

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

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: FORTIETH SESSION

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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.

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CONTENTS

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
Abbreviations		vii
I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION	1 - 13	1
A. Agenda	2	1
B. Election of officers	3 - 6	1
C. Attendance	7 - 11	2
D. Documentation	12 - 13	3
II. PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1986-1987	14 - 430	4
A. Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987 ..	15 - 406	5
Foreword and introduction	15 - 31	5
Section 1. Overall policy-making direction and co-ordination	32 - 44	8
Section 2A. Political and Security Council affairs; peace-keeping activities	45 - 65	10
Section 2B. Disarmament affairs activities	66 - 77	13
Section 3. Political affairs, trusteeship and decolonization	78 - 86	15
Section 4. Policy-making organs (economic and social activities)	87 - 99	16
Section 5A. Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation	100 - 107	18
Section 5B. Centre for Science and Technology for Development	108 - 115	20
Section 5C. Regional Commissions Liaison Office	116 - 120	22
Section 6. Department of International Economic and Social Affairs	121 - 157	23

CONTENTS (continued)

<u>Chapter</u>		<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
Section 7.	Department of Technical Co-operation for Development	158 - 173	31
Section 8.	Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters	174 - 180	35
Section 9.	Transnational corporations	181 - 204	36
Section 10.	Economic Commission for Europe	205 - 209	42
Section 11.	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	210 - 248	43
Section 12.	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	249 - 266	48
Section 13.	Economic Commission for Africa	267 - 277	50
Section 14.	Economic Commission for Western Asia	278 - 290	52
Section 15.	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	291 - 315	55
Section 16.	International Trade Centre	316 - 318	62
Section 18.	United Nations Environment Programme	319 - 327	63
Section 19.	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)	328 - 338	65
Section 20.	International drug control	339 - 346	67
Section 21.	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	347 - 353	69
Section 22.	Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator	354 - 362	71
Section 23.	Human rights	363 - 381	73
Section 24.	Regular programme of technical co-operation	382 - 387	78
Section 26.	Legal activities	388 - 390	80
Section 27.	Department of Public Information	391 - 403	80
Sections 17, 25, 28 to 33 and income sections 1 to 3 ..		404 - 406	83
B.	Improvement of the process of programme budgeting	407 - 410	84

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
C. Experience gained in the provision of statements of programme budget implications to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session	411 - 413	84
D. Food and agricultural activities in Asia and the Pacific: 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	414 - 417	85
E. Aspects of co-ordination and rationalization of the activities of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization	418 - 425	86
F. Further implementation of General Assembly resolution 37/214	426 - 429	88
G. Recurrent publications of the United Nations	430	89
III. CROSS-ORGANIZATIONAL PROGRAMME ANALYSIS	431 - 467	90
A. Future areas for cross-organizational programme analysis	434 - 440	90
B. Follow-up to the cross-organizational programme analysis of the activities of the United Nations system in marine affairs	441 - 444	92
C. Scope and general approach of the cross-organizational programme analysis of economic and social research and policy analysis	445 - 455	93
D. Cross-organizational programme analysis of the activities of the United Nations system in the area of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries	456 - 467	95
IV. EVALUATION	468 - 540	100
A. In-depth evaluation of the drug control programme	471 - 485	100
B. Triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the programme on transnational corporations	486 - 510	103
C. Triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the mineral resources programme	511	107
D. Triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the manufactures programme	512 - 540	108

CONTENTS (continued)

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
V. REPORTS OF THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT	541 - 561	113
A. Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on reporting to the Economic and Social Council	543 - 560	113
B. Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit on publications policy and practice in the United Nations system, field offices of the United Nations Development Programme and the evaluation system of the United Nations Development Programme	561	117
VI. REPORTS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON CO-ORDINATION ..	562 - 570	118
A. Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination for 1984/85	563	118
B. Co-ordination of information systems in the United Nations system: register of development activities ...	564 - 566	118
C. Joint meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination	567 - 570	119
VII. PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE	571 - 575	120
VIII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE	576 - 577	121
IX. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	578 - 764	122
ANNEXES		
I. Agenda for the twenty-fifth session of the Committee		152
II. List of documents before the Committee at its twenty-fifth session		153

ABBREVIATIONS

ACABQ	Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions
ACC	Administrative Committee on Co-ordination
CPC	Committee for Programme and Co-ordination
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECDC	Economic co-operation among developing countries
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECWA	Economic Commission for Western Asia
EEC	European Economic Community
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMO	International Maritime Organization
INCB	International Narcotics Control Board
ITC	International Trade Centre
JIU	Joint Inspection Unit
TCDC	Technical co-operation among developing countries
UNCITRAL	United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRO	Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

ABBREVIATIONS (continued)

UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFDAC	United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
WFC	World Food Council
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WIPO	World Intellectual Property 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 1 April 1985, and its twenty-fifth session at United Nations Headquarters from 29 April to 1 June 1985. It held 58 meetings (2nd to 59th meetings).

A. Agenda

2. The agenda for the twenty-fifth session, adopted by the Committee at its 1st meeting, is reproduced in annex I.

B. Election of officers

3. At its 1st, 2nd and 55th meetings, on 1 and 29 April and 29 May, the Committee elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairman: Mr. Miodrag Cabric (Yugoslavia)

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Jan Berteling (Netherlands)
Mr. Anwarul Karim Chowdhury (Bangladesh)
Mr. Deryck Lance Murray (Trinidad and Tobago)

Rapporteur: Mr. Oluseye D. Oduyemi (Nigeria)

4. At its 55th meeting, the Committee reaffirmed its decision that the post of Chairman, as well as the other posts on the Bureau, should rotate annually among the regional groups 1/ and adopted the following pattern of rotation for the post of Chairman:

- (a) Group of African States;
- (b) Group of Eastern European States;
- (c) Group of Latin American States;
- (d) Group of Western European and other States;
- (e) Group of Asian States.

5. The Committee decided that rotation according to the above pattern had begun in 1984 with the Group of African States. However, it agreed, on an exceptional basis, that the Chairman of the Committee in 1986 should be selected from the Group of Western European and other States, in 1987 from the Group of Asian States and in 1988 from the Group of Latin American States. It recognized that those arrangements could not satisfy fully all regional groups but expressed its appreciation for their preparedness to show a spirit of understanding and accommodation and accept those arrangements in order to arrive at an agreement.

6. The Committee agreed that each year the post of Rapporteur should be occupied by a member of the regional group that occupied the post of Chairman in the previous year.

C. Attendance

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

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

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

Algeria	Iraq
Austria	Italy
Belgium	Jamaica
Canada	Morocco
China	Pakistan
Cuba	Peru
Denmark	Sweden
Ecuador	Venezuela
Finland	

9. The following specialized agencies were represented:

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

10. Also present at the session were the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, the Under-Secretary-General, Department for International Economic and Social Affairs, the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination, the Controller, the Under-Secretary-General, Department of Public Information, the Assistant Secretary-General, Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters, the Assistant Secretary-General, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, the Deputy Secretary-General, Officer-in-Charge of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, the Executive Director, Centre for Science and Technology for Development, the Executive Director, United Nations Centre on Transnational

Corporations, the Director of the Division on Narcotic Drugs, the Secretary of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), and other senior officials of the United Nations Secretariat, as well as representatives of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA). Representatives of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) and the World Food Council (WFC) also attended the session.

11. At the invitation of the Committee, Mr. Maurice Bertrand, Inspector, Joint Inspection Unit, also participated in its work.

D. Documentation

12. The list of documents before the Committee at its twenty-fifth session is contained in annex II.

13. Several delegations said that the delay in issuing documents for the session continued to be a matter of concern, and that the Secretariat should continue to examine the question of the timely distribution of the documentation for the sessions of the Committee.

CHAPTER II

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1986-1987

14. The Committee considered item 3 of the agenda at its 10th to 57th meetings, held from 3 to 31 May 1985. The Committee had before it the following documents:

- (a) Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987 (future A/40/6);
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General on the experience gained in the provision of statements of programme budget implications to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session (A/40/262);
- (c) Report of the Secretary-General containing revised estimates under section 17, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, section 31, Staff assessment, and income section 1, Income from staff assessment (A/C.5/40/1);
- (d) Report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates under section 7, Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, section 31, Staff assessment, and income section 1, Income from staff assessment (A/C.5/40/2);
- (e) Progress report of the Secretary-General on food and agricultural activities in Asia and the Pacific: 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 (E/AC.51/1985/4);
- (f) Report of the Secretary-General on aspects of co-ordination and rationalization of the activities of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (E/AC.51/1985/11);
- (g) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 37/214 (E/AC.51/1985/13);
- (h) Report of the Secretary-General on recurrent publications of the United Nations (E/AC.51/1985/14);
- (i) Note by the Secretariat on prior consultations on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987 (E/AC.51/1985/CRP.1);
- (j) Note by the Secretariat on advisory services provided under the regular programme of technical co-operation in 1984 (E/AC.51/1985/CRP.2);
- (k) Note by the Secretary-General containing the adjustments made by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to the proposed programme of work of the Commission (E/AC.51/1985/CRP.3).

A. Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987

Foreword and introduction

1. Introduction

15. At its 11th and 14th meetings, on 6 and 7 May, the Committee considered the foreword and the introduction to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987 and held a general discussion on the proposed programme budget as a whole. For the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, see paragraphs 578-586 below.

16. In his introductory statement, the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination noted that the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987 was both a continuation of its predecessor and an improvement upon it. Among the improvements, he pointed out that with the presentation for the first time of financial, common and conference services in programmatic terms, the programmatic content of the proposed programme budget had been expanded. The number of sections in which priorities were designated had been increased and, again for the first time, priorities had been designated in some areas of common services. Output citations were more precise, which should facilitate the monitoring of programme performance and improve the quality of the performance reports. Finally, in accordance with the recommendation of the Committee at its twenty-fourth session, an attempt had been made to identify those outputs with at least 50 per cent of their funding from extrabudgetary resources.

17. He stressed that, as in the previous biennium, the preparation of the proposed programme budget had been guided by a strict programmatic approach whereby all resource requests had to be accompanied by a programmatic justification. That approach, together with a number of management-enhancing measures mentioned in paragraph 28 of the introduction, had translated into an overall real growth rate of 0.4 per cent. However, aggregate growth figures should be considered with caution, since regular budgetary resources represented only a part of the Organization's total resources for the delivery of its outputs. Disaggregation of the overall growth rate further showed that: (a) substantive programmes of activity grew twice as fast as service activities; (b) the growth rate of the four regional commissions of the developing areas was substantially higher than that of the central units in the economic and social field; (c) while there was modest growth in regular established posts, it should be viewed in the context of somewhat higher growth in temporary posts, permitting greater flexibility in future staffing; and (d) despite negative growth with regard to travel, consultants and ad hoc expert groups, every effort had been made to ensure that that would have no adverse impact in programmatic terms.

18. The Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination further noted that overall guidance for the preparation of the proposed programme budget for 1986-1987 had been provided by the Programme Planning and Budgeting Board. The preparation had started earlier than in previous years, and the instructions included a rigorous time table, which had been adhered to by most units. Close co-operation at every level between the Office of Financial Services and the Office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination and more systematic consultations between central reviewing units and programme managers had further facilitated the process of budget preparation.

19. The Controller stated that the combination of the rigorous analysis undertaken under the Secretary-General's budgetary policy of maximum restraint and the strength of the United States dollar had resulted in an increase of 8.1 per cent over the revised appropriation for 1984-1985 in dollar terms, the lowest percentage increase between two bienniums since programme budgeting began on a biennial basis in 1974. The programmatic approach to budget preparation was supplemented by a very careful consideration of the need for travel and consultancy funds and of the structure of the post establishment. In overall terms, it was possible to moderate the growth of staff costs, partly because of the steps already taken and those planned to fully exploit available technological innovations in the area of office automation.

20. The Controller further noted that, with a low overall rate of growth for the budget as a whole, there had been only a limited opportunity to reflect changes in priorities. Nevertheless, it had been possible to propose slightly higher than average real growth in the political sections, including the section on the Department for Disarmament Affairs and in many of the economic and social sections, particularly those on the regional commissions. Unlike the regular budget, however, extrabudgetary resources could only be estimated with a certain degree of guesswork at the time of preparing the budget, an uncertainty which posed difficulties in programming and implementing activities with such funding.

21. The Controller added that while efforts had been made to present programme budget proposals that were as complete as possible, sections 7 (Department of Technical Co-operation for Development), 17 (United Nations Industrial Development Organization), 25 (International Court of Justice), 28L (Jointly financed administrative activities, including the International Civil Service Commission) and 32 (Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance of premises) were currently on a maintenance-base level. The revised estimates for all sections except section 32 would be ready during the current session of the Committee, while those for section 32 were expected to be available during the fortieth session of the General Assembly. As to the format and presentation of the main programme budget issues, a review had been initiated with the objective of providing an improved document for future bienniums. Such a document would consist of two parts: a concise presentation oriented towards policy issues and a supporting detailed document. Specific recommendations for implementing such an arrangement for the 1988-1989 biennium would be made at the fortieth session of the General Assembly.

2. Discussion

22. The Committee expressed satisfaction with the improvements in both the format and content of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987. Several delegations commented favourably on the progress made in the presentation of the introduction and in the overall methodology.

23. While the programmatic approach to the proposed programme budget was welcomed, several delegations questioned the applicability of maximum restraint as a budgetary policy. More particularly, considerable discussion ensued concerning the 0.4 per cent rate of real growth of the proposed programme budget. Some delegations commended the Secretary-General for his efforts to keep budgetary growth at a minimum. Others expressed their dissatisfaction at the marginal growth of the budget. Other delegations thought that even the 0.4 per cent rate was too

high, especially in view of the fact that, as was pointed out in paragraph 35 of the introduction, non-recurrent items were excluded from the calculation of the growth rate and a number of sections were presented only at a maintenance level; once the revised estimates for those sections were completed, the growth rate could well be higher. A number of delegations, however, questioned the continued ability of the United Nations to fulfil its mandate, which should reflect the aspirations of all Member States, if biennium after biennium there was hardly any real growth in the resources at the Organization's disposal. Several delegations noted that at a time when there was general concern about a retreat from multilateralism, the proposed programme budget might be construed as another indication of such a retreat on a programmatic level. A further concern was expressed by some delegations that the uncertainty about the availability of extrabudgetary funds might ultimately lead to an overall negative growth of the total resources available to the Organization in the coming biennium. Several delegations were of the view that, whenever extrabudgetary funds did not become available, the Secretary-General should utilize regular budgetary funds.

24. In the light of the above, several delegations stressed the necessity of making the most effective utilization possible of the available resources. In this context, the Committee expressed its concern about the widespread use of consultants evident throughout the budget document and the fact that, in the requirements for consultants, a breakdown by work-month was not consistently provided throughout the proposed programme budget, about the reclassification of posts proposed by the Secretary-General in a number of budget sections, and about the disproportionate growth of administrative costs relative to the growth in substantive programme areas. In this connection, several delegations indicated their concern about the application of the principle of equitable geographical distribution in the hiring of consultants. Several other delegations, while agreeing that this was a legitimate concern, expressed the view that discussion of the principle of equitable geographical distribution was not within the purview of the Committee.

25. The Committee noted that some of the resources allocated to meetings of intergovernmental bodies reporting to the Second Committee of the General Assembly might subsequently be redeployed in the event that such bodies were to adopt a biennial cycle of meetings in pursuance of the provisions of General Assembly resolution 39/217 of 18 December 1984.

26. Several delegations acknowledged that the setting of priorities, as required by the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, was a difficult exercise. Some delegations expressed the view that the problems of the developing countries in general, and especially those of Africa, should have been accorded higher priority. Other delegations inquired why priorities had not been designated in all sections of the proposed programme budget. Concerning termination of programme elements, some delegations questioned whether the Secretariat had done its utmost in that regard, especially in view of the fact that fewer programme elements were proposed for termination than had been the case in the 1984-1985 biennium. Other delegations, however, were of the opinion that there was no reason for the Secretariat to apologize for the reduced number of terminations.

