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Committee for Programme and Coordination

Fifty-ninth session

Organizational session, 18 April 2019

Substantive session, 3–28 June 2019*

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Annotated provisional agenda

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Programme questions:
 - (a) Proposed programme budget for the year 2020;
 - (b) Evaluation.
4. Coordination questions:
 - (a) Report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination;
 - (b) New Partnership for Africa's Development.
5. Report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit.
6. Provisional agenda for the sixtieth session.
7. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-ninth session.

Annotations

1. Election of officers

At its twenty-fifth session, the Committee for Programme and Coordination reaffirmed the decision made at its twenty-fourth session that the post of its Chair, as well as the other posts on the Bureau, should rotate annually among the regional groups, and decided on the following pattern of rotation for the post of the Chair: (a) African States; (b) Eastern European States; (c) Latin American and Caribbean States; (d) Western European and other States; and (e) Asia-Pacific States. The

* The dates for the substantive session are tentative.



Committee also decided that each year the post of Rapporteur should be occupied by a member of the regional group that occupied the post of the Chair the previous year.

At its fifty-ninth session, the Committee may wish to elect the Chair from the African States, in accordance with the agreed pattern of rotation among regional groups, and the Rapporteur from the Asia-Pacific States, the regional group that occupied the post of Chair the previous year.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Pursuant to paragraph 2 (e) of Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/41 and paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 34/50, the Committee submitted to the Council and the Assembly for their review the provisional agenda for its fifty-ninth session, together with the list of documentation requested.

In accordance with paragraph 6 of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX), the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit concerning the economic, social and human rights programmes of the United Nations system, including the reports dealing with the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, shall be examined by the Committee, which shall report thereon to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. In its resolution 59/267, the Assembly invited the Committee, in performing its programmatic, coordination, monitoring and evaluation functions, as set out in its mandate, to consider relevant reports of the Unit. The Assembly, in its resolution 67/236, endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee contained in its report on its fifty-second session (A/67/16), including its recommendation that the Assembly urge the Unit to intensify its efforts to introduce to the Committee reports that are relevant to the function of the Committee, bearing in mind subparagraphs 4 (d) and (e) of article 11 of the statute of the Unit. In that connection, the Committee will select, at its organizational meeting, under agenda item 2, the report or reports of the Unit that it will consider at its fifty-ninth session under agenda item 5.

Pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 70/8 and 72/9, attention is drawn to Secretary-General's bulletin ST/SGB/2018/3, which contains the approved Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, effective as of 1 January 2018.¹

In its resolution 64/229, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and decided not to include the agenda item "Improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee for Programme and Coordination" in future sessions, and further decided to discuss related matters under the agenda item "Adoption of the agenda and organization of work" as and when needed.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation for the fifty-ninth session (E/AC.51/2019/L.1)

Note by the Secretariat on the report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit (E/AC.51/2019/L.2)

¹ Secretary-General's bulletin ST/SGB/2018/3, entitled "Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation", supersedes the bulletin of the same title dated 2 May 2016 (ST/SGB/2016/6).

3. Programme questions

(a) Proposed programme budget for the year 2020

In its resolution [58/269](#), entitled “Strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change”, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare, on a trial basis, for submission to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session, a strategic framework, which would comprise, in one document:

(a) Part one: a plan outline, reflecting the longer-term objectives of the Organization;

(b) Part two: a biennial programme plan, to cover two years.

In the same resolution, the General Assembly affirmed that the strategic framework should constitute the principal policy directive of the United Nations and should serve as the basis for programme planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation and decided to review, with a view to taking a final decision at its sixty-second session, the format, content and duration of the strategic framework, including the necessity of maintaining part one.

In its resolution [62/224](#), the General Assembly considered the recommendations of the Committee contained in chapter III, section A, of its report on its forty-seventh session ([A/62/16](#)), including the decision to maintain the strategic framework as the principal policy directive of the United Nations with effect from the biennium 2010–2011 and to continue to include part one: plan outline in the strategic framework ([A/62/16](#), para. 33 (a) and (b)). The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to improve the format of part one and the reflection of the longer-term objectives therein (*ibid.*, para. 33 (c)) and reaffirmed that the Committee should, in performing its programmatic role in the planning and budgeting process, continue to review the programmatic aspects of the new and/or revised mandates approved subsequent to the adoption of the biennial programme plan, as well as any differences that might arise between the biennial programme plan and the programmatic aspects of the proposed programme budget, in accordance with its terms of reference, the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, and the relevant resolutions of the Assembly (*ibid.*, para. 33 (d)).

