an important understanding of the Fifth Committee associated with operative paragraph 3 of part B of the resolution - namely, that the reference to expeditious payment in full of all outstanding assessed contributions to all peace-keeping operations includes outstanding dues owed by certain Member States in connection with the first United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF-I) and the United Nations Operation in the Congo. The contributors to the two peace-keeping operations to which I have just referred have been waiting patiently for the past 25 years to get the reimbursements owed to them by the United Nations. We hope that the Member States which are in arrears for these two peace-keeping operations will, in recognition of and respect for General Assembly resolution 1877 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, pay the outstanding amounts owed by them to the Organization.

We hope, too, that the Secretary-General, in implementation of operative paragraph 3 of part B of this resolution, will - while addressing communications to Member States that are in arrears for various peace-keeping operations - refer also to outstanding assessed contributions owed in respect of UNEF-I and the United Nations Operation in the Congo.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly has concluded its consideration of agenda items 125 and 40.

We turn now to the report of the Fifth Committee (A/44/895) on agenda item 128, relating to the pattern of conferences.

The Assembly will take a decision on the draft resolution (A, B and C) recommended in paragraph 7 of that report. It was adopted by the Fifth Committee without objection. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to adopt it?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 44/196 A-C).

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly has concluded its consideration of agenda item 128.

We turn now to agenda item 129, entitled "Scale of assessments for apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations". The report of the Fifth Committee on that item is contained in document A/44/896.

We shall take a decision on the draft resolution (A, B and C), recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of that report. The Committee adopted that draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 44/197 A-C).

The PRESIDENT: We have concluded our consideration of agenda item 129.

We shall next consider the report of the Fifth Committee (A/44/898) on agenda item 131, entitled "United Nations common system".

The Assembly will take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 9 of that report. The Committee adopted that draft resolution, entitled "United Nations common system: report of the International Civil Service Commission", without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 44/198).

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly has concluded its consideration of agenda item 131.

We shall next consider the report of the Fifth Committee (A/44/897) on agenda item 132, entitled "United Nations pension system".

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended in paragraph 8 of that report. The Fifth Committee adopted that draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly also wishes to do so?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 44/199).

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly has concluded its consideration of agenda item 132.

The Assembly will now turn to the report of the Fifth Committee (A/44/901) on agenda item 38, entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations".

The Assembly will take a decision on the draft resolution (A, B and C) recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 7 of that report. The Committee adopted that draft resolution, entitled "Implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/213", without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 44/200 A-C).

The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of the United States, who wishes to explain his delegation's position on the resolution that has just been adopted.

Mr. WATSON (United States of America): The forty-fourth session of the General Assembly has been one of the most constructive sessions in the history of the United Nations. Member States and the Secretary-General deserve credit for the important contributions made towards addressing key international political, economic and social problems. The United States delegation is gratified not only

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by the concrete accomplishments of the forty-fourth session but also by the positive signals they send about the role of the Organization. The capacity of the United Nations to contribute to the solution of the many critical problems on the international scene has been strengthened by important steps taken at this session of the General Assembly towards further implementation of administrative and budgetary reforms.

Among the most significant accomplishments of the forty-fourth session has been the consensus adoption of the 1990-1991 programme budget. That decision represents the successful completion of the new budgetary process approved by the Assembly at its forty-first session. We can take satisfaction in that positive result and in the important contributions made by the Secretary-General and delegations to rebuilding confidence in the work of the United Nations.

My delegation would like to highlight those elements of the budget resolution which are of major significance to the United States.

The 1990-1991 United Nations budget of \$1.975 billion is below the level agreed upon at the last General Assembly session in the context of approval of the budget outline. It therefore reflects the continued restraint shown by the Secretary-General and Member States. Also, the Organization is continuing to make progress towards achieving the reductions called for in resolution 41/213 regarding overall staffing levels, in high-level posts in particular. While some delegations expressed reservations about the approved reductions in senior posts, they worked with others to permit a consensus on the budget. We look forward to receiving proposals next year for the elimination of the four remaining high-level positions that is required to meet the target set in resolution 41/213.

Another major accomplishment has been the successful operation of the new contingency fund. Budget add-ons charged to that fund total less than \$2 million, well below the level approved for the biennium as a whole.

(Mr. Watson, United States)

Nevertheless, my delegation had some difficulties with some specific elements of the approved budget. For example, we regret the lack of acceptance of the Secretary-General's proposal to transfer certain functions and staff from New York to strengthen the role of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. And the budget continues funding for a number of activities which are objectionable to the United States. We have stated our reservations and shall continue to work with others for corrective actions, but in the spirit of fostering consensus we did not vote against appropriations for those specific programmes.