27. Several delegations expressed their objection to the practice followed during the biennium 1984-1985 of eliminating activities mandated by the General Assembly without prior recourse to that body. They were of the view that since activities were mandated by that body, their elimination should also be thus mandated. They

strongly objected to the elimination of activities simply for reason of lack of resources, human or material, or for other reasons, such as that of the vacancy rate in certain Secretariat departments or regional commissions.

28. While many delegations commented favourably on the improved methodology of the programme budget document, they also stressed that there was room for improvement. They particularly emphasized the need for proper monitoring of programme performance and the important function of the Central Monitoring Unit in that regard.

29. Several delegations noted the importance that they attached to the decentralization of activities from central units to the regional commissions and regretted that seemingly very little had been accomplished in that respect. One delegation expressed its dissatisfaction with the fact that the increased number of posts and functions proposed in the programme budget for 1986-1987 for the regional commissions was not matched by a reduction in such resources for the central units.

30. In responding to the comments made, the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination stated that the concept of maximum restraint, as applied to the proposed programme budget for 1986-1987, had combined two broad elements: a programmatic justification for all resource requests and exploration of all possibilities for internal economies. Those two elements implied that there had been no preconceived, centrally established "target" growth rate, that primary consideration had been given to the translation of legislative mandates into concrete outputs, and that all ways and means had been explored to deliver those outputs in a cost-effective way consistent with good managerial practice, without adversely affecting programmatic requirements; they also implied the setting of priorities, the termination of some activities and the redeployment of resources from lower to higher priority activities. At the same time, he acknowledged that the problem of extrabudgetary resources remained a difficult one, and an element of uncertainty with regard to their availability was likely to continue in the future.

31. Concerning the setting of priorities, he noted that in some sections of the proposed programme budget, priorities had not been designated, since those sections had not yet been included in the medium-term plan. He added that, as indicated in annex IX to the introduction, 27 programme elements were being proposed for termination. The explanation given in paragraph 6 of the introduction for the reduced number of terminations was offered as a hypothesis. With regard to decentralization, he called the Committee's attention to the fact that a report of the Secretary-General on that subject would be before the Committee during its current session.

Section 1. Overall policy-making, direction and co-ordination

1. Introduction

32. At its 34th meeting, on 20 May, the Committee considered section 1 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987. For the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, see paragraphs 587-593 below.

2. Discussion

33. A number of delegations stated that it was difficult to assess the programmatic aspects of the section, since they had not been presented in conformity with the programmatic format provided for in the rules and regulations. The representative of the Budget Division replied that the efforts made in that area had not yet been successful and that additional efforts would be made.
34. In reference to paragraph 1.5, one delegation asked whether the need for temporary assistance was a reflection of understaffing in the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs or of the failure of the substantive departments to provide the documents on time.
35. One delegation requested the Secretariat, as a means of facilitating future discussions of the proposed programme budget, to produce for each section thereof a working paper in which the proposed changes and the reasons for them were pointed out, drawing a comparison with the approved programme budget for the current biennium.
36. The need for a television camera director and the "time-consuming verification of statements", referred to in paragraph 1.6, was queried. Despite the information given by the representative of the Department of Public Information, it was felt that those requests were unjustified.
37. In regard to paragraph 1.9, some delegations were of the view that there must be a problem with documentation, since there were requests for increased resources for external printing for both the Security Council and the General Assembly. It was suggested that the Committee on Conferences should look into the matter.
38. The Committee was informed of some revisions to the programmatic text for the World Food Council (WFC), which were to be reflected in the final printed version of the budget document. The need for consultants referred to in paragraph 1.41 was queried. One delegation was of the opinion that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) should provide the needed expertise for the three areas listed. After the intervention of the representative of WFC, another delegation expressed the view that the request for the use of consultants was fully justified.
39. One delegation asked if there was a specific mandate for travel on the "North American continent" referred to in paragraph 1.47. After the representative of the Division for Palestinian Rights had explained that the mandate was "world-wide", it was agreed to modify the wording of the paragraph.
40. Regarding the section on the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, it was agreed that the present arrangement of five weeks for the review of the programme in a budget year was insufficient. Since that matter concerned the entire budget, not only section 1, the Committee agreed that it should be reflected in an appropriate place in the report.
41. One delegation objected to the inclusion of the travel of representatives referred to in paragraph 1.50.
42. Some delegations questioned the necessity for the travel of (a) one staff member from each of the five regional commission secretariats and (b) one staff

member from the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, Vienna, as indicated in paragraph 1.51. The Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination explained that it was in the best interest of the Committee to have its meetings attended by representatives of the regional commissions, who could answer questions directly. He was doubtful about the need for the attendance of the representative of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs.

43. One delegation objected to the request for the establishment of a P-4 post, provided for in paragraph 1.75, as it was not considered to be a full-time job. The representative of the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs stated that, with the issuance of the Secretary-General's bulletin on co-ordination of United Nations drug control programmes (ST/SGB/203), the responsibilities assigned to the Under-Secretary-General had expanded significantly. He explained that there were only three Professional staff members in the Office. The new responsibilities assigned to the Under-Secretary-General went beyond co-ordinating the work of the three agencies at Vienna. They also included co-ordinating the drug-related activities of all the specialized agencies, as well as keeping the Secretary-General informed of pertinent developments and issues in the field of drug control.

Reservation

44. One delegation* expressed its strong objections to the activities of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the Division for Palestinian Rights. That delegation believed that the activities of the Committee and the Division were biased and did not contribute to a peaceful solution to the Middle East conflict.

Section 2A. Political and Security Council affairs; peace-keeping activities

1. Introduction

45. At its 17th to 20th and 24th meetings, on 9, 10 and 14 May, the Committee considered section 2A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987. For the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, see paragraphs 594-600 below.

2. Discussion

46. One delegation referred to the fortieth anniversary of the victory in the Second World War in Europe and pointed to the need for the continuation of the struggle for world peace and security. Other delegations stressed that many of the ideals for which people gave their lives remained to be realized.

* United States of America.

47. With regard to paragraph 2A.11 of section 2A, strongly divergent views were expressed about whether or not the relevant part of the report of the Committee on its twenty-fourth session constituted a mandate for the news service of the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs. Several delegations were of the opinion that the effect of the non-inclusion of that activity in the medium-term plan for 1984-1989 (chap. I, para. 1.4) 2/ was to remove any possibility of interpreting the existence of a mandate, and thus any "enhancement" of the activity could not be justified. Other delegations considered that the mandate was provided in paragraph 19 of the report of CPC on its twenty-fourth session. One delegation said that an important question of principle was at stake - that is, all activities in the programme budget should first appear in the medium-term plan.

48. The Director of the Budget Division informed the Committee that the Administrative Management Service would shortly be undertaking a review of the news service. On condition that the full import of the discussion would be brought to the attention of the evaluators, the Committee agreed to take note of the assurances received from the Secretariat in this regard and to await the outcome of the study.

49. Several delegations expressed concern at the number of news agency services from the developed countries. They requested that the number of news agency services be expanded to include those from the various parts of the developing world.

50. They also questioned the reasons for extending the news service and increasing from 7 to 14 the number of Secretariat personnel involved, contrary to the understanding reached by the Committee at its twenty-fourth session when the matter was discussed in the context of the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan. They did not agree that there was a need or justification for such an extension or increase. They also raised questions regarding the quality of the products of the service and the editorial integrity of the contents of the bulletins. In response, the representative of the Secretary-General explained that the staff were needed to prepare, on a shift basis, the four daily bulletins, the daily press review and the weekly news summary; they also screened and distributed, three times a day, the information received by telex from the United Nations information centres throughout the world and the news received from the seven wire services, which were also distributed three times a day.

51. Several delegations raised questions on the criteria and methods used for the establishment of priorities, and the distribution of resources relating to programme elements of highest and lowest priority. It was noted that 11 of the 12 programme elements in subprogramme 1 (Security Council and political committee activities) had been attributed highest priority. The Director of the Budget Division explained that in the areas of political activities it was difficult for the programme managers to designate priorities. Some progress had been made and efforts would continue.

52. One delegation questioned the need for the inclusion in the programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987 of programme element 1.9 (Group of Governmental Experts on International Co-operation to Avert New Flows of Refugees) and programme element 1.11 (Ad Hoc Committee on the Implementation of the Collective Security Provisions of the Charter of the United Nations for the Maintenance of International Peace and Security). Some other delegations stated that programme element 1.9 should be retained.

53. Some delegations expressed concern about the policy of rental and maintenance of equipment (see paras. 2A.16, 2A.18, 2A.20, 2A.27 and 2A.51) and also of the cost of the software. The Director of the Budget Division explained that the costs of renting versus purchasing - and the costs of the accompanying software - had been studied carefully. The decision to purchase reflected the fact that purchasing was more economical than renting. A paper on the matter would be made available to the Committee.

54. Two delegations questioned the increase in resources for external printing contained in paragraph 2A.5. In reply, the representative of the Budget Division explained that the number of pages of documentation had nearly doubled (from 14,000 to 26,000) between the two bienniums, at a cost of \$125,500, and that the cost of issuing official records of the Security Council in Arabic was \$300,000.

55. Several delegations questioned the need for and the wording of the intermediate output of programme element 2.2 (Promotion of peace, including co-ordination of the International Year of Peace).

56. It was agreed that the question on the periodicity of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean would be taken up during the discussion of section 2B (Disarmament affairs activities).

57. As regards programme element 2.3 (Peace, security and co-operation in the sea and ocean areas), outputs (iii) and (iv), the Committee decided that, in the absence of a specific mandate, reference to activities relating to Antarctica should be deleted.

58. Regarding paragraph 2A.30, several delegations raised questions about consultants, insisting on the use of in-house expertise and on stricter adherence to the principle of geographical representation.

59. Some delegations asked for the deletion of output (ii) (Monthly Survey of Selected Events in the Militarization of Outer Space and its Prevention) from programme element 3.6 (Space information services). In response, the representative of the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs provided additional information pertaining to the inclusion of the output.

60. With regard to programme 2 (Law of the sea affairs) of subsection C, one delegation expressed a reservation about the inclusion of subprogramme 4 (Servicing the Preparatory Commission for the International Sea-Bed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea).

61. Regarding paragraph 2A.56, some delegations expressed serious doubt concerning the need for the organization of the two ad hoc expert group meetings with a view to facilitating the acceptance and consistent application of the Convention and questioned their justification and usefulness.

62. With regard to subsection E on the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), one delegation questioned the basis of and criteria for the distribution of the staff resources between subprogrammes and the priority setting of the activities for subprogramme 2 (Health services).

63. The representatives of the Secretary-General and the Commissioner-General of UNRWA explained that the resources between subprogrammes had been distributed on the basis of the ratio of the work-months devoted to the particular activity as decided by the Commissioner-General. The Committee was informed that resources for subprogramme 2 were supplemented by staff of the World Health Organization (WHO) financed from the WHO budget (see para. 2A.102).

64. Several delegations expressed concern at the requested increase in the staffing of UNRWA by five new posts and questioned the rationale of that request; they mentioned the possibility of redeployment of international staff from UNRWA headquarters to the field to meet the requirements. One delegation expressed concern that the request of five additional posts would increase bureaucracy in the Agency and asked whether the JIU report on UNRWA (A/38/143) referred to in paragraphs 2A.104 and 2A.105 had been approved by any intergovernmental body. Another delegation supported the proposal for five additional posts in UNRWA, as recommended.

65. The representative of the Commissioner-General of UNRWA explained that the JIU report had been considered by the Special Political Committee at the thirty-eighth session of the General Assembly, although no formal decisions on it had been taken. The request for additional posts for the field had been made on the basis of the proposals of donors and after the possibilities for redeployment of existing resources had been explored.

Section 2B. Disarmament affairs activities

1. Introduction

66. At its 20th, 24th and 25th meetings, on 10, 14 and 15 May, the Committee considered section 2B of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987. For the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, see paragraphs 601-608 below.

2. Discussion

67. The Committee noted the importance of the role of the United Nations in the area of disarmament and the priority attributed to it by the Secretary-General. A number of delegations, however, expressed reservations concerning the 2.1 per cent rate of growth for the Department for Disarmament Affairs compared with the overall average of 0.4 per cent in the proposed programme budget.

68. Some delegations drew attention to the fact that the regulation regarding the designation of programme elements of highest and lowest priority, each category representing approximately 10 per cent of the resources requested, was not respected, especially in subprogramme 1 (Deliberation and negotiation). The Committee reiterated that this regulation had to be complied with.

69. In response to a question regarding the possible overlap between the disarmament reference library (programme element 2.2) and the Dag Hammarskjöld Library, the representative of the Department explained that many of the books in the disarmament reference library were on permanent loan from the Dag Hammarskjöld Library which considered the disarmament reference library as a reference centre.

70. In regard to the concern expressed about duplication between the publications of subprogramme 2 (Information on disarmament) and those of subprogramme 5 (World Disarmament Campaign), the representative of the Department explained the differences in the subject-matter and pointed out that the end-users were also different.

71. The representative of the Budget Division informed the Committee that a typographical error had been made under programme element 2.3 and that the names of the organizations mentioned in intermediate outputs (ii) and (iii) should be transposed. After the correction had been made, one delegation requested the deletion from intermediate output (iii) of the reference to the United Nations Association of the United States of America.

72. In response to questions, the representative of the Department indicated which publications were sales publications and the languages in which they were published. It was agreed that this information should be included in the budget narrative.

73. In response to questions raised regarding the proportions of regular budget resources and voluntary contributions for subprogramme 5 (World Disarmament Campaign), the representative of the Department said that the activities financed from the regular budget prior to 1982 would continue to be so financed. Only those additional activities undertaken since 1982 would be financed from extrabudgetary resources. The breakdown of funds received thus far was \$2.5 million in non-convertible currencies and \$0.7 million in convertible currencies. The non-convertible currencies were used for publication activities within each of the donor countries.

74. Several delegations had reservations concerning the propriety of programme element 5.1 (Maintaining a register of constituencies of the World Disarmament Campaign). After being informed by the representative of the Department that the register was simply a computerized mailing list (and that many other departments had also set up such lists), some delegations expressed their concern regarding the establishment, access, use, confidentiality and integrity of those lists. They wanted to know whether any in-house guidelines existed in this regard and, if not, requested their formulation. The representative of the Department stated that in-house consultations would be undertaken on that matter.

75. Returning to the question of the periodicity of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean raised during the discussion of section 2A (subsection B, programme element 2.3, (Peace, security and co-operation in the sea and ocean areas), output (i)), the Committee was informed that the mandate had been formulated by the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session.

76. In order to take into account the full range of activities being carried out by the Department for Disarmament Affairs, some delegations requested that a programme element dealing with disarmament and development should be added to the section.

77. In regard to publications, one delegation asked whether there was any reader feedback and a mechanism to assess the usefulness of the publications. The representative of the Department stated that feedback was received through daily contact with constituencies of the World Disarmament Campaign, at regional conferences attended by representatives of major constituencies from the region,

and through the mail addressed to the Department by individual organizations. Several delegations asked for a list of consultants hired during the present biennium, including the geographical breakdown. In response, the Secretariat indicated that such a list was provided annually to the General Assembly and that the views expressed by delegations with regard to equitable geographical distribution would be taken into account.

Section 3. Political affairs, trusteeship and decolonization

1. Introduction

78. At its 50th and 51st meetings, on 28 May, the Committee considered section 3 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987. For the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, see paragraphs 609-611 below.

2. Discussion

79. Two delegations expressed reservations concerning the level of resources devoted to travel in the budgets of the United Nations Council for Namibia and the Special Committee against Apartheid, since they felt that such extensive travel did not benefit either the United Nations or the causes that these bodies represented. One delegation expressed the view that the level of resources allocated to travel was justified and that such travel was useful for the purposes intended.