In paragraph 10 of the same resolution, the General Assembly recalled 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 and reiterated that the Committee for Programme and Coordination should continue to perform its role in reviewing the strategic framework and recommend any necessary changes to the Economic and Social Council and the Assembly.

In its resolution [67/236](#), the General Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee set out in chapter II, section B, of the report on its fifty-second session ([A/67/16](#)), in which the Committee, *inter alia*, reiterated the importance of the long-term objectives of the Organization, which were aimed at ensuring the full achievement of its goals, and in that regard, stressed the need for coordinated efforts by the Secretariat to improve the formulation of suitable expected accomplishments in such a way as to ensure that, at the stage of budget preparation, all activities and outputs mandated by Member States would be included for their effective and efficient implementation. The Committee, while recognizing the improvements in the logical framework, recommended that the Assembly encourage programme managers to continue to further improve the qualitative aspects of indicators of achievement in order to allow for better evaluation of results, bearing in

mind that indicators should be strategic, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound.

By endorsing the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, the General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to ensure, when preparing future plan outlines, that the proposed strategic frameworks took fully into account the guidelines provided by the Assembly in its resolutions [59/275](#), [61/235](#), [62/224](#) and [63/247](#), as well as subsequent relevant resolutions, so that the outlines reflected more accurately the longer-term objectives of the Organization, based on all mandates approved by Member States.

The General Assembly further endorsed the recommendation that the Secretary-General present concrete measures and information on actions taken to promote a culture of accountability within the Secretariat in future strategic frameworks, in accordance with its resolution [66/257](#).

In its resolution [70/8](#), the General Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee on proposed revisions to the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, as well as on proposals to improve the implementation of results-based budgeting, contained in chapter II, section A, of the report on its fifty-fifth session ([A/70/16](#)). In doing so, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to ensure that expected accomplishments and, where possible, indicators of achievement measured achievements in the implementation of the programmes of the Organization and not those of individual Member States. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to take forward specific and concrete measures to revise the logical frameworks and improve them, to the extent possible, so as to more clearly indicate the impact of the activities implemented, in preparation for the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018–2019.

In its resolution [71/6](#), the General Assembly approved the proposed biennial programme plan for the period 2018–2019 ([A/71/6/Rev.1](#)) and decided on the priorities for the period 2018–2019, which formed the basis for the preparation of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019. In section I of its resolution [73/279](#), the Assembly also approved the revised biennial programme plan for programme 15, Economic and social development in Africa, for the period 2018–2019 (see [A/73/400](#), sect. II.C).

In its resolution [72/266 A](#), entitled “Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations”, the General Assembly, approved, inter alia, the proposed change from a biennial to an annual budget period on a trial basis and decided that the proposed programme budget should consist of:

- (a) Part I: the plan outline, which endorses the long-term priorities and the objectives of the Organization;
- (b) Part II: the programme plan for programmes and subprogrammes and programme performance information;
- (c) Part III: the post and non-post resource requirements for the programmes and subprogrammes.

In the same resolution, the General Assembly decided that parts I and II would be submitted through the Committee for Programme and Coordination and part III through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for the consideration of the Assembly. Furthermore, the Assembly reiterated that the Committees should examine the proposed programme budget in accordance with their respective mandates and that the sequential nature of the review process of the proposed programme budget would be preserved.

The changes decided upon in resolution [72/266 A](#) would be reviewed by the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session, with a view to taking a final decision on the implementation of the annual budget.

In adopting resolution [72/266 A](#), the General Assembly reaffirmed that no changes to the budget methodology, established budgetary procedures and practices or the financial regulations may be implemented without prior review and approval by the Assembly in accordance with established budgetary procedures.

Documentation

Reports of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget for the year 2020: part I, plan outline, and part II, programme plan for programmes and subprogrammes and programme performance information (General Assembly resolution [72/266 A](#))

Biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2018–2019 ([A/71/6/Rev.1](#))

Revised biennial programme plan for programme 15, Economic and social development in Africa, for the period 2018–2019 ([A/73/400](#), sect. II.C)

(b) Evaluation

Programme and thematic evaluations

In its resolution [62/224](#), the General Assembly endorsed the recommendations of the Committee, set out in its report on its forty-seventh session, on improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee within the framework of its mandate, whereby the Committee would consider in-depth and thematic evaluation reports, as well as the report on strengthening the role of evaluation and the application of evaluation findings on programme design, delivery and policy directives, in budget years, without prejudice to its consideration of evaluation reports in off-budget years, upon its request or that of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, taking into account rule 107.2 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation.