Let me here stress the importance of the resolution adopted by the Assembly on the implementation of reforms. That resolution continues the efforts begun in 1986 to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Organization. While significant progress has been made towards achieving the previously agreed target of 15 per cent for staff reductions, we are not there yet. More needs to be done, and we are encouraged that the General Assembly will address this issue next year. The reform resolution also requires further action by Member States to restructure the intergovernmental decision-making process in the economic and social areas. Through co-operative efforts on the part of the Secretary-General and Member States, full implementation of all the reforms approved by the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session can be achieved.

As the last, but certainly not the least, item on our list of major accomplishments, we note that the Assembly this year took an important new step towards improving the co-ordination and effectiveness of the United Nations system. Following up on the successful joint meetings in October of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, the Assembly has called for strengthening the role of the Secretary-General in the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and for an improved annual overview report by that Committee.

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Those steps, taken together, are important for improved programme and administrative management in the United Nations system. They should facilitate taking the kind of bold action required to meet the growing responsibilities of the United Nations for addressing the transnational problems that are of such great concern to the international community as we face the decade of the 1990s.

In conclusion, the United States delegation is pleased that by working together Member States have reached the consensus on the 1990-1991 United Nations budget envisaged in resolution 41/213. The constructive spirit that prevailed on the budget made possible the consensus adoption of resolutions on all Fifth Committee agenda items. That is an unprecedented achievement, and its continuation will add importantly to rebuilding the confidence between Member States required for the United Nations to be successful in carrying out the increasing responsibilities entrusted to it.

The PRESIDENT: We have concluded our consideration of agenda item 38.

We turn now to the report of the Fifth Committee (A/44/905) on agenda item 123, concerning the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990 to 1991. The Assembly will take decisions on the four draft resolutions recommended in paragraph 49 (A/C.5/44/L.15 (Part IV)) of that report.

The Assembly will first consider draft resolution I (A and B), entitled "Questions relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991". The Fifth Committee adopted that draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 44/201 A and B).

The PRESIDENT: We turn next to draft resolution II (A, B and C), entitled "Programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991". The Fifth Committee

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adopted that draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 44/202 (A-C)).

The PRESIDENT: Draft resolution III is entitled "Unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 1990-1991". That draft resolution too was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 44/203).

The PRESIDENT: We turn finally to draft resolution IV, which deals with the Working Capital Fund for the biennium 1990 to 1991. Draft resolution IV was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution IV was adopted (resolution 44/204).

The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic, who wishes to explain his delegation's position on one of the draft resolutions that has just been adopted..

Mr. SHAHEED (Syrian Arab Republic) (interpretation from Arabic): My delegation accepted the adoption without a vote of resolution I (A/C.5/44/L.15 (Part IV)), in line with the Fifth Committee's trend towards adopting draft resolutions without a vote. We fully support all the United Nations activities covered in part B V of the resolution, which relates to budget estimates for "Section 3. Political affairs, trusteeship and decolonization". We accord high priority to all these activities, and we believe that any measure that could weaken them is unacceptable.

Therefore, as my delegation sees it, the measure set out in paragraph 2 of part B V of draft resolution I should not be implemented.

The PRESIDENT: I should like at this point to convey to Members the Secretary-General's regrets at not being able to be present at this meeting owing to other pressing duties, of which they are well aware. He has, however, requested me to read out to the Assembly the following message:

"We have just witnessed the adoption without a vote of all the reports of the Fifth Committee, including the programme budget for the biennium 1990 to 1991. I could not let this historic occasion pass without expressing my gratification at the spirit of co-operation which has led to the adoption by consensus of the budget necessary to fulfil the goals and objectives of the Organization over the next two years. I regard the Assembly's approval of this budget, the first to be prepared in accordance with the new budgetary procedures approved by the General Assembly in resolution 41/213, as a further indication of the renewal of confidence in multilateralism and its agents which I noted in my annual report on the work of the Organization. I trust that Member States will demonstrate their commitment tangibly through timely and prompt payment of assessed contributions, as well as of arrears.

"I should also like to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation for the Assembly's support for the improvement of conditions of service of the staff of the Organization. The Assembly's positive response to the majority of the International Civil Service Commission recommendations, to which, as members are aware, my colleagues in the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and I attached particular importance, is a welcome recognition of the importance of appropriate conditions of service for an independent international civil service.

"In conclusion, I should like to congratulate the Chairman of the Fifth Committee, who, with his Bureau, presided over the Committee's lengthy and

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complex deliberations, and to extend my gratitude for the invaluable contributions of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Chairman of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, and their respective Committees."

The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 123 and all the reports of the Fifth Committee.

The meeting rose at 4 p.m.