80. One delegation expressed a reservation regarding the resources devoted to the implementation of programme elements relating to co-operation with the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) and support of its activities. That delegation also expressed its opposition to the use of consultants and other resources for the implementation of the sanctions against South Africa referred to in paragraph 3.83 of the proposed programme budget.

81. In response to a question raised concerning possible overlaps within the Secretariat in connection with information activities for Namibia, the representative of the Secretariat explained that in 1983 a special task force comprising representatives of the Department of Political Affairs, Trusteeship and Decolonization, the Department of Public Information and the Office of the United Nations Commissioner for Namibia had been established to co-ordinate all public information activities and that there had been no duplication since then.

82. A reservation was voiced concerning the reference to East Timor in subparagraph 3.30 (a).

83. One delegation questioned the mandates given to the Department of Political Affairs, Trusteeship and Decolonization for the implementation of outputs (i) to (iii) under subprogramme 4 (Fact-finding and good offices). It expressed the opinion that such activities must be carried out only in accordance with specific mandates given by the General Assembly or the Security Council. Other delegations stated that the outputs should be maintained in this subprogramme as presented.

84. One delegation asked for an identification of the resolution by which the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples was

empowered to make concrete suggestions to the Security Council, as stated in paragraph 3.8. Since the representative of the Secretary-General was unable to provide details of such a resolution and was only able to state that the same wording had been used in the current programme budget, that delegation proposed the deletion of the words "making concrete suggestions to the Security Council", contained in paragraph 3.8. Another delegation, however, objected to that proposal.

85. One delegation proposed that the words "still remaining to be decolonized" in paragraph 3.10 should be replaced by the words "on the list of Non-Self Governing Territories", as recommended by the Committee at its twenty-third session. ^{3/} The Committee was assured by the representative of the Secretariat that a correction would be made in the final version of the proposed programme budget for 1986-1987.

86. One delegation inquired about the meaning of the phrase "to the colonial peoples and their liberation movements" in paragraph 3.25 and proposed that the phrase should be revised to read "to colonial peoples and liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity (OAU)".

Section 4. Policy-making organs (economic and social activities)

1. Introduction

87. At its 15th to 17th and 34th to 36th meetings, on 8, 9 and 20 May 1985, the Committee considered section 4 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987. For the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, see paragraphs 612-615 below.

2. Discussion

88. In the general discussion on section 4, a number of delegations expressed satisfaction with the section as a whole. However, some delegations expressed concern about the travel of staff of the regional commissions to meetings of the functional commissions and standing committees of the Economic and Social Council, and about the proposed use of consultants for the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.

(a) Committee for Development Planning

89. Questions were raised about the mandate of the Committee for Development Planning and its output. One delegation suggested that a recommendation should be made to the Economic and Social Council that it should examine the work of that Committee with a view to revising its mandate, as well as the changed pattern of its meetings and the co-optation of replacements for absent members and of additional experts.

90. Other delegations were of the view that the work of the Committee for Development Planning was important. They stated that, in any event, CPC was not the right body to evaluate the work of the Committee for Development Planning.

91. In reply to questions raised by delegations, the representative of the Secretary-General explained that the Committee for Development Planning was composed of experts who participated in the work of the Committee in their

individual capacity. Thus, the travel expenditures for the Committee were high compared with those of most of the other subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council because under General Assembly resolution 1798 (XVII) of 11 December 1962 the United Nations was responsible for the costs of travel and subsistence of such experts. The output of the Committee was, like that of other bodies, the reports on its sessions. The Committee's output was also reflected in the Journal of Development Planning, issued by the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs under the programme on global development issues and policies. It was also explained that one of the Committee's working groups held its meetings away from Headquarters because those meetings were held during the regular sessions of the General Assembly when no meeting facilities for the working group were available in New York. That was the same reason for holding at Geneva the biennial meeting of the working group of the Statistical Commission.

92. As regards the provision for the travel of staff from the regional commissions to attend meetings of the Committee for Development Planning and most of the other subsidiary bodies of the Council, the representative of the Secretary-General explained that their attendance was needed to give regional perspectives to the discussions on substantive questions. It was not always possible for the Regional Commissions Liaison Office, which consisted of only three Professional staff members, to participate in all such substantive discussions. In the particular case of the Committee for Development Planning, however, he stated that the regional commissions' staff had not often been called upon to participate actively in the discussion at the Committee's recent sessions.

93. With respect to the pattern of meetings of the Committee for Development Planning, the representative of the Secretary-General stated that, at the time of the preparation of the programme budget proposals for 1986-1987, the Secretariat was informed that discussions were still being held on the matter. In any event, no United Nations body could change its schedule of meetings unless there was an indication of programme budget implications and unless the Economic and Social Council or the General Assembly, or, in the latter's stead, the Committee on Conferences, approved such a change.

(b) United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy

94. With respect to the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, several delegations objected to the number of temporary posts that were proposed to be maintained on the budget during the period between the conclusion of the Conference in November 1986 and the consideration of its report by the General Assembly a year later. They pointed out that no programme activities or mandate justified the continuation of those posts during that period. Other members of the Committee voiced their concern about the number of work-months requested for consultants' services when there were also plans for holding an ad hoc expert group meeting of internationally eminent persons.

95. One delegation asked why the follow-up activities of the Conference could not be carried out by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). It was also asked why the work to be assigned to consultants could not be done by IAEA. Several delegations questioned the large number of staff proposed to handle the public information aspects of the Conference as compared with the number of staff servicing the Conference as a whole.

96. In reply, the representative of the Secretary-General pointed out that the General Assembly had decided to assign the responsibility for the preparation and the holding of the Conference to a small, ad hoc secretariat unit headed by an Assistant Secretary-General, and not to IAEA. IAEA had a role to play, nevertheless, in support of the Conference. Since no department or office in the United Nations Secretariat had responsibilities that embraced those of the Conference secretariat, there would be a need to maintain an appropriate part of the Conference secretariat to undertake activities, such as finalizing the report of the Conference, during the period between the conclusion of the Conference and the forty-second session of the General Assembly.

97. The representative of the Secretary-General pointed out further that the Conference secretariat was purposely limited to a few generalists and administrators in order to keep costs down, leaving the highly specialized preparatory work to be done by consultants, whose services were to be engaged as the need arose. The consultants were needed to prepare working documents, while the group of eminent persons, which was specifically mandated by the Preparatory Committee for the Conference, was to make recommendations to the Conference, partly on the basis of the discussion of those documents.

98. As regards the number of information services staff, the representative of the Secretary-General indicated that it was difficult to say what the correct ratio of servicing staff to information staff should be; however, the requirements would be continuously reviewed by the Secretariat.

Reservation

99. One delegation* reserved its position on the programme elements contained in paragraphs 4.11 to 4.14. It considered that the sparse output of the Committee for Development Planning duplicated work done elsewhere in the United Nations system and did not justify the expenditure involved. It also expressed the strong view that no expenditure under those programme elements was authorized for the travel and subsistence of any individual who was not a duly appointed member of the Committee for Development Planning.

Section 5A. Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation

1. Introduction

100. At its 21st meeting, on 13 May, the Committee considered section 5A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987. For the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, see paragraphs 616-621 below.

* United States of America.

2. Discussion

101. Several delegations welcomed the improved presentation in the budget document of the activities of the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation. Nevertheless, they thought that greater effort could have been exerted to make the format conform to the programmatic presentation in the other sections of the proposed programme budget. One delegation also wished to know what happened to the Secretary-General's bulletin and the section of the organizational manual devoted to the Office of the Director-General, the issuance of which the Committee had urged at its twenty-third session. 4/
102. Much of the substantive discussion centred on the functioning of the Office of the Director-General. Most delegations remarked on the importance that they attached to the system-wide co-ordinating function of the Office in the economic and social areas. They viewed that function as an especially important one in the light of the necessity of avoiding duplication of activities within the United Nations system. Further in this regard, some delegations raised the question how the Office had co-ordinated the efforts of the United Nations concerning the emergency situation in Africa. Some delegations emphasized the need for the greater involvement of the Office of the Director-General in activities in the United Nations system for economic co-operation among developing countries.
103. Regarding more specific programmatic issues, some delegations suggested that the provision of assistance to Member States for consultations and negotiations on global economic issues, as proposed in subparagraph 5A.3 (a), should be at the request of intergovernmental organs. They also doubted that the "promotion" of options that would facilitate progress in economic negotiations, referred to in the same paragraph, was properly the function of the Office. With respect to subparagraph 5A.3 (g), several delegations considered that the primary responsibility for the activities in the area of disarmament and development should lie with the Department for Disarmament Affairs. One delegation further remarked that in the section on international co-operation for economic and social development, mention should have been made of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States.
104. Some delegations expressed concern about the proposal to reclassify one D-2 post to the level of Assistant Secretary-General, noting that the recommendation of the JIU 5/ did not, in itself, constitute the mandate for the reclassification. Other delegations, however, thought that the reclassification of the post could usefully contribute to the strengthening of the Office, in particular if it would strengthen co-ordination in the United Nations system. Some delegations also questioned the need for 32 work-months of consultants, as proposed in paragraph 5A.13. They asked whether some of the studies to be undertaken by consultants could not actually be prepared in the substantive departments and emphasized the need to avoid duplication of activities. It was also thought that the description of the second task under paragraph 5A.13 was not quite clear, especially the meaning of the phrase "in the context of the United Nations".
105. Responding to the question and comments made during the discussion, the Director-General said that the nature of the functions of his Office made it difficult to present a programmatic text, as had been done for other sections. His Office dealt with some issues that were non-repetitive, and certain tasks could not be planned in advance. The section of the organization manual on the Office had

not yet been issued, since the structure of the Office was under review, but would receive priority attention, with a view to its completion before the end of the year. The Director-General also stated that, in its work, his Office took into account the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States.

106. Turning to the question of the co-ordinating function of his Office, the Director-General assured the Committee that every effort was being made to avoid duplication with the activities of substantive departments. He cited instances in which co-ordination of activities had improved owing to the existence of his Office. Within the United Nations itself, his Office had been actively involved in the preparation of the proposed programme budget currently before the Committee. On a system-wide basis, he noted the co-ordinating role of his Office in operational activities and in the provision of guidance to the resident co-ordinators. With regard to the emergency situation in Africa, the resident co-ordinators provided considerable assistance. He, himself, on behalf of the Secretary-General, and jointly with the Executive Secretary of ECA, chaired a task force on Africa; when the situation had turned for the worse, he had recommended the establishment of a new office under the leadership of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

107. Concerning the proposal to reclassify the D-2 post, the Director-General noted that after lengthy consideration on the matter, he had come to the conclusion that a better and more effective functioning of his Office required such action at that time. In that context, he called it to the Committee's attention that in order to avoid any financial implications, the reclassification of the D-2 post was being accompanied by the relinquishing of a P-5 post. The basis for the proposal was not only the relevant recommendation in the JIU report but, more significantly, the real and substantive requirements of the Office in the light of experience. The Director-General further stated that he had not regarded as excessive the utilization of 32 work-months of consultants for an office that was as small as his and had such large responsibilities. The consultants would be engaged on an ad hoc basis as the need arose.

Section 5B. Centre for Science and Technology for Development

1. Introduction

108. At its 25th to 27th meetings, on 15 May, the Committee considered section 5B of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987. For the recommendations of the Committee, see paragraphs 622-623 below.

109. The Executive Director of the Centre for Science and Technology for Development noted that the Centre had been in existence for five years during which time it had performed, according to its mandate, system-wide tasks in the field of science and technology. The specific tasks foreseen for the forthcoming biennium were subsumed under four subprogrammes and contained in subsection C of section 5B.

2. Discussion

110. In the course of the discussion, questions were raised about the reason for listing programme elements 2.2 to 2.4 separately. One delegation suggested that programme elements 2.2 and 2.4 should be merged. It was asked why programme

elements 2.3 and 2.4 listed no final outputs. One delegation considered that there was an apparent duplication between programme elements 1.5 and 4.1.

111. Questions were raised about the termination of programme elements 1.3 and 1.4 included in the programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985, and the redeployment of resources to the new programme element 1.3 (see para. 5B.11). With regard to programme element 1.3, some delegations expressed doubt whether the Centre would have sufficient expertise to deal with a subject of such complexity especially in light of the fact that only one work-month of consultancy work was foreseen for that programme element during the entire biennium (see para. 5B.13). One delegation also noted that the phrase "to be selected" in the description of the task of the consultant under programme element 1.1 (see para. 5B.13) indicated that there was no mandate for the background studies. Questions were also raised about the reasons for designating the lowest priority to programme elements 2.4, 2.6 and 4.3.

112. Several observations were made about the publications programmed for the biennium 1986-1987. One delegation wished to know for each publication the number sold since that would indicate the level of interest in what the Centre was producing. Another delegation, however, was of the opinion that the important issue with regard to a sales publication was whether or not it was authorized by a legislative mandate. The question was also raised about the difference between the ATAS Bulletin under programme element 1.2 and Update under programme element 4.4; one delegation considered that the former should be financed from extrabudgetary resources.

113. Replying to the various questions raised, the Executive Director of the Centre explained that the co-ordination of activities under programme element 2.4 was restricted to the United Nations itself, under the authority of the Secretary-General. The harmonization of activities under programme element 2.2 was system-wide. The function of the ACC Task Force on Science and Technology for Development under programme element 2.3 was related to both those programme elements. There were no outputs cited according to standard practice, since programme elements 2.3 and 2.4 did not provide services to users external to the secretariats of the United Nations system. Concerning the apparent duplication between programme elements 1.5 and 4.1, it was explained that while the former referred to the activities of the Centre, the latter dealt with the network of focal points.

114. The Executive Director expressed his agreement with the view that the work to be undertaken under programme element 1.3 was, indeed, complex and he did not expect complete answers to be provided in a single biennium. Programme elements 1.3 and 1.4 of the programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 had been terminated in accordance with programme planning regulation 4.6. Similarly, priorities had been designated in accordance with the same regulation. Programme element 2.4 was proposed for lowest priority designation since co-ordination of Secretariat activities was carried out in other offices as well. The reason for designating the lowest priority to programme elements 2.6 and 4.3 was that the Centre was limited in its ability to influence activities under those programme elements.

115. With regard to publications, the Executive Director noted that each of the sales publications served a specific purpose and there was no overlap between them. Update was a general information newsletter; the ATAS Bulletin focused on

specific new technologies, in accordance with the mandate given to the Centre by the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development at its fifth session; the publications related to the activities of the Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development were heavily based on the work of that Committee's ad hoc panels of specialists.

Section 5C. Regional Commissions Liaison Office

1. Introduction

116. At its 53rd meeting, on 29 May, the Committee considered section 5C of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987. For the recommendations of the Committee, see paragraphs 624-626 below.

2. Discussion

117. Several delegations stressed the important role of the Regional Commissions Liaison Office in co-ordination and representation. Some delegations thought that the co-ordination of the regional commissions at present was not sufficient and therefore that the Liaison Office should be strengthened. The view was also expressed that a strengthened Liaison Office could better represent the regional commissions at intergovernmental and inter-agency meetings, which would obviate the need for representatives of the regional commissions to attend those meetings and thereby save on travel costs. In the same context, the question was raised whether it was necessary for a representative of the Liaison Office to travel to meetings of the Executive Secretaries for the purpose of servicing those meetings when this function could be performed by a representative of a regional commission secretariat hosting the meeting.

118. One delegation expressed its doubt about the necessity to maintain liaison between the regional commissions and permanent missions to the United Nations and suggested the deletion of programme element 1.3 from the programme narrative. Other delegations, however, cited examples to illustrate the utility of this function and emphasized its importance for their delegations.