Strengthening the role of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives

In accordance with regulation 7.4 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, the Committee will consider the report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the evaluation role and the application of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives. In that regard, the attention of the Committee is drawn to the relevant sections of General Assembly resolutions [36/228 B](#), [37/234](#), [38/227 A and B](#), [42/215](#), [43/219](#), [44/194](#), [45/253](#), [51/219](#), [53/207](#), [55/234](#), [57/282](#), [59/275](#), [61/235](#), [64/229](#), [66/8](#), [68/20](#), [70/8](#) and [72/9](#).

Documentation

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on strengthening the role of evaluation and the application of evaluation findings on programme design, delivery and policy directives ([A/74/___](#))

Programme evaluations

In its resolution 72/9, the General Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, contained in chapter II, section B.1, of its report on its fifty-seventh session (A/72/16), on strengthening the role of evaluation and the application of evaluation findings on programme design, delivery and policy directives, including to emphasize that the evaluation function, in particular self-evaluation, was an essential managerial tool and that senior managers had a responsibility to use evaluation to improve performance.

In the same resolution, in endorsing the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, contained in chapter II, section B.1, of its report on its fifty-seventh session (A/72/16), the General Assembly selected the following evaluations for 2019: the Offices of the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, on Sexual Violence in Conflict and on Violence against Children; the Department of Public Information; the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management; the Office for Disarmament Affairs; the Department of Management; the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; the Office of Legal Affairs; and the United Nations Environment Programme. The Committee would also consider the report on the evaluation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (E/AC.51/2017/9), which had been deferred from its fifty-seventh session.

Documentation

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Offices of the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, on Sexual Violence in Conflict and on Violence against Children (E/AC.51/2019/_)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Department of Public Information (E/AC.51/2019/_)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (E/AC.51/2019/_)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Office for Disarmament Affairs (E/AC.51/2019/_)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Office of Human Resources Management, Department of Management (E/AC.51/2019/_)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (E/AC.51/2019/_)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Office of Legal Affairs (E/AC.51/2019/_)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the United Nations Environment Programme (E/AC.51/2019/_)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (E/AC.51/2017/9)

4. Coordination questions

(a) Report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX), the Committee will have before it the annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) for 2018.

In paragraph 5 of its resolution [73/269](#), the General Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee contained in chapter III, section A, of its report on its fifty-eighth session relating to the annual overview report of CEB for 2017. In endorsing those conclusions and recommendations, the Assembly welcomed the continued contributions of CEB, delivered within the existing mandates of its member organizations, throughout 2017 on United Nations system-wide coherence, coordination, effectiveness, efficiency and accountability, and brought to the attention of the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, the need to ensure that the Board's activities and initiatives, including those relating to system-wide coherence, which also encompassed the principle of voluntary adoption of the "Delivering as one" approach, as defined in resolution [71/243](#), were fully in line with intergovernmental mandates.

The General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, to continue to include in the reports of CEB to the Committee information on action taken on the wide range of programmatic, management and operational issues linked to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to ensure coordinated United Nations system-wide support in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and underlined that United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, while being risk-informed, must preserve their focus on sustainable development and be elaborated and implemented in accordance with national ownership.

Recognizing the efforts of CEB to enhance collaboration on procurement activities, including increasing the opportunities for vendors from developing countries and countries with economies in transition, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, to continue his efforts in that regard. It encouraged the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, to remind the executive heads of the participating organizations of the need to ensure enhanced alignment of the measures of the High-level Committee on Management with the existing United Nations legislative framework. Furthermore, it requested the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, to continue to urge all common system organizations to ensure the full, uniform and timely implementation of all the decisions of the International Civil Service Commission and the Assembly.

The General Assembly highlighted that effectively addressing sexual harassment had fundamental implications for the credibility of the United Nations system, welcomed the zero-tolerance policy put in place by the Secretary-General and requested the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, to continue to urge all United Nations system organizations to make the issue a matter of priority.

