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Agenda item 117

Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Patrick A. Chuasoto (Philippines)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2008, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-third session the item entitled “Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations” and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 4th, 11th, 26th and 28th meetings, on 8 and 23 October and 19 and 23 December 2008. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee’s consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/63/SR.4, 11, 26 and 28).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the accountability framework, enterprise risk management and internal control framework, and results-based management framework (A/62/701 and Corr.1 and Add.1);

(b) Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/63/457);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors contained in its report on the activities of the Procurement Task Force (A/63/167/Add.1);

(d) Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/63/490);



(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the information-sharing practices between the United Nations and national law enforcement authorities, as well as referrals of possible criminal cases related to United Nations staff, United Nations officials and experts on mission (A/63/331);

(f) Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/63/492);

(g) Report of the Secretary-General on the information requested in paragraph 17 of General Assembly resolution 62/247 (A/63/369);

(h) Report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2010-2011 (A/63/600);

(i) Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/63/622);

(j) Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the review of results-based management at the United Nations: "results-based management at the United Nations has been an administrative chore of little value to accountability and decision-making" (A/63/268);

(k) Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the activities of the Procurement Task Force for the period 1 July 2007 to 31 July 2008 and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments thereon (A/63/329 and Add.1);

(l) Report of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee on the activities of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee for the period from 1 January to 31 July 2008 (A/63/328), sect. III.D;

(m) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on results-based management in the United Nations in the context of the reform process (A/61/805) and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments thereon (A/62/704);

(n) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Board of Auditors on the activities of the Procurement Task Force (A/63/167).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.26

4. At its 28th meeting, on 23 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2010-2011" (A/C.5/63/L.26), submitted by the Chairman of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Brazil.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.26 without a vote (see para. 8).

B. Draft decision A/C.5/63/L.29

6. At its 28th meeting, on 23 December, the Committee had before it a draft decision entitled “Questions deferred for future consideration” (A/C.5/63/L.29), submitted by the Chairman of the Committee.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.5/63/L.29 without a vote (see para. 9).

III. Recommendations of the Fifth Committee

8. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2010-2011

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, in which it requested the Secretary-General to submit in off-budget years an outline of the proposed programme budget for the following biennium,

Reaffirming also section VI of its resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990,

Reaffirming further rule 153 of its rules of procedure,

Recalling its resolution 58/269 of 23 December 2003,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2010-2011¹ and the recommendations contained in the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,²

1. *Reaffirms* that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters;

2. *Endorses* the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,² subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Reaffirms* that the proposed programme budget outline shall contain an indication of the following:

(a) A preliminary estimate of resources needed to accommodate the proposed programme of activities during the biennium;

(b) Priorities, reflecting general trends of a broad sectoral nature;

(c) Real growth, positive or negative, compared with the previous budget;

(d) Size of the contingency fund expressed as a percentage of the overall level of resources;

4. *Also reaffirms* that the budget outline should provide a greater level of predictability of resources required for the following biennium and promote greater involvement of Member States in the budgetary process, thereby facilitating the broadest possible agreement on the programme budget;

5. *Further reaffirms* that the budget proposals of the Secretary-General should reflect resource levels commensurate with mandates for their full, efficient and effective implementation;

¹ A/63/600.

² A/63/622.

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to include in the proposed budget outline and in the proposed programme budget, provisions for expenditures for special political missions related to peace and security that are expected to be extended or approved in the course of the biennium;

7. *Stresses* that the budget outline is a preliminary estimate of resources;

8. *Invites* the Secretary-General to prepare his proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 on the basis of a preliminary estimate of 4,871,048,700 United States dollars at revised 2008-2009 rates;

9. *Notes* that the preliminary estimates provided by the Secretary-General for the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 do not include provisions for the implementation of those requirements that are under discussion by the General Assembly and that the requirements pertinent to the regular budget should be reflected in the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011, subject to approval by the Assembly and in accordance with resolutions 41/213 and 42/211;

10. *Welcomes* the information contained in paragraph 8 of and the annex to the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

11. *Notes* the additional information provided in the annex to the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and requests the Secretary-General to provide similar information in an annex to future budget outlines;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to issue an annex to the report on special political missions containing an updated estimate of the total budget for special political missions for 2010-2011 for consideration by the General Assembly at the beginning of the sixty-fourth session of the Assembly based on updated projected needs and without prejudging the decisions of the relevant legislative organs of the United Nations;

13. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General that he submit, in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011, the total amount of resources that he should have at his disposal, from all resources of financing, in order to implement fully all mandated programmes and activities;

14. *Emphasizes* that the proposed budget outline should be submitted sufficiently early in order to be able to serve as a practical tool in the budget preparation process, and, in this regard, requests the Secretary-General to issue future budget outlines at least thirty days prior to their scheduled introduction, but not later than 15 November of the off-budget year;

15. *Decides* that the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 shall contain provisions for recosting on the basis of the existing methodology;

16. *Reaffirms* that the budget outline should be submitted in accordance with the priorities set by the General Assembly;

17. *Decides* that the priorities for the biennium 2010-2011 shall be the following:

(a) Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development, in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions and recent United Nations conferences;

- (b) Maintenance of international peace and security;
- (c) Development of Africa;
- (d) Promotion of human rights;
- (e) Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts;
- (f) Promotion of justice and international law;
- (g) Disarmament;
- (h) Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

18. *Notes* that the preliminary indicative estimates contained in the present budget outline do not track precisely the priorities of the General Assembly in certain areas, including in the areas of development;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to reflect the priorities outlined in paragraph 17 above when presenting the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010–2011;

20. *Notes* that the budget proposal will reflect the benefit of further reviews of possible obsolete activities, additional cost-effective measures and simplified procedures and, in this regard, requests the Secretary-General to rigorously pursue this in accordance with regulation 5.6 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation,³ and established practices;

21. *Decides* that the contingency fund shall be set at the level of 0.75 per cent of the preliminary estimate, namely, at 36,532,900 dollars, that this amount shall be in addition to the overall level of the preliminary estimate, and that it shall be used in accordance with the procedures for the use and operation of the contingency fund.

³ ST/SGB/2000/8.

9. The Fifth Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Questions deferred for future consideration

The General Assembly decides to defer until the resumed part of its sixty-third session consideration of the following agenda items and related documents:

Item 117: Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Report of the Secretary-General on the accountability framework, enterprise risk management and internal control framework, and results-based management framework¹

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the review of results-based management at the United Nations²

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on results-based management in the United Nations in the context of the reform process³

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on results-based management in the United Nations in the context of the reform process⁴

Item 118: Programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Report of the Secretary-General on the contingent liability reserve for the United Nations Postal Administration⁵

Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions⁶

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on a common payroll for United Nations system organizations⁷

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on a common payroll for United Nations system organizations⁸

¹ A/62/701 and Corr.1 and Add.1.

² A/63/268.

³ A/61/805.

⁴ A/62/704.

⁵ A/63/320.

⁶ A/63/568.

⁷ A/60/582.

⁸ A/60/582/Add.1.

Item 122: Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

Reports of the Committee on Contributions⁹

Reports of the Secretary-General on multi-year payment plans¹⁰

⁹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 11 (A/62/11);*
ibid., *Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 11 (A/63/11).*

¹⁰ A/62/70 and A/63/68.