119. In response to the questions raised, the representative of the Regional Commissions Liaison Office drew the Committee's attention to document ST/SGB/205, describing the re-orientation of the Office's work programme. He explained that on many occasions, the Liaison Office had been the sole representative of the commissions at meetings where regional issues constituted the main items on the agenda. In this connection, he pointed out that although staff members from the secretariats of the regional commissions attended the meetings of the Economic and Social Council, their attendance was always for a very limited period, while issues of concern to them were often discussed throughout sessions. In such situations, whether they occurred at Geneva or in New York, it was the Liaison Office which provided the continuity of representation.

120. Referring to the query concerning the servicing of meetings of the executive secretaries, the representative of the Liaison Office noted that the chief of the Office was designated as the secretary of those meetings. He also observed that, for reasons related to continuity and familiarity with subject-matter, it would be both inconvenient and inefficient to appoint a new secretary each time from staff locally available.

Section 6. Department of International Economic and Social Affairs

1. Introduction

121. At its 48th, 49th, 51st and 52nd meetings, on 27 and 28 May, the Committee considered section 6 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987. For the recommendations of the Committee, see paragraphs 627-633 below.

122. The Under-Secretary-General, Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, noted that there were special priorities in each of the programmes included in the section. He stressed the importance in development issues and policies of providing analysis which was of direct use to Member States - in particular, at the present time, to developing countries in Africa - as well as the importance of establishing an early warning system to bring research and policy analysis to bear on critical emerging issues. Regarding energy, he stressed the importance of work identifying areas of co-operation among all countries, especially among developing countries themselves, for promoting energy development and efforts to implement the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy. In the programme on economic and technical aspects of marine affairs, efforts were directed to assisting Member States to incorporate marine resources into national development, particularly in the context of the exclusive economic zones. In population, work centred on implementation of the recommendations of the International Conference on Population, held in 1984. In social development, the priority was the family as a central social factor; emphasis was placed on social co-operation among developing countries and on full participation of all people - especially those covered by specific plans of action - in development. In statistics, the emphasis was on providing improved methodologies to Governments for the 1985-1994 round of censuses. Finally, in the Office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination, the main thrust was improvement of the capacity of the United Nations to monitor programme performance and improve its process of evaluation.

2. Discussion

123. In the general discussion on section 6, particular attention was given to the introductory section. It was agreed that the introductory material required a number of modifications in order to improve the presentation of the programme, including the addition of references to the global negotiations as well as to major policy documents such as the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries. One delegation asked for assurance that work relating to the international context of national policy would not be restricted to only one country. The Under-Secretary-General replied that the intention was to look more generally at that question, although the policies of some countries clearly had a greater impact in the international context than those of others did. With regard to the general description of work in the Office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination, it was agreed that the role of the Office in achieving internal co-ordination of programmes within the United Nations deserved special emphasis. One delegation stated that there should be reference in the introductory material to the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order.

(a) Executive direction and management

124. Several delegations noted that the total amount of resources devoted to executive direction and management, to programme formulation and management in individual programmes, and to the work undertaken by the Office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination seemed to show that a sizeable share of the resources of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs were allocated to the functions of management, programme planning and co-ordination. In his response, the Under-Secretary-General pointed out that the central management function and the function of the Office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination were inherently different: one was concerned with the direction of a single complex department; the other with programming for the entire United Nations and with co-ordination of the United Nations system; therefore the amounts were at a normal level for a department the size of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs.

125. Several delegations noted that the functions of departmental programme budget preparation and programme budget implications were more detailed than was the case in other sections of the budget and questioned whether that level of detail was required. In reply, it was noted that as one of the largest secretariat entities, the Department was merely reflecting the budget preparation, monitoring and related functions of the subprogramme. A number of delegations, however, were of the opinion that the work in resources planning did not need to be presented in such detail and that the description in section 6 should conform to the practice elsewhere.

126. With regard to consultants, as described in paragraph 6.15, particular concern was expressed about the use of the term "world economic recovery" in conjunction with "global negotiations". It was noted that neither the meaning of the concept nor its relationship with the global negotiations was clear. In reply, the Under-Secretary-General said that the question of global negotiations was long-standing and it was incumbent on the Secretariat to have resources available to it in the event that there was progress on that question during the biennium. The Committee, however, concluded that the references should not be included.

127. With regard to paragraph 6.17 on travel, note was taken that the list of types of entities to which travel was being requested was incomplete and some mention should be made of travel to such intergovernmental organizations as the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance. Moreover, it was noted that references to a "North-South Round Table" should more properly refer to round-table discussions in general.

(b) Global development issues and policies

128. In considering the programme as a whole, several delegations noted that a number of output citations indicated that reports would be prepared for the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council "through the Committee for Development Planning". The question was raised whether reports were in fact transmitted to these bodies through the Committee for Development Planning or whether the citations were to reports submitted to that Committee. In reply, the Under-Secretary-General said that some reports to the Assembly and the Council - the World Economic Survey, for example - were made available to the Committee for Development Planning but that in other cases the reports were submitted to that Committee only. He said that the form of presentation, which had been maintained over several biennia, was an attempt to show the relationship between the work

produced for the Committee for Development Planning and the work for the main intergovernmental organs in the context of recommendations by the Committee. It was suggested that an alternative formulation should be found to indicate those documents which were made available to the Committee for Development Planning and those made available to central intergovernmental bodies, but which did not formally pass through that Committee.

129. Questions were raised with respect to subprogramme 2 in terms of whether work on the unified approach to development analysis and planning should be included in that subprogramme. In response, the representative of the Department said that, although that work had been included in the past, in a recent resolution the General Assembly had renewed the mandate on the unified approach to development analysis and planning, and that the work should be included under subprogramme 2 as a new programme element, numbered as 2.2. It was agreed that the most appropriate step was to create a new output under programme element 2.1 concerning the unified approach to development analysis and planning, under which the mandated output would be included. Questions were asked why programme element 3.1 (Changes in the structure of the world economy for the promotion of social and economic development and international co-operation with particular emphasis on economic co-operation among developing countries) had been given lowest priority in view of the strong interest of developing countries in that work. In response, the representative of the Department said that because of the programme planning rules it was necessary to make difficult choices. The fact that UNCTAD was a lead agency for economic co-operation among developing countries (ECDC) meant that the Department would have to give it a lower priority than those activities for which the Department was solely responsible. One delegation reserved its position on that programme element on the ground that ECDC activities should be funded through extrabudgetary sources rather than the regular budget. It was, however, concluded that the programme element should instead have highest priority.

130. Concerning subprogramme 4, a question was raised why the subprogramme had been reduced from two programme elements in 1984-1985 to one programme element in 1986-1987. The representative of the Department replied that some of the work proposed for 1984-1985 would be absorbed within the more general work on the World Economic Survey (subprogramme 6) in 1986-1987.

131. In subprogramme 6, some delegations said that in addition to the outputs included in the proposed text, a recent resolution of the General Assembly had mandated an additional output, dealing with confidence-building in international economic relations. It was agreed that the output should be added to the programme.

132. With regard to subprogramme 7, the question was raised whether the activities in transport should not be subject to decentralization, since most of the activities in that field were undertaken by the regional commissions. In response, the Under-Secretary-General said that the activities and the accompanying resources in the transport sector had already been decentralized to the regional commissions; the work remaining was global in nature and, although small in scale, reflected the need to provide a global perspective on transport questions. It was thus not feasible or cost-effective to decentralize that remaining activity.

133. Questions were raised about the consultant requirements, in particular those requested under programme element 2.2 which seemed to imply that consultants would prepare the output. In reply, the representative of the Department said that in general the policy was to use consultants only if the work required was such that a

proper level of expertise was not available within the Department. The consultant services in question concerned methodologies for income distribution studies, a highly specialized branch of economics for which appropriate levels of expertise were not available in the Secretariat.

(c) Survey of the energy situation in its international context

134. Questions were raised regarding the mandate for programme element 1.2 (Economic and technical co-operation among developing countries in energy). The representative of the Department replied that while work on economic and technical co-operation among developing countries was not specifically mentioned in the medium-term plan text for the programme, it was clearly indicated in the preambular part of the major programme text and could be inferred from the broader context of the strategy of promoting international co-operation among all countries in energy. One delegation reserved its position on programme element 1.2 on the grounds that the element had no programmatic justification in the medium-term plan and that work on economic co-operation among developing countries should be funded from extrabudgetary sources rather than from the regular budget.

135. With regard to programme element 2.2 (Information on multilateral, bilateral and other programmes in the area of new and renewable sources of energy), the question was raised whether bilateral activities needed to be specifically mentioned in view of recently concluded discussions in the Committee on Natural Resources. In reply, the representative of the Department said that work on information on multilateral, bilateral and other programmes had been specifically mandated by the General Assembly in resolution 37/250 and confirmed by it in resolution 38/169. It was agreed that the mandates for the subprogramme did include coverage of bilateral activities.

136. Concerning travel it was noted that under both subprogrammes 1 and 2, travel had been proposed to collect information. Several delegations suggested that that did not constitute a proper use of travel funds. In reply, the representative of the Department explained that what was involved was the prolongation of other official travel in order to have direct contact with important sources of information on energy. It was agreed that such an approach to collecting information was an adequately cost-effective use of travel but the understanding should not be that staff travel could be used for the purpose of low-level technical consultations in other agencies in order to collect data.

(d) Economic and technical aspects of marine affairs

137. Questions were raised concerning the mandate for a proposed sales publication (output (iv) of programme element 2.1) on the review of activities of public and private entities in sea-bed mineral development, and specifically whether it had been included in the medium-term plan. In reply, the representative of the Department said that that type of work was included in the plan in general terms but that the specific output was one of nine publications in a series and in fact the title given in the proposed programme budget was not accurate. The correct title should be "regulatory framework: review of activities in sea-bed mineral development". The Committee agreed to the change of title.

(e) Analysis of world population

138. Discussion on the population programme centred on priorities. It was stated that work should be oriented towards the implementation of the recommendations of the International Conference on Population. Several delegations were of the opinion that subprogramme 7 (Dissemination of population information) should be given a higher priority in the light of the recommendations of the Conference. Other delegations were of the opinion that programme element 4.1 (Assessments of the interrelationship between demographic variables and economic and social factors) should not be given lowest priority. In reply, the representative of the Department said that priority designations reflected difficult choices in order to conform with programme planning regulations and that the designations had been reviewed by the Population Commission.

139. Questions were raised about the use of consultants, particularly in programme element 5.1 (Monitoring of population trends and policies), for which the task was to assist in the preparation of a new and more highly subject-focused format. Several delegations asked whether that task could not be done by regular staff members. In reply, the representative of the Department said that in that particular case the problem was lack of experience in designing presentations for general audiences, which, it was considered, should be reached by that output; accordingly, outside expertise was needed for that purpose.

140. One delegation recommended the deletion of the output in programme element 6.4 concerning adolescent reproductive behaviour since the work was covered by programme element 6.3. In reply, the representative of the Department pointed out that specific activities relevant to adolescent fertility were called for as a result of the International Conference on Population; although the work could have been absorbed under the broader heading of studies of reproductive behaviour, it would thereby have lost its visibility.

(f) Global social development issues

141. With regard to subprogramme 1, questions were raised concerning programme element 1.1 (Social integration analysis), in particular the study on social co-operation among developing countries (output (ii)). It was proposed that the technical publication should be expanded to include a review of national experience in using people's participation to achieve far-reaching changes for the purpose of social progress and development. In reply, the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs said that the title of the programme element would be corrected to reflect the mandates accurately but that most work regarding far-reaching changes was being undertaken elsewhere in the programme on global development issues and policies.

142. Under subprogramme 2, programme element 2.1 (Assessment of social welfare strategies to the year 2000), it was noted that the sales publication on developmental social welfare policies (output (ii)) had been carried over during three successive biennia and it was proposed to delete the output as marginal. In reply, the Assistant Secretary-General explained that the delay had been caused by the need to redeploy staff for work on special years and events for which the Centre had been responsible. However, since the work was important as an input to the upcoming interregional consultations on development and social welfare, which had been mandated by the Economic and Social Council, the Centre would make a special effort to complete the output on a timely basis. Moreover, it was not

envisaged that the Centre would be involved in the preparation of any special events in the next biennium. With regard to programme element 2.3 (Welfare of migrant workers and their families), the Committee noted that the Economic and Social Council in a recent resolution had called for the preparation of a document on guidelines for the provision of social services to migrant workers and their families, which should be included as an output.

143. In subprogramme 3, programme element 3.1 (Elimination of all forms of discrimination against women), a question was raised whether the reports to the Commission on the Status of Women, transmitting lists of confidential and non-confidential communications (output (iii)) would not be more appropriately included in the work programme for the Commission on Human Rights. In reply, it was pointed out that the mandate was a long-standing one, specifically assigned to the Commission on the Status of Women.

144. The designation of lowest priority given to programme element 5.3 (Research and policy analysis on the participation of women in promoting international peace and co-operation) was questioned and it was proposed that the programme element should not be designated as being of lowest priority. One delegation argued that the question of women and peace was of particular importance in the context of United Nations activities for the advancement of women because of the involvement of women's groups. Another delegation argued that, in terms of relative priorities, the lowest priority designation was appropriate since experience showed that although the project was important, the impact of United Nations activities in the area was limited. The Committee did not agree to the removal of the lowest priority designation. One delegation strongly reserved its position on the matter.

145. With regard to subprogramme 10, programme element 10.2 (Development of national criminal justice data bases), the technical publication consisting of a manual to assist national administrations in the development of comprehensive data bases in respect of prisons and non-institutional services was questioned. It was argued that the work was not justified by any mandate and was improper for the United Nations to perform.

146. In reply, the Assistant Secretary-General pointed out that the activity, which centred primarily on the question of community-based parole services, was one in which many Governments had shown interest and was a follow-up to the conclusions of the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

147. It was noted that the legislative authority for subprogramme 12 (Substantive support for technical co-operation activities) was not specifically included in the medium-term plan for social development; rather, it derived from the general responsibility of the United Nations to provide substantive support for technical co-operation activities. The question was raised whether the Centre, rather than the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, should in fact provide such support. In response, the Assistant Secretary-General stated that the Centre had a special relationship with that Department which predated the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations. During restructuring, the substantive support had not been declustered, and the Centre had retained its responsibility for substantive support to certain operational activities. She stated that it was important in a field such as social development to have a means of maintaining contact with the field, particularly since special events, such as international years and decades, had indicated a need to develop new types of technical co-operation designed for them.

(g) World statistics

148. A general question was asked about the reasons for the inclusion of activities related to statistical data in the programme on global development issues and policies rather than in the programme on world statistics. In reply the Under-Secretary-General stated that there were differences in the type of work undertaken in those two programmes. The statistical programme was concerned with developing statistical concepts and compiling statistics, whereas the development issues and policies programme applied the statistics related to economic analysis and projections. The statistical compendia produced as a result of that application differed in content and in the intended audience from those produced under the statistics programme.

149. With regard to output (iv) of programme element 1.7 (Development of concepts and methods on special population groups and co-ordination of social statistics and indicators), it was asked why the output was partially funded from extrabudgetary resources and partly from the regular budget. It was noted that, as a matter of practice, using extrabudgetary funds to develop activities which would then be transferred to the regular budget should be avoided. In reply, the Director of the Statistical Office pointed out that the first part of the output was being funded from extrabudgetary resources in order to begin work in an area for which resources had not been available, but that the work had a continuing and longer-term significance and was an emerging priority and therefore should correctly be carried on the regular budget. One delegation was of the view that both parts of the output should be covered by extrabudgetary funding and reserved its position on the matter.

150. On programme element 3.3 (Collection, compilation and dissemination of industrial, construction and distributive trade statistics - recurrent publications), the question was asked whether the Distributive-Trade Statistics Yearbook, 1985 was necessary and desirable, since most of the statistics in it were also included in the Statistical Yearbook. In reply, the Director of the Statistical Office stated that distributive-trade statistics was an area of growing importance, for which existing data were not adequate, either conceptually or in practice. A special presentation was therefore desirable to ensure that the subject was kept at an appropriate level of visibility. It was agreed that that particular output should be given low priority in relation to others.