Documentation

Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2018 (E/2019/ __)

(b) New Partnership for Africa's Development

In its resolution [60/257](#), the General Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, contained in chapter IV, section B, of the report of the Committee on its forty-fifth session ([A/60/16](#) and [A/60/16/Corr.1](#)). In endorsing those conclusions and recommendations, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report annually on progress by the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

In its resolution [73/269](#), the General Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, contained in chapter III, section B, of the report of the Committee on its fifty-eighth session, relating to the annual overview report on the New Partnership for Africa's Development. In doing so, the Assembly endorsed

the conclusions and recommendations contained in paragraphs 122 to 132 of the annual report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (E/AC.51/2018/9), to be implemented in a manner consistent with intergovernmental mandates.

The General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to include, in his future reports, information on: (a) possible outcomes of the achievement of NEPAD targets; (b) tangible actions and results in respect of United Nations system support for projects of the Partnership throughout Africa, focusing on the impact, in both quantitative and qualitative terms, of the activities implemented by entities of the United Nations system in support of the Partnership; (c) the activities undertaken by the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa in the areas of advocacy and analytical work, coherence and coordination and facilitation of intergovernmental deliberations relating to the provision of support by the United Nations system to the NEPAD agenda; (d) activities undertaken to provide support to countries to address concerns regarding the protection of women and children, including from sexual violence; (e) the efforts of United Nations entities in support of the region to address challenges relating to governance, youth unemployment, extremism and terrorism; and (f) the continued implementation of activities relating to the monitoring mechanism.

The General Assembly reiterated its request to the organizations of the United Nations system to continue to promote greater coherence in their work in support of NEPAD, to continue to mainstream the special development needs of Africa in all its normative and operational activities and to coordinate closely with the Planning and Coordinating Agency of NEPAD, as the technical body of the African Union, and other structures of the African Union Commission and NEPAD in order to support the United Nations-African Union partnership on Africa's integration and development agenda for 2017–2027 and Agenda 2063 of the African Union. Noting the continued partnership between the African Union and the United Nations, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, to foster the coordinated implementation of the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security and the African Union-United Nations Framework for the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by the relevant organizations of the United Nations system.

Recognizing the important role of the development of infrastructure in Africa, the General Assembly reiterated its request to the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to mobilize United Nations system support in that area. Noting also the importance of the development of skills, the transfer and use of relevant technology and the provision of financial and technical resources in the adaptation and mitigation of the effects of climate change in Africa, the Assembly emphasized that the transfer of relevant technology should be on mutually agreed terms and conditions.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (E/AC.51/2019/_)

5. Report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit

Under agenda item 5, the Committee will consider the relevant report or reports of the Joint Inspection Unit, to be decided upon by the Committee during its organizational session on 18 April 2019.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit (E/AC.51/2019/L.2)

6. Provisional agenda for the sixtieth session

Pursuant to paragraph 3 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1894 (LVII), the Committee will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its sixtieth session, with an indication of the documents to be submitted under each agenda item and the legislative authority for their preparation, in order to enable the Committee to consider those documents, their contribution to its work, their urgency and their relevance in the light of the current situation.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the provisional agenda and documentation for the sixtieth session of the Committee ([E/AC.51/2019/L.3](#))

7. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-ninth session

The report of the Committee on its fifty-ninth session will be submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its coordination and management meeting, to be held in July 2019, and to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session.

Documentation

Draft report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its fifty-ninth session ([E/AC.51/2019/L.4](#) and addenda)

Annex

Members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination for 2019*

<i>Membership in 2019</i>	<i>Term expires on 31 December</i>
Angola	2021
Argentina	2021
Bangladesh	2019
Belarus	2020
Botswana	2020
Brazil	2020
Bulgaria	2020
Burkina Faso	2020
Cameroon	2020
Chad	2020
Chile	2020
China	2019
Cuba	2020
Egypt	2019
Eritrea	2019
Ethiopia	2021
France	2021
Germany	2020
Haiti	2019
India	2020
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2020
Italy	2020
Japan	2020
Pakistan	2020
Portugal	2020

* The Economic and Social Council decided to further postpone the nomination of one member from Latin American and Caribbean States for a term expiring on 31 December 2020; and one member from the Latin American and Caribbean States and one member from the Western European and other States for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2019 and expiring on 31 December 2021 (see Economic and Social Council decision 2018/201 E as well as General Assembly decisions 72/411 A and B and 73/410).

<i>Membership in 2019</i>	<i>Term expires on 31 December</i>
Republic of Korea	2019
Republic of Moldova	2020
Russian Federation	2021
Senegal	2019
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2020
United States of America	2020