151. With regard to output (i) of programme element 6.1 (Collection, compilation and dissemination of demographic statistics), the question was raised whether the Compendium of Immigrant Stock Data might duplicate the work of the population programme on international migration flows. The Director of the Statistical Office stated that while dealing with related phenomena, the two lines of work were not duplicative, since the population studies were concerned with flows while the statistical work dealt with stocks. While in both cases the data would be derived from national population censuses, their treatment and use would be different.

(h) Programme support: programme planning and co-ordination

152. In introducing the programme in programme planning and co-ordination, the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination pointed out that only one subprogramme was covered by the medium-term plan because of the phased process of applying medium-term planning to central services. In the last revision of the plan, central support services had been placed within the framework

of the plan, and in the next revision departmental support services such as programme planning and co-ordination would be covered by the plan. In the meantime, the work of the programme by and large was dependent on specific mandates as well as the general terms of reference of the Office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination.

153. With regard to subprogramme 1, it was agreed that programme element 1.5 (Co-ordination and improvement of programme planning and implementation in the economic and social sectors), should be given high priority, because it consisted of specialized reporting to CPC. Similarly, it was agreed that programme element 2.1 should be given highest priority.

154. Questions were asked about the extent to which programme element 3.3 (Assistance in the implementation of inter-agency co-operative projects and programmes), dealing, inter alia, with the interrelationships between resources, environment, people and development, duplicated work being done elsewhere, as in the programme on population. In reply, the Assistant Secretary-General explained that the programme element had existed for several biennia and that the role of the Office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination was basically that of co-ordinator and project developer for work done in various substantive programmes relating to the subject; that work included a number of joint studies.

155. Concerning subprogramme 6 (Information systems and services for the Office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination), which was a new subprogramme, several delegations asked questions about the appropriate location of the unit responsible for carrying out the proposed activities, the services currently provided by the unit, their users, and the possibility of charging for those services. The Assistant Secretary-General stated that after a thorough review of the location of the unit, the Secretary-General had concluded that the existing location of the unit in the Office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination was appropriate, in view of the support that the unit would lend to the development of information systems to be managed by the Office in the area of monitoring restricted substances and in view of its role in the maintenance of a standard indexing vocabulary to be used in the analysis of programme activities of the United Nations system. The main services currently provided included the dissemination of development-related literature produced by the United Nations (60,000 pages/images a year), on-line data-base searches (1,000 a year), dissemination of machine-readable copies of the indexing vocabulary, and advisory services (an average of 3,000 requests for services were received each year). The Assistant Secretary-General added that users of the services provided were Governments, which accounted for nearly 50 per cent of requests, intergovernmental organizations (30 per cent) and academic and research institutions (20 per cent); over two thirds of the users were in developing countries. One delegation stated that the unit should be located in the Dag Hammarskjöld Library, while others believed that its location in the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs was appropriate. One delegation thought that charges should be levied for the services provided, while several others thought that services should be provided free of charge.

156. Questions were raised about the use of consultants and expert groups and the earlier discussions of the Committee on the question of independence and objectivity and the use of outside expertise were recalled. Specifically, questions were asked about whether most of the consultants requested were really necessary. In reply, the Assistant Secretary-General pointed out that consultants and expert groups were used in that programme as a means of enabling the Office for

Programme Planning and Co-ordination to strengthen its technical, independent judgement by providing key detailed expertise in those specific areas where it would directly benefit the work done by regular staff. The programme elements for which consultants would be used were carefully selected with that end in mind. The consultants assigned to evaluation were intended, on the one hand, to solve problems of the application of new methodologies and, on the other, to provide peer review of the proposals developed by Secretariat staff. Similarly, while cross-organizational programme analyses had been prepared entirely by Secretariat staff, it has been found after several years of experience that their follow-up might sometimes require recourse to specific expertise. Similarly, it was necessary to have available a general source of specialized expertise that might be required because of changes that might be occasioned during the biennium by legislative decisions and whose nature could not be specified in advance. That was the rationale behind the request for consultants for programme elements 7.1 and 7.2. Several delegations reiterated their concern that the expertise available in the Secretariat itself should be used in the first instance and that there should not be dependence on outside expertise. The view was expressed that the need for independence by the Secretariat was paramount and that the Secretariat should produce studies which were more pithy, critical and courageous. It was recognized that that was a difficult task but one that the Secretariat must shoulder if it were to service CPC properly. Other delegations noted that there were advantages in having outside expertise available to supplement the specialized knowledge available within the Secretariat and that that was a factor in the use and selection of consultants.

Reservation

157. With regard to programme 5 (Global social development issues), one delegation expressed its reservations about the publication listed in output (ii) of programme element 2.1, the appropriateness of including output (iii) under programme element 3.1, the lowest priority designation assigned to programme element 5.3 and the justification for the technical publications listed in programme element 10.2.

Section 7. Department of Technical Co-operation for Development

1. Introduction

158. At its 54th and 55th meetings, on 29 May, the Committee considered section 7 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987 and the report of the Secretary-General containing revised estimates under section 7, section 31 and income section 1 (A/C.5/40/2). For the recommendations of the Committee, see paragraphs 634-636 below.

159. The Director of the Budget Division stated that the programme of work of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development for the biennium 1986-1987 showed no material difference from the programme of work for the current biennium. He noted that the main change related to a proposal to regularize the funding of functions involving programme supervision, substantive servicing of intergovernmental bodies and research. He explained that, in the past, those functions had been financed from programme support resources, which, in effect, subsidized the regular budget. He explained that the decline in project delivery since 1982 had resulted in a reduction of extrabudgetary resources for the Department. Moreover, a reduction in the rate of reimbursement for programme

support costs from 14 per cent to 13 per cent, with effect from 1987, would further affect the total reimbursements accruing to the Department for future project delivery. As an adjustment, he concluded, a shift in funding from extrabudgetary resources to the regular budget for eight posts (four Professional and four General Service) had been incorporated into the proposed programme budget for the Department in an attempt to regularize the funding of those posts that involved functions usually funded from the regular budget.

160. The Director of the Policy, Programming and Development Planning Division, representing the Department, presented a summary of recent technical co-operation programme levels and delivery rates. Remarking on the decline in the annual level of programme delivery which began in 1982 and continued through 1984, he stated that the delivery rate in 1984 for the approved budget for technical co-operation projects had been, none the less, higher than that for 1983, which he attributed to benefits deriving from the reorganization of the Department in mid-1983. Even so, he acknowledged that the Department had been unable to meet all its expenses in 1984 out of the reimbursements of programme support costs (overhead) received on delivery, but he expressed confidence that the delivery rate would improve.

2. Discussion

161. In the general discussion, one delegation observed that although the number of extrabudgetary posts had declined considerably since 1982, the number of regular budget posts in the Department had remained relatively constant. In regard to the comprehensive review of the Department currently under way and expected to be completed shortly, as noted in paragraph 7.6, another delegation wanted to know if the conclusions of that review would have an impact on the programme budget under consideration. One delegation considered that section 7 should contain an accounting of the work-months scheduled for each consultant in the programme. The representative of the Office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination replied that the ongoing review of the Department would cover only organizational and operational aspects and would, therefore, not have an effect on the programme budget of the Department. The representative of the Department indicated with regard to the issue of work-months that consultant fees were set on the basis of the product delivered and not a determined contractual period.

162. Some delegations noted that, in real terms, the activities undertaken by the Department had declined severely in 1982. They noted that if extrabudgetary resources had not materialized, regular budgetary resources should be utilized as required. They also noted that, taking into account all relevant conditions, the rate of growth in section 7 of the proposed programme budget was inflated. One delegation noted that the posts for which resources were allocated from the regular budget under section 7 had remained constant over the past three biennia and that the proposals for the current biennium involved an increase of eight posts. This was confirmed by the representative of the Office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination. One other delegation remarked on the inadequacy of the justification for the transfer of extrabudgetary posts to the regular budget: the Secretary-General had decided to transfer the posts on budgetary grounds and had only subsequently sought to justify the decision on programmatic grounds. The same delegation observed that, since support cost earnings were projected to rise considerably in the biennium 1986-1987, there was no need for additional funding.

(a) Policy and programming

163. One delegation questioned the large amount of resources set aside for programme element 1.1 (Substantive support to legislative bodies) and expressed the view that resources for that activity were high in comparison with other sections of the budget. He suggested that some of the resources could be shifted from subprogramme 1 (Policy planning and co-ordination) to substantive activities and that if there was a further decline in extrabudgetary resources, cuts in resources should be made in that subprogramme. Regarding the allocation of resources to the programme, the representative of the Department acknowledged that the appraisal of the delegation was substantially correct and that a lower allocation of the programme total to subprogramme 1 on the order of 18 to 20 per cent, instead of 30 per cent, would be appropriate. The Director of the Budget Division undertook to repeat his consultations and to communicate the results to Member States for appropriate further consideration.

(b) Development issues and policies

164. One delegation questioned the rationale for transferring one D-1 post from extrabudgetary to regular budget funding in programme 1 when the entire programme otherwise was financed from the programme support resources. The representative of the Department responded that the post covered managerial and supervisory responsibilities for interregional advisory missions and workshops carried out under section 24 (Regular programme of technical co-operation), the programme support costs of which were not reimbursed.

(c) Natural resources

165. Regarding programme 2, subprogramme 1 (Mineral resources), several delegations proposed that programme element 1.1 (Permanent sovereignty over natural resources) should not be accorded highest priority but that highest priority should be given instead to programme element 1.3 (Technical co-operation trends in mineral resources development in developing countries). It was also proposed that the requirement for a consultant for programme element 1.1 should not be approved on the grounds that the Secretariat staff would probably be better informed on that subject than consultants from outside the United Nations. The Director of the Budget Division took note of the concern expressed; he undertook to explore the possibility of using in-house resources for this task and further indicated that any savings resulting from not recruiting consultants would be reported to Member States in the context of the programme performance report. A number of delegations maintained that highest priority should be given to that programme element and that the use of a consultant should be programmed. Another delegation remarked that although programme element 1.2 (Transfer of technology in mineral exploration and development) was assigned lowest priority, the consultancy funds being requested for that programme element were the second highest in the programme.

166. It was suggested by one delegation that the output under programme element 2.2 (Selective review of experience in developing countries in implementing programmes of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade) appeared to overlap the output under programme element 5.2 under Programme planning and co-ordination in section 6 (Department of International Economic and Social Affairs). One delegation inquired whether the technical publication under programme element 2.4 (Ground-water resources in Europe) would contain new material or would be a compilation of existing information on that topic.

167. Regarding programme element 3.1, which dealt with the preparation of the International Map of the World on the Millionth Scale, one delegation asked if the preparation of that map did not involve political implications. Another delegation questioned the need for a consultant to prepare it.

168. The representative of the Department explained that programme element 1.1 had been assigned highest priority based on the views of the Committee on Natural Resources at its ninth session and he urged the Committee not to eliminate the funds for the consultant. He stated further that the reason for the higher consultancy fees for programme element 1.2 was related to the specialized expertise required, not the priority designation. Regarding possible duplication of activities with the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs in programme element 2.2, he explained that that Department's mandate extended to the assembly, correlation and analysis of inputs from the specialized agencies, basically on their own activities, while the mandate of the Department for Technical Co-operation for Development covered a review of conditions and experiences in that field in the developing countries. It was also explained that the publication under programme element 2.4 on ground-water resources in Europe would be a compilation of available data that could serve as a basis for comparison with other regions and that that publication would be the last in a series covering all regions, for which there had been a considerable demand. Finally, he indicated that consulting funds were needed under programme element 3.1 for computer analysis of data generated by a technical survey to be carried out by the Secretariat and for the preparation of specialized technical recommendations for the International Map of the World. As to any possible political implications, it was noted that the Department had been mandated to prepare the technical content of that map.

(d) Energy

169. One delegation questioned the justification for assigning highest priority to programme element 2.1 (State-of-the-art in the application of microcomputers for energy planning) and asked for further details. Another delegation, in regard to programme element 3.1 (Prospects for underground coal gasification with particular reference to the developing countries), asked about the actual feasibility of that technology for use in the developing world. The representative of the Department stated that the assignment of highest priority to programme element 2.1 was justified by the considerable interest shown by developing countries in that topic. The publication cited under that programme element would summarize the technical conclusions of a workshop on the use of microcomputers for energy planning in developed countries and their application in the context of developing countries. Regarding programme element 3.1, he explained that the output was not a feasibility study and that it had been included in the programme because developing countries had shown substantial interest in information on the latest technology for the spatial transfer of energy derived from coal.

(e) Population

170. Regarding programme element 1.1 (Substantive and operational support of technical co-operation projects in the fields of population training, national research on population dynamics, and of national population policy programmes and offices), one delegation asked what criteria were used in selecting technical co-operation projects in population and in selecting trainees for United Nations fellowships at the three United Nations-supported interregional population training centres. Another delegation suggested that that programme element should be

accorded highest priority and asked why no new centre had yet been established to replace the centre at Bucharest, which no longer functioned. In reply, the representative of the Department indicated that new technical co-operation projects were initiated only at the specific request of a Member State after UNFPA, the Department and the Government jointly approved the nature and scope of the project. The selection of trainees was determined by the specific area of population training covered in each institution and by the given target group, such as policy makers and demographers. Candidates were nominated by Governments and selected on the basis of criteria established at each centre. It was explained that the Department, together with UNFPA, was now exploring alternatives to the centre in Bucharest. It was also noted that although population training was accorded high priority by the International Conference on Population, held in 1984, actual programme implementation depended largely on the availability of extrabudgetary funds.

(f) Public administration and finance

171. Regarding programme element 2.2 (Management of joint ventures between public enterprises), one delegation requested information on the content of the proposed technical publication and suggested that the phrase "of developing countries" should be added to the title of the programme element. It was the view of some delegations that programme element 5.2 (Management of public current expenditures) should be accorded highest priority, since developing countries had serious difficulties in managing their public resources. Another delegation suggested that that programme element should not be designated as being of lowest priority. The representative of the Department explained that the technical publication would be concerned with joint ventures between public enterprises in developing countries, where there was increasing interest in the possibilities and problems of public finance and credit, and with the functional relationship among public enterprises.

Reservations

172. One delegation* expressed its formal reservation regarding the transfer of eight extrabudgetary posts to the regular budget.

173. Another delegation expressed the same reservation.

Section 8. Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters

1. Introduction

174. At its 27th meeting, on 15 May, the Committee considered section 8 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987. For the recommendation of the Committee, see paragraph 637 below.

* United States of America.

2. Discussion

175. Having been informed of a two-year backlog in editing sales publications, some delegations pointed out that that meant that those publications might be already out of date. A list of those publications should therefore be drawn up to determine whether some of them would need to be edited and published at all. The Chairman stated that the Committee could pursue this question in the context of its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on recurrent publications of the United Nations (E/AC.51/1985/14).

176. In reply to a question on the possibility of duplication of the work of the Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters with that of the Department of Conference Services, the representative of the Secretariat stated that the Office provided committee secretaries for those bodies concerned with economic and social matters and that it also dealt with the calendar of conferences and meetings within that area.

177. In response to a query, the Committee was informed that informal consultations were becoming more frequent and were being held all year round.

178. Regarding the determination of the amount of \$120,300 for non-recurrent items found in table 8.1, it was explained that that amount consisted of the salary and common staff costs for a non-recurrent P-3 post and the one-time cost of the installation of word-processing equipment.

179. Regarding the budget for maintenance and replacement of word-processing equipment, the representative of the Secretariat explained that that was a new procedure, subject to review by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and that a new methodology had been developed for the determination of replacement costs.

180. Responding to a query on why a recurrent provision was proposed at the P-3 level for 15 work-months, the representative of the Secretariat explained that, working at that level, the temporary appointee would require minimum supervision in carrying out assignments that demanded relative independence, such as serving as Assistant Secretary of the Economic and Social Council or the Second Committee of the General Assembly. The 15 work-months were proposed keeping in mind the periodicity and duration of meetings, including those that were unforeseen at the time of the approval of the annual calendar of meetings.

Section 9. Transnational corporations

1. Introduction

181. At its 27th, 38th to 40th and 50th meetings on 15, 21, 22 and 28 May, the Committee considered section 9 of the proposed programme budget for 1986-1987. For the recommendations of the Committee, see paragraphs 638-640 below.

2. Discussion

182. It was noted that in paragraph 9.1 a reference was made to the sessions of the Commission on Transnational Corporations to be held in 1986 and 1987 and that

overall costs shown in table 9.6 were calculated on the basis of annual sessions. One delegation therefore proposed that the Committee should recommend the inclusion of the word "possibly" before "1987" in paragraph 9.1 in order to allow for the possibility that the Commission might decide to hold its sessions biennially pursuant to General Assembly resolution 39/217 of 18 December 1984. Other delegations opposed the proposal on the grounds that it would prejudge the decision of the Commission.

183. Some delegations requested an explanation of the negative rate of real growth of 2.4 per cent, as shown in table 9.4. The Executive Director of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations explained that the negative rate of real growth was due to the decrease in allocations for consultants, travel of expert advisers selected to participate in the sessions of the Commission on Transnational Corporations and rental and maintenance of equipment.

184. Concerning programme element 1.1 (Code of conduct), some delegations requested information on the status and prospects of work on the code of conduct, the authority under which the programme element had been assigned highest priority, and the utilization of the resources requested under that programme element. The Executive Director recalled that significant progress had been made in drafting the code and expressed his hope that the forthcoming reconvened special session of the Commission would lead to a breakthrough towards its completion. The resources requested under the programme element, whose highest priority was supported by both CPC at its twenty-third session and the Commission, were required to prepare documents and support activities related to the negotiation of the code.

185. Concerning programme element 1.2 (Illicit payments), one delegation questioned the existence of a mandate for the two reports programmed, and proposed that the programme element should be assigned lowest priority and that the output citation should be changed to reflect the absence of final output. Another delegation questioned the inclusion of the programme element in the proposed programme budget, since the question of illicit payments had not been included in the provisional agenda for the twelfth session of the Commission.

186. As regards programme element 1.3 (International standards of accounting and reporting), one delegation noted that the Commission had recommended that the report of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting should be issued as a sales publication.

187. Concerning programme element 1.4 (Other arrangements and agreements relating to transnational corporations at the international, regional and bilateral levels), one delegation suggested that only one sales publication should be produced under output (ii) and that the resources thus released should be allocated to programme element 1.3.

188. Several delegations asked questions about the criteria used by the Centre to carry out its current work on transnational corporations, in particular with reference to programme elements 2.1 (Transnational corporations and international economic relations) and 2.13 (Analysis of information on individual transnational corporations). In reply, the Executive Director said that, as regards the rendering of technical assistance, the Centre had provided assistance to developing countries in cases in which it had been requested to do so, regardless of the country of origin of the companies involved. As regards corporate profiles in the context of the industry studies undertaken by the Centre on the basis of a mandate from the Commission on Transnational Corporations, the Centre had concentrated on

the largest companies in the industry involved, all of which originated in market economy countries; the issue of coverage of companies from socialist countries had, therefore, not presented itself to the Centre, although State-owned companies of developed market economies had been the subject of corporate profiles. In addition, the Executive Director noted that the computerized information system maintained by the Centre contained information on companies that originated in all kinds of economies.

189. Concerning subprogramme 2 (Minimizing the negative effects of transnational corporations and enhancing their contribution to development), one delegation raised the issue of the interpretation of its mandate by the Centre, in the absence of an agreed upon definition of transnational corporations, stating that the issue was central to the consideration of the subprogramme. Many other delegations objected to the discussion of the definition of transnational corporations in CPC, stating that CPC was not the proper forum for discussion of the issue and that its discussion went beyond the Committee's mandate and tasks. They pointed out, in particular, that the question was a matter for intergovernmental negotiation in the context of the drafting of a code of conduct on transnational corporations, together with other outstanding issues therein. Some of those delegations further argued that the absence of a precise definition was not an obstacle either to the establishment of the Commission and the Centre or to their activities during the past 10 years. In their view, an interpretation of the definition at the current important stage of the intergovernmental negotiations could be detrimental to securing an effective code of conduct on transnational corporations.

190. In reply, the Executive Director pointed out, first of all, that the definition of transnational corporations was currently the subject of negotiations in the Commission in the context of the code of conduct. However, in his opinion, it was not necessary to have a clear-cut definition for the Centre to undertake constructive work in fulfilment of its mandate. In the absence of a definition, the Centre had been proceeding pragmatically. For instance, as regards the rendering of technical assistance, he reiterated that the Centre had assisted developing countries in cases in which it had been requested to do so, regardless of the country of origin of the companies involved. Again, as regards corporate profiles in the context of the industry studies undertaken by the Centre on the basis of a mandate from the Commission, the Centre had concentrated on the largest companies in the industry involved, all of which originated in market economy countries; the issue of coverage of companies from socialist countries had, therefore, not presented itself to the Centre, although State-owned companies originating in developed market economies had been the subject of corporate profiles. The Executive Director stressed that the pragmatic approach adopted in the Centre's work was in no way meant to prejudge in any manner the work of the Commission on the definition of transnational corporations.

191. One delegation, responding to the comments made by the Executive Director, stated that it appeared that the country of origin of a transnational corporation had no bearing on the work of the Centre.

192. Concerning programme element 2.1, one delegation proposed the inclusion of an additional output which read as follows:

"(iii) Report to the Commission on data on foreign direct investments, including capital inflows and outflows, and on other aspects of the activities of transnational corporations, as well as suggestions for further action (first quarter, 1986)".

In connection with the proposal, reference was made to the report of the Commission on Transnational Corporations on its eleventh session and to item 3 of the provisional agenda for the twelfth session of the Commission. That delegation also proposed the inclusion of a further additional output which read as follows:

"(iv) Sales publication on trends and issues in foreign direct investment, including capital inflows and outflows, and in other forms of participation by transnational corporations in host countries, particularly developing countries, including their contribution by way of the supply of technology and services, including management and marketing (first quarter, 1987)".

In connection with that proposal, reference was made to paragraphs 23.16 (ii) and 23.17 of the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 6/ and to the recommendation made by CPC at its twenty-third session. 7/ Another delegation believed that the subject of the proposed study was adequately covered by other programme elements and in existing publications.

193. With regard to programme element 2.2 (Transnational corporations in international trade), one delegation noted that the programme element covered work of interest to developing countries and, on those grounds, proposed that the Committee should recommend that the programme element should not be assigned lowest priority. Another delegation proposed that the text of output (i) of programme element 2.2 be expanded by the addition of the following words:

"including intra-firm transactions and transfer pricing, and on the balance of payments of host countries, including an analysis of the role of transnational corporations in the exporting activities of developing countries",

and in this connection made reference to paragraphs 23.18 and 23.19 of the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 6/ and to the recommendation of CPC at its twenty-third session. 8/

194. One delegation questioned the need to devote a separate programme element 2.3 to the study of international financial transfers and the impact of transnational banks, believing that this activity could be subsumed under other programme elements devoted to the study of various aspects of transnational corporations. Another delegation proposed that the text of output (i) of programme element 2.3 be replaced by the following text:

"(i) Report to the Commission on the impact of transnational banks, including international financial transfers, and their regulations on the economies of developing countries, including the role of transnational banks in external indebtedness of those countries and net transfer of financial resources from them on medium-term and long-term commercial credits, as well as the impact of transnational banks on the balance of payments of host countries (first quarter, 1986)"

and, in that connection, made reference to paragraphs 23.16 (ii), 23.17 and 23.18 of the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989. 6/

195. One delegation questioned the existence of a mandate for programme element 2.6 (Selected aspects of host country policies towards transnational corporations) and proposed its deletion.

196. As regards programme element 2.7 (Transnational corporations in South Africa and Namibia), one delegation, supported by many others, felt that it should be assigned highest priority and proposed that, as its output, two reports to the Commission and two sales publications should be produced covering the activities of transnational corporations in South Africa and Namibia and their collaboration with the racist minority régime in the area, as well as two reports to the Commission on the responsibilities of home countries with respect to transnational corporations operating in South Africa and Namibia in violation of relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations. That delegation also proposed the inclusion of an additional output which read as follows:

"(iii) Sales publication: report of the panel on the public hearings on the activities of transnational corporations in South Africa and Namibia (first quarter, 1986)".

In this connection, reference was made to the relevant resolutions and decisions of the Commission, contained in chapter I of its report on its eleventh session. 9/

197. One delegation proposed that programme element 2.8 (Analysis of the social and political impact of transnational corporations) should be assigned highest priority and that two reports and one sales publication should be produced as its output.

198. With regard to programme element 2.11 (Transnational corporations and industrialization: activities and impact of transnational corporations in selected manufacturing sectors), one delegation remarked that the work to be carried out under that programme element was of interest to the developing countries and, accordingly proposed that the Committee should recommend that the programme element should not be assigned lowest priority.

199. Concerning subprogramme 2, under which the research activities of the Centre were carried out, some delegations noted that in view of the extensive research on transnational corporations already carried out both within and without the United Nations, the work of the Centre might in the future be concerned with updating existing studies and thus not be as onerous in terms of resource requirements as it had been in the past; those delegations suggested that the Centre should consider proposing that proportionate resources should be redeployed from subprogramme 2 to subprogramme 3, which covered the advisory services and information activities of the Centre. It was also suggested that programme elements 2.4 and 3.1 should be merged, programme elements 2.5 and 3.2, and programme elements 2.13 and 3.5; and the attendant resources redeployed from subprogramme 2 to subprogramme 3; it was also proposed that programme element 2.14 should be moved to subprogramme 3. In reply, the Executive Director emphasized that under subprogramme 2, analytical and research functions were carried out for the preparation of in-depth studies requested of the Centre, while under subprogramme 3 the work performed was of immediate operational use and supported the advisory mission of the Centre. That functional division was reflected in the structure of the Centre, which had recently been reorganized. In his view, a transfer of resources from subprogramme 2 to subprogramme 3 and the proposed merging of the programme elements would only blur the existing clear functional distinction and effective division of labour. He added that were the research carried out under subprogramme 2 purely to update existing studies, a shift in resources might be possible; in fact, new studies were continuously being prepared, which required the full complement of resources requested for subprogramme 2.

200. Concerning subprogramme 3 (Strengthening the capability of host developing countries in dealing with matters related to transnational corporations), several delegations asked questions on the dissemination of information related to advisory services. The representative of the Centre replied that information on the nature and extent of those activities was regularly provided by the Centre to the Commission, most recently in documents E/C.10/1985/14 and Add.1, and E/C.10/1985/15; the Centre actively disseminated the papers of its workshops and seminars. The Centre endeavoured to preserve the confidentiality of its advisory services on assistance and evaluation of ongoing negotiations between developing countries and transnational corporations.

201. One delegation proposed that programme element 3.7 (Collection, storage and retrieval of information) should not be assigned lowest priority.

202. Concerning subprogramme 4 (Regional activities), some delegations requested additional information on the measures being taken by the Centre to ensure that the work programme of the Centre was co-ordinated with that of the regional commissions. The Executive Director replied that that matter was being closely reviewed and that a detailed work programme had been drawn up to facilitate the integration of the joint units into the overall work programme.

203. Several delegations expressed doubts about the need for the extensive resources proposed under the programme for consultants and requested a more precise definition of the tasks to be entrusted to consultants. Those delegations emphasized that consultant resources could not be shifted between programme elements and that the resources proposed in paragraphs 9.8 and 9.19 should not be regarded as a pool of resources which could be reallocated by the Secretariat as it pleased to other consultancy tasks not mentioned in the programme budget. Such a reallocation should be made only with the concurrence of the appropriate intergovernmental body. The representative of the Secretariat stated that the regulations and rules on programme planning and the programme aspects of the budget allowed for the use of discretion by programme managers in the allocation of resources within the mandated programme. The concerned delegations pointed out that this statement responded to a question they had not asked; the principle at issue was that the resources allocated to consultancies should be utilized for those consultancies mandated in the budget. Some delegations requested that a breakdown by programme element and by activity of the resources proposed for consultants under subprogramme 4 be provided in accordance with standard practice. The Committee noted that the Centre had undertaken to do so.

Reservation

204. One delegation* said that its acceptance of the recommendation made by the Committee that the General Assembly should approve the programme narrative of section 9 (see para. 640 below) was contingent upon the satisfactory resolution by the Commission on Transnational Corporations, at its reconvened special session to be held in June 1985, of the question of the definition of a transnational corporation.

* United States of America.

1. Introduction

205. At its 44th meeting, on 24 May, the Committee considered section 10 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987. For the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, see paragraphs 641-643 below.

2. Discussion

206. Some delegations expressed satisfaction that the use of consultants by ECE had been reduced and that specific descriptions of the consultants' tasks were included in the proposed programme budget. One delegation suggested that overall resources for consultants should be further reduced, but another delegation argued that while specific proposals for consultants could be curtailed or eliminated it was not for the Committee to envisage an overall reduction. Another delegation stated that since the regular staff of ECE could not possibly handle all highly specialized assignments, engaging consultants was the most cost-effective method of responding to intergovernmental mandates. The representative of ECE confirmed that consultants were engaged for very limited periods and for highly specialized tasks and that in the absence of consultants the Secretariat would be obliged to request additional regular posts.

207. Some delegations expressed reservations concerning the proposal to establish a new P-3 post to implement activities on the transport of dangerous goods, (para. 10.55). They noted that in paragraph 3 (d) of its resolution 1983/7 of 26 May 1983, the Economic and Social Council had requested the Secretary-General to make available, within existing resources, the improved staffing requested by the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods for the Secretariat unit servicing ECE and the Council in their work on the transport of dangerous goods. They further noted that as stated in paragraph 10.55 of the proposed programme budget, the post required to implement the mandated programme had been funded for the biennium 1984-1985 from savings in resources appropriated under the programme budget for that biennium, whereas the Council had intended that the Secretariat would make more permanent staffing arrangements by way of redeployment or decentralization from the central Secretariat unit.

208. The representative of the Office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination remarked that the use of savings for mandated programmes within the same budget section was specifically authorized by the Financial Regulations and by the programme planning regulations, subject to the reporting mechanism laid down in those regulations. In the case of the proposed new post, discussions had been held to ascertain whether a post could not be redeployed from another Secretariat unit, but that did not prove possible. The representative of ECE explained that the savings were from transitional funds available as a result of the turnover of staff and that a person with expertise in such a highly specialized area could not be recruited on the basis of such funding.

209. In reply to a query, the representative of ECE described some of the arrangements that ensured co-ordination with other organizations of the United Nations system. Work on agriculture and timber was implemented by a joint ECE/FAO division. Close working relations were maintained with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on environmental activities, with UNCTAD, the General

Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the International Trade Centre (ITC) on matters relating to trade, and with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) on a number of industrial projects. ECE also held frequent consultations with a number of regional organizations, including the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, the European Economic Community and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Section 11. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

1. Introduction

210. At its 47th and 52nd meetings, on 25 and 28 May, the Committee considered section 11 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987. It also had before it a note by the Secretary-General on proposed adjustments to the programme narrative (E/AC.51/1985/CRP.3). For the recommendations of the Committee, see paragraphs 644-645 below.

211. In his introductory statement the representative of ESCAP referred to the forty-first session of the Commission, held from 19 to 29 March 1985. At that session the Commission had considered the programme of work proposed for 1986-1987 and had endorsed it with the adjustments contained in the note by the Secretary-General.

212. He also brought to the attention of the Committee two questions not dealt with in the note. One concerned the Commission's decision to create a new subprogramme consisting of five programme elements and entitled "Assistance in implementation of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific" under programme 13 (Transport I: Transport, communications and tourism in Asia and the Pacific). He explained that the Commission had based its recommendation on an interpretation of regulation 4.2 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation. Neither the medium-term plan nor its revisions to date provided for the proposed subprogramme, and the five programme elements (1.9-1.13) were subsumed under subprogramme 1 (General transport planning and facilitation of international traffic) of programme 13.

213. The other issue concerned two outputs proposed under programme 8 (Natural resources in Asia and the Pacific) which the Commission had neither endorsed nor recommended for deletion, owing to a lack of consensus among the member States. They were outputs 2.1(i) (b) and 2.2 (i) of subprogramme 2 (Rational development, management and utilization of water resources), two reports to the Committee on Natural Resources, on interbasin transfer of water resources in the national context and on the effect of shared water resources in the formulation of national master water plans.

2. Discussion

214. Referring to the proposed new subprogramme (see para. 212 above), several delegations expressed the view that it was not the usual practice to modify the medium-term plan format in the budget process. Rather the necessary change of the medium-term plan format should be achieved through the next revision of the medium-term plan. In that context, several delegations discussed the question of

the financial implications of the work proposed under programme elements 1.9-1.13. While one delegation was under the impression that the work was to be executed within existing resources in accordance with the relevant decisions of ESCAP and the General Assembly, others stated that that provision had only applied to the biennium 1984-1985.

215. With regard to the two outputs of subprogramme 2 of programme 8, (see para. 213 above) one delegation pointed out there was no mandate for them and that they had not been endorsed by the Commission. It regretted that the ESCAP secretariat was emphasizing outputs which the Commission had not approved and, instead, was according them high priority by proposing to fund them from the regular budget. That was particularly questionable in the light of the practice of excessive overprogramming in ESCAP shown by earlier programme performance reports. That delegation accordingly proposed deletion of the above-mentioned outputs. That view was not shared by other delegations, so that a consensus could not be reached. One delegation pointed out that ESCAP, as a regional commission, had a clear mandate for the relevant outputs of the subprogrammes, in accordance with the Mar del Plata Plan of Action which was approved by the General Assembly in resolution 32/158 of 19 December 1977. That delegation emphasized the relevance and usefulness of these programme outputs for ESCAP members for the promotion of regional co-operation in water resource development and therefore strongly supported their retention and timely implementation by the Commission. It was stressed that retention of the relevant outputs of the proposed programme budget as presented by the Secretary-General was also justified in the absence of an agreement at the Commission's session to delete them.

216. Another delegation questioned the mandate for (a) programme element 1.6 (Enhancement of private sector involvement in industrialization) of programme 6 (Industrial development in Asia and the Pacific); (b) output (ii) (a) of programme element 1.1 (Improvements in science and technology policy and institutional structure) of programme 11 (Science and technology in Asia and the Pacific) which consisted of a study on promotion of research and development in private sector enterprises; and (c) output (i) (a) of programme element 1.3 (Strengthening of research and development organization and management) of programme 11, which consisted of a case study of successful commercialization of research and development results. Taking into account the explanations provided by the representative of the ESCAP secretariat, some delegations proposed the deletion of those items. Since there was no consensus on that proposal, one delegation stated that it reserved the right to raise the matter in the General Assembly and requested that that should be recorded in the report of the Committee.

217. One delegation noted favourably the modest reduction of overprogramming, as reflected in the adjustments to the programme of work made by the Commission, thus gradually clarifying the situation with regard to the projected availability of extrabudgetary funds. Some delegations proposed continuation and intensification of those efforts. However, one delegation expressed the view that the adjustments made by the Commission should have been submitted to the Committee, together with their overall implications for the proposed programme budget.

218. Several delegations expressed reservations about the new posts proposed and requested clarification of the justifications for them (paras. 11.4, 11.21, 11.31, 11.71 and 11.82). In that context reference was made to the question of the distribution of responsibilities between global and regional entities, and examination of the possibility of redeployment from Headquarters instead of the

creation of new posts was suggested. Some delegations emphasized the importance of the women's programme of the Asian and Pacific region and strongly supported further intensification of the programme. They noted that, in response to requests made by member States, the ESCAP secretariat would initiate new activities in this field and, therefore, they supported the proposal for a new post for programme 15, contained in paragraph 11.82 of the proposed programme budget.

219. One delegation expressed serious reservations about the programmatic need for the acquisition of a new computer system (paras. 11.96, 11.100 and 11.101). In the ensuing discussion, statements were made by the Director of the Budget Division about hardware and software problems with the existing system and about the thorough evaluation of short-term and long-term needs and costs which preceded the proposal. Some delegations raised questions about the rules and regulations governing the replacement of equipment. The members of the Committee received assurances that their views would be presented to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for its consideration.

220. In the discussion of specific proposals under the different programmes the following points were made.

(a) Food and agriculture

221. Some delegations cautioned against possible duplication of work done by FAO in the area of food and agriculture and stressed the need for increased co-ordination of activities between ESCAP and FAO.

(b) Development issues and policies

222. With regard to output (i) of programme element 1.3 (Comparative analysis of strategies, policy instruments and institutions for economic and social development in the region) of programme 3, some delegations proposed that the words "service sector", should be replaced by the words "public sector" in accordance with the existing mandate.

223. One delegation proposed that the priority designation of programme element 3.1 (Monitoring and review of progress in implementing the Substantial New Programme of Action in the region) should be changed to highest priority.

224. With regard to the resource requirements for programme element 4.1 (Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific), one delegation questioned the need for the proposed expert group meetings (para. 11.27) and suggested that the 20 detailed country studies could be prepared by ESCAP secretariat staff rather than consultants (para. 11.26). Another delegation questioned the increase in resource requirements for external printing and binding (para. 11.29), citing the considerable amount of resources already allocated for that purpose.

(c) Environment

225. Some delegations expressed the view that the activities proposed under programme element 1.1 (Environmental awareness) of programme 4 should primarily be carried out by UNEP.

(d) Industrial development

226. In view of the importance of the work subsumed under programme element 1.1 (Regional review of industrial progress with special reference to the growth target envisaged in the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action on Industrial Development and Co-operation) of programme 6, several delegations thought that its lowest priority designation should be eliminated.

227. One delegation suggested that the activities proposed under programme element 2.1 (Resource mobilization programme) should be expanded to include more than one or two of the items comprising the strategy laid out in the medium-term plan for subprogramme 2.

228. Several delegations proposed that the number of studies programmed under output (i) (b) of programme element 2.2 (Programme on project development and implementation) should be reduced to one.

(e) International trade and development finance

229. One delegation suggested that the use of extrabudgetary funds for output (ii) (a) of programme element 1.4 (Financial and credit co-operation) of programme 7 could be explored.

230. One delegation emphasized the importance of subprogramme 4 (Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries) and proposed that the priority designation of programme elements 4.1 (Export and import planning techniques and marketing) and 4.4 (Assistance to the least developed countries in trade development) should be changed to highest priority. That change would result in a better balance of highest and lowest priority programme elements in the programme.

(f) Natural resources

231. With regard to output (ii) (e) of programme element 2.1 (Support for the Mar del Plata Action Plan) of programme 8, some delegations raised concern about possible duplication of the work of UNIDO.

(g) Population

232. One delegation expressed the view that no regular budget funds should be used for any of the activities proposed under programme element 3.3 (Co-ordination of the Asia-Pacific Population Information Network (Asia-Pacific POPIN)) of programme 10.

(h) Transport I: Transport, communications and tourism

233. Some delegations proposed close co-ordination between output (i) of programme element 1.3 (Statistics and information systems for transport) and output (i) (b) of programme element 2.10 (Development of regional technical standards for roads and road transport) of programme 13 in order to avoid duplication of work.

234. Some delegations proposed co-ordination in the timing of output (i) (b) of programme element 3.5 (Development of regional and inter-regional co-operation through the Asia-Pacific Railway Co-operation Group) and output (ii) of programme element 1.3 to avoid duplication of work.

235. Some delegations proposed that the words "and public" should be inserted after the word "private" in output (i) of programme element 1.4 (Promotion of co-operation and co-ordination between public and private sectors in transport and communications).

236. Some delegations suggested that the words "and public sectors" should be inserted after the words "private sector" in output (ii) of programme element 1.4.

237. With regard to programme element 1.5 (Promotion of research and development capability in transport), some delegations expressed reservations about the interest of developing member States in the proposed activities.

238. Several delegations pointed out that the activities under programme element 2.4 (Environmental protection and highway transport development) should be carried out in close co-operation with UNEP to avoid possible duplication.

239. Some delegations expressed the need for close co-ordination between programme elements 2.5 and 2.7.

240. Several delegations proposed that programme elements 6.1 and 6.3 should be combined.

(i) Transport II: Shipping, ports and inland waterways

241. In view of the close relationship between outputs (ii) (b) and (c) of programme element 3.1 (Port planning and development policy) of programme 14, some delegations expressed the need for utmost co-ordination between them.

242. Some delegations questioned the need for the missions proposed under output (ii) (d) of programme element 3.7 (Upgrading of dredging capability), in view of the large number of missions (53) financed from extrabudgetary funds to be carried out under subprogramme 3.

243. One delegation expressed concern because the proposed work programme of subprogramme 4 (Development of inland water transport) did not reflect the activities discussed at the fortieth session of ESCAP concerning the upgrading of information and statistics of systems.

(j) Social development

244. One delegation drew attention to the considerable potential for duplication of work in programme 15 and noted that everything possible should be done to avoid such duplication.

Reservations

245. With regard to programme 8 (Natural resources), one delegation expressed its continued firm opposition to outputs (i) (b) of programme element 2.1 and output (i) of programme element 2.2, for which there was no mandate and which had not been endorsed by the Commission. For the same reasons, some other delegations expressed their reservations with regard to programme element 1.6 of programme 6 (Industrial development), output (ii) (a) of programme element 1.1 of programme 11 (Science and technology) and output (i) (a) of programme element 1.3 of programme 11.

246. With regard to programme 13 (Transport I: Transport, communications and tourism in Asia and the Pacific), one delegation expressed its opposition to the creation of a new subprogramme on assistance in the implementation of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, in the programme of work of which was well covered under subprogramme 1 of the same programme.

247. With regard to paragraphs 11.96, 11.100 and 11.101, the same delegation expressed its firm opposition to the programmatic necessity of urgent replacement of the computer system on the grounds that no justification was provided by the Secretariat and that the referral of the question to ACABQ was not sufficient because the question included also programmatic aspects.

248. One delegation* reserved its position on the creation of the new posts proposed for ESCAP, believing that the Secretary-General had not made a sufficient effort to accommodate requirements for additional staff by means of decentralization.

Section 12. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

1. Introduction

249. At its 46th meeting, on 25 May, the Committee considered section 12 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987. For the recommendations of the Committee, see paragraphs 646-648 below.

250. The representative of the Office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination drew the Committee's attention to an oversight in programme 9 (Population in Latin America and the Caribbean). As recommended by the Committee at its twenty-third session, 10/ the words "family planning" in the title and narrative of programme element 1.2 should have been replaced by the words "socio-economic conditions". He assured the Committee that the oversight would be corrected.

2. Discussion

251. Several delegations expressed their satisfaction with the document and noted, in particular, the sense of responsibility exhibited through the extensive redeployment of staff in response to internal changes in resource requirements.

252. The termination of programme element 1.3 of programme 3 (Environment) was regretted by several delegations. The programme element dealt with energy and the environment in alternative development strategies in Latin America in the biennium 1984-1985.

253. A number of delegations raised questions regarding the priority designations of several programme elements but, at the same time, acknowledged the difficulties arising from the provision that each programme should contain programme elements of highest and lowest priority corresponding to roughly 10 per cent of total programme resources in each category. Particular concern was expressed that programme

* United States of America.

element 2.2 (Industrial restructuring in Latin America) of programme 5 (Industrial development) and programme element 3.2 (The effect of certain macro-economic policies on the Latin American economies) of programme 6 (International trade and development finance) had not been accorded highest priority, while the attribution of highest priority to programme element 4.1 (Analysis of the regional integration and co-operation processes and support for these processes) of programme 6 was considered unjustified.

254. Some delegations requested clarification of resource requirements for consultants, ad hoc, expert groups and staff travel relating to different programme elements. One delegation was particularly concerned about possible duplication of work relating to those categories of expenditure in programme 6.

255. With regard to programme 10 (Science and technology in Latin America and the Caribbean), several delegations stressed the need for co-ordination of activities of ECLAC with those of the Centre for Science and Technology for Development.

256. One delegation proposed that the title of programme element 4.6 (Economic co-operation in Central America) of programme 6 should be amended to conform to the title of programme element 4.5 (Economic integration and co-operation among Andean Pact countries).

257. One delegation inquired about the potential status as sales publications of two outputs (1.1) (a) of programme 2 (Development issues and policies in Latin America and the Caribbean) and 2.3(i) of programme 5 (Industrial development in Latin America and the Caribbean)) and suggested that all publications that were sold, regardless of whether they were expressly produced for sale and regardless of the level of profitability, should be described as sales publications.

258. With regard to programme 6, one delegation suggested that programme element 2.2 (Relations with countries having centrally planned economies) should be given no priority designation instead of the lowest priority. The same delegation expressed the view that, under programme element 5.5 (Social development in the Caribbean), output (i) (a) and output (iii) did not justify the resources requested. That delegation stated that such outputs did not warrant an expenditure of funds and were not of substantive interest to the work of the Commission.

259. With regard to programme 8 (Energy issues in Latin America and the Caribbean) one delegation considered that, in the absence of a sufficient mandate, output (i) (a) and (b) of programme element 1.2 (Problems in energy planning) should be deleted.

260. With regard to programme 5, one delegation said that while some of the outputs carried the designation "extrabudgetary", no extrabudgetary resources had been included in table 12.17.

261. One delegation noted the inconsistency between the lowest priority designation and the increase in resources for programme element 2.1 (Integration of women into Latin American development) in programme 11 (Social development and humanitarian affairs in Latin America and the Caribbean).

262. In connection with the new posts proposed for programmes 3, 6 and 7, one delegation referred to the issue of the distribution of responsibilities between global and regional entities and suggested examination of the possibility of redeployment from Headquarters instead of the creation of new posts.

263. In responding to the general and specific questions and points raised, the representative of ECLAC informed the Committee that the proposed work programme for 1986-1987 had been reviewed and approved by the Commission - which met in even years - at its twentieth session in March/April 1984. He remarked on the conflict between the necessity of determining the work programme far ahead of its implementation and the desire to be flexible in responding to the changing needs of the region.

264. The representative of ECLAC explained that programme element 1.3 of programme 3 (Environment) had been terminated in response to a shift in priorities in the Latin American Energy Organization with whose co-operation the related activities had been carried out in the past. The representative referred to the increasing demand for activities under programme 3, and the insufficiency of programme resources in view of those demands and in spite of the proposed new post.

Reservations

265. In accordance with its policy of opposing the establishment of new posts within the regular budget, and in view of the failure of the Secretary-General to accommodate staffing requirements in the regional commissions by means of decentralization, one delegation* reserved its position regarding the establishment of new posts in ECLAC.

266. Another delegation expressed the same reservation.

Section 13. Economic Commission for Africa

1. Introduction

267. At its 46th and 47th meetings, on 25 May, the Committee considered section 13 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987. For the recommendations of the Committee, see paragraphs 649-650 below.

268. The Director of the Programme Planning and Evaluation Branch of the Office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination stated that following consultations between the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and regarding co-ordination of activities, the output citation of programme element 4.2 of programme 15 (Transport, communications and tourism in Africa) should read as follows:

"Technical publication for air-transport policy makers and planners on the price of aviation fuel in Africa in relation to the prices for other petroleum products and world prices (fourth quarter, 1987)".

The change would be reflected in the final version of the proposed programme budget.

* United States of America.

2. Discussion

269. A number of delegations sought clarification of the criteria employed in the determination of the overall budgetary allocation for the programmes of the Commission. One delegation felt that the rate of growth of 1.6 per cent of the proposed budget of ECA was insufficient. Several delegations expressed the view that the activities included in the proposed programme budget for ECA did not reflect the importance given by the General Assembly to the economic situation in Africa, which had also been recognized by the Economic and Social Council in deciding on the priorities to be observed and by the Secretary-General in launching his initiative concerning Africa.

270. With regard to the question of criteria for overall budgetary allocations, the Director of the Office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination informed the Committee that no financial targets were established in connection with the preparation of either the proposed programme budget of ECA or that of any other regional commission. Similarly, no targets were applied at any stage during the internal review of the proposed programme budgets of the regional commissions. The matter was further clarified by means of a description of the salient aspects of the review process wherein the level of required resources for the various budget sections is determined in the light of submitted programmes.

271. The representative of the Budget Division pointed out that, in relation to the critical situation in Africa, the Secretary-General had been pursuing a number of special measures. They included programmes and corresponding budgetary allocations distinct from those of ECA, as well as activities financed from extrabudgetary resources. Consequently, those measures and their costs were not reflected in section 13 of the proposed programme budget for 1986-1987. He also drew attention to the fact that the programmes of many United Nations entities, especially those of UNICEF, UNDP and the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, included activities which addressed problems directly related to the current critical situation in Africa.

(a) Policy-making organs

272. A question was raised concerning paragraph 13.4 on external printing and binding, and specifically on the meaning of the phrase "redeployments from other programmes". The representative of the Budget Division stated that the phrase did not mean curtailment of staff resources. It referred to savings accrued to ECA through reduction of printing costs, resulting from the purchase of new equipment.

(b) Food and agriculture in Africa

273. One delegation recalled that the Committee at its twenty-second session 11/ had recommended that, in the medium-term plan for 1984-1989, the words "the Lagos Plan of Action" should be replaced by the words "General Assembly resolution 35/64 on the Lagos Plan of Action" in all programmes of ECA. That recommendation had been subsequently adopted by the General Assembly and the delegation suggested that the same phrasing should be used also in the proposed programme budget for 1986-1987, not only in programme element 1.2 of programme 1 but throughout.

(c) Marine affairs in Africa

274. One delegation questioned whether there was any duplication of activity proposed under the programme on marine affairs with activities carried out elsewhere in the Organization. The same delegation also asked whether the establishment of a new Professional post for the programme was necessary and why the need could not be met from redeployment. The representative of ECA responded that there was no duplication of activity in the programme and, in fact, ECA carried out some of the activities programmed jointly with the Ocean Economics and Technology Branch of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs. He added that the staffing needs of the programme could not be met from redeployment and the one new post proposed would be the only one available for the programme on marine affairs.

(d) Development issues and policies in Africa

275. The question was asked why programme elements 1.4 (Perspective studies on the economics of the African region) and 1.9 (Development perspective of the African region) of the programme on development issues and policies had no final outputs. The representative of ECA explained that substantial work would be undertaken during the biennium 1986-1987 under those programme elements and that the final report would be submitted to the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers at its fifth session in the first quarter of 1988.

(e) Environment in Africa

276. In response to a question concerning output (iii) of programme element 1.1 (Technical co-operation for developing national environmental capabilities) of the programme on environment, the representative of ECA stated that the activity was carried out in co-operation with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

Reservation

277. In accordance with its policy of opposing the establishment of new posts within the regular budget, one delegation* reserved its position regarding the establishment of four new posts in ECA.

Section 14. Economic Commission for Western Asia

1. Introduction

278. At its 44th and 45th meetings, on 24 May, the Committee considered section 14 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987. For the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, see paragraphs 651-655 below.

* United States of America.

2. Discussion

279. The initial discussion of the Committee centred on the issue of the overall implementation of the programme of ECWA during the past few years and the possibilities for improvement in that regard. The physical removal of ECWA headquarters to Baghdad, together with a subsequent high vacancy rate in the Professional posts, were generally recognized as detrimental factors that had impinged on programme performance. A few delegations questioned whether current circumstances in ECWA would permit a higher implementation rate.

280. The representative of ECWA stated that, as at April 1985, the vacancy rate of Professional posts had been 18 per cent, although the effective rate was closer to 30 per cent, since not all recently appointed staff members had yet taken up their posts. He indicated also that, in order to adjust for overplanning and to avoid duplication of activities being undertaken by other regional organizations, ECWA had agreed to the termination of 15 programme elements in the programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985. In this context, he added that the termination of programme elements had begun with those that had been assigned lowest priority. Furthermore, other activities had been strengthened in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987, resulting in a programme that was more directly action-oriented and/or was an aid in the absorption of technology and other development factors.

281. The detailed discussion on the programmes of activity focused on the following programmes.

(a) Food and agriculture

282. One delegation remarked that the promotion of regional food security arrangements under programme element 2.2 (Evaluation of food production and consumption policies in selected countries) was a matter of utmost importance to the member States of the region and asked whether the regional food security projects to be identified would be consistent with a regional plan as a whole. The representative of ECWA replied that the Commission had agreed to hold an intergovernmental meeting on that topic in order to review actions and achievements and to prepare a plan of action for the institutions working in that field.

(b) Human settlements

283. One delegation questioned the appropriateness of terminating programme element 2.2 (Survey of research and statistical services related to building materials in the ECWA region) and proposed that it should be retained in the proposed programme budget for 1986-1987, a proposal that was supported by another delegation. In connection with that proposal, one delegation questioned the usefulness of continuing the programme element.

(c) Industrial development

284. Another delegation stated that all of the outputs scheduled under this programme for 1986-1987 were technical publications or reports to intergovernmental bodies when, in fact, member States in the region were in dire need of concrete technical assistance. The representative of ECWA explained that some of the proposed publications represented interim publications on concrete action that might be taken on identified inter-country projects and would therefore be of practical use to member States.

(d) Natural resources

285. One delegation asked why programme element 1.4 in the programme budget for 1984-1985 on the provision of technical support and advisory services to member States for water resources had not been included in the proposed programme budget for 1986-1987. The representative of ECWA explained that the Commission had decided to delete that activity from both sections 14 and 24 of the proposed programme budget, since member States had not requested the short-term missions foreseen under the subprogramme in the current biennium.

Reservations

286. Several delegations, noting the termination of 15 programme elements in the programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985, had reservations with regard to the elimination of activities that had been mandated by intergovernmental bodies but that had subsequently been terminated without recourse to those bodies. A few delegations expressed strong objection to that procedure, especially where the programme elements had been terminated by the Secretariat precisely during the same biennium for which the activity had been mandated. A number of the delegations stressed that it was the right of member States, through their intergovernmental bodies, to approve given activities and, if subsequently required in their view, to terminate them.

287. In this connection, the Director of the Programme Planning and Evaluation Branch, Office of Programme Planning and Co-ordination, explained that rule 105.2 (b) of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation permitted the heads of departments or offices to modify the approved programme budget at their discretion by, inter alia, terminating programme elements or outputs. Several delegations considered that totally unacceptable, since it tended to negate the decisions and authority of legislative bodies, particularly those of the General Assembly.

288. One delegation made a strong reservation with regard to the elimination of activities approved by the General Assembly in the programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985. It reiterated that activities mandated by the Assembly could only be eliminated by that body, especially in view of the explanation provided by the representative of the Secretary-General that the reason for the elimination was the lack of personnel.

289. One delegation* stated that, in accordance with its opposition to a net increase in total posts in the regular budget, it did not agree with the establishment of a new post in the Electronic Data Processing and Information System Section of ECWA.

290. One delegation considered it unreasonable that the recommendation contained in paragraph 651 below should be adopted before ECWA had expressed its views on the question.

* United States of America.

Section 15. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

1. Introduction

291. The Committee considered section 15 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987 at its 31st to 33rd meetings, on 17 and 18 May. For the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, see paragraphs 656-665 below.

292. The Deputy Secretary-General and Officer-in-Charge of UNCTAD, in introducing the proposed programme budget of UNCTAD recalled that the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget of the Trade and Development Board had reviewed the programme budget thoroughly at its ninth session (15-19 April 1985). The report of the Working Party (TD/B/WP(IX)/Misc.2), including its Agreed Conclusions, was before the Committee. He stated that the decline of 0.2 per cent in real terms envisaged in the proposed programme budget for UNCTAD was not matched by a decline in its workload. This imposed the obligation on the secretariat to use its limited staff resources flexibly, especially with regard to cross-sectoral issues and the preparations for the seventh session of UNCTAD, and to absorb additional tasks within the available resources. A Programme Co-ordination and Evaluation Unit had already been established through the redeployment of staff from other areas. An internal process had been launched to review the work programme of UNCTAD with a view to identifying, within the framework of existing legislative mandates, areas of major emphasis in the period ahead, particularly that leading up to the seventh session. In addition, the structure of the secretariat was being examined with a view to adapting it better to the substantive tasks envisaged in the work programme. The Agreed Conclusions of the Working Party had re-echoed the need for flexibility in the use of UNCTAD staff resources to enable it to respond better to new mandates and priorities.

2. Discussion

293. Several delegations deplored the decline of 0.2 per cent in the proposed budget for UNCTAD and argued that such a decline would adversely affect the activities of UNCTAD and its capacity to execute its mandates. Those delegations expressed their concern that the UNCTAD secretariat might have been under some constraint to follow a "zero-growth" budget and emphasized that no such directives had ever been contained in any resolution of the General Assembly. In view of the increasing mandates received by the UNCTAD secretariat and of the statement in paragraph 15.4 of section 15 that the work would be implemented with some minor adjustments to the level of available resources, those delegations wondered whether the programme activities proposed had been fully costed.

294. One delegation was of the opinion that the proposals represented three positive aspects: the principal activities did not go beyond the decisions of UNCTAD intergovernmental organs; the proposed programme budget involved a decrease in resources; and it marked a trend towards redeployment. On the other hand, the same delegation noted a lack of co-ordination among the various programmes and a large dependence on consultants. It further stated that there was a need to avoid duplication as regards programmes and to make further savings on consultants; in addition, since some of the proposed expenditures were conditional on the convening of expert groups, it should be made clear that, should those meetings not take place, the resources involved would not be used. Another delegation said that in several cases mandates had been anticipated and suggested that, in view of the

programmatic provision for the convening of the seventh session of UNCTAD in 1987, some of the resources required for pre-conference meetings could be offset by economies from activities not undertaken because of those preparations. Other delegations expressed satisfaction with the examination of the proposed programme budget by the Working Party of the Trade and Development Board.

295. Another delegation said that, despite the redeployment of six posts in the proposed programme budget, redeployment among programmes was non-existent; some programmes, such as those on manufactures and semi-manufactures and least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, were still short of resources while others apparently had more staff than was necessary to fulfil their mandates. The Agreed Conclusions of the Working Party envisaged consideration of those issues. The same delegation recalled that, at the meeting of the Working Party, the UNCTAD secretariat had stated that, in case anticipated mandates did not materialize, the resources thus released would be used by the same programme for other activities. The delegation argued that, in such cases, the resources should be made available for UNCTAD as a whole.

296. Some delegations expressed the view that section 15 of the proposed programme budget should be sent back to UNCTAD to be reviewed in accordance with the views expressed by legislative bodies and member States. In this connection, some delegations pointed out that the section was part of the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget and that it was the Committee's mandate to consider it. Some delegations said that in any budgetary process it was logical and normal to ask for maximum restraint; the proposals were well-balanced and well-programmed and had been the basis for a consensus at the ninth session of the Working Party. One delegation expressed its concern that the resources requested for consultants were not intended for specific outputs; rather it seemed that intergovernmental organs were requested to approve a global sum for consultants and that, within that sum, the secretariat had a large degree of flexibility. A similar situation seemed to prevail regarding meetings of expert groups, several of which were not specifically mandated. The same delegation opposed subsequent reformulation by the secretariat of activities for which such resources had been allocated in the programme budget. Another delegation inquired about the subprogramme, Programme planning and management, which recurred under programmes 1 to 8. It argued that such a subprogramme should not appear in the programme budget because it was not included in the programme structure of the medium-term plan. Another delegation inquired about several items of "technical assistance" notably in programmes 1, 3 and 6 of section 15, arguing that only backstopping activities should be provided for in the regular budget. The representative of the Secretary-General confirmed that regular budgetary resources would be restricted to such activities.

297. In reply, the Director of the Programme Planning and Evaluation Branch of the Office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination assured the Committee that the Secretary-General's instructions for the preparation of the proposed programme budget had directed the submitting units to use "maximum restraint" in their proposals and had never requested them to follow "zero growth". He also differentiated between the general mandates contained in the medium-term plan and the specific mandates given by ad hoc legislation. He argued that the proposed programme budget should not be considered a strait-jacket, since it could only reflect the Secretary-General's best estimate of requirements for a period of two years in the future. Rule 105.2 (b) of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning and Programme Aspects of the Budget envisaged that "head of departments or offices shall have the discretion to modify the approved programme

budget by reformulating programme elements and final output". The Financial Regulations gave the Secretary-General similar flexibility subject to appropriate reporting. The secretariat would eliminate the subprogramme, Programme planning and management, which appeared under programmes 1 to 8, since its inclusion was not in conformity with rule 103.6 (c) of the programme planning regulations.

298. The representative of the UNCTAD secretariat confirmed that the Secretary-General's instructions had directed submitting units to use maximum restraint in their budget proposals. He added that UNCTAD activities were based on a large number of intergovernmental meetings each one of which reviewed and revised previous mandates. The process was a continuing one and in its Agreed Conclusions the Working Party had recommended that the main committees of UNCTAD should be invited to give increased attention to the review of their work programmes and the implementation of their decisions. Some mandates, including those for the convening of expert groups, were received in the course of the biennium and flexibility was therefore necessary. Resources left unused because of lack of mandates were, in fact, used by UNCTAD as a whole to meet unanticipated mandates. As regards the seventh session of UNCTAD, its structure and agenda were still not known; the proposed programme budget was based on the requirements for the sixth session, adjusted for inflation. The representative of UNCTAD said that the secretariat could not always forecast the exact topics for which consultants and expert groups would be required because those topics often depended on evolving mandates. The emoluments of consultants depended on the level and qualifications of consultants; this factor, as well as the differences in travelling expenses, explained why the costs for consultants, shown under the heading "Resource requirements" at the end of each programme were not comparable. He further stated that subprogramme 5 (Inquiry service on technical assistance and feasibility studies) of programme 4 (Shipping, ports and multimodal transport) and subprogramme 3 (Advisory service on transfer of technology) of programme 5 (Transfer of technology) were financed from the regular budget. The other items of technical assistance were in fact substantive support to technical assistance which was financed by UNDP or other sources. Some delegations expressed their dissatisfaction with several elements of this response.

(a) Executive direction and management

299. One delegation expressed its hope that, with time, the Evaluation Unit (programme element 1.4) would make its contribution to a management-oriented system without taking an inquisitorial approach. Other delegations welcomed the establishment of the Unit. One delegation emphasized that the operations of the Unit should be undertaken in close collaboration with the Office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, while another inquired whether it would be possible for the Unit to request additional resources in the course of the biennium. Another delegation expressed the hope that the press releases envisaged as output (i) of programme element 1.6 (Information Unit) would reflect the statements made by all groups of countries, while another objected to programme element 1.3 (Special Economic Unit (Palestinian people)) and expressed the view that either the element should be deleted or its resources reduced. Other delegations expressed doubts whether the consultants referred to in paragraph 15.13 were necessary under that part of the work programme. It was also stated that output (iii) of programme element 1.6 duplicated output (iii) of paragraph 15.98 (b).

300. The representative of UNCTAD stated in reply that it was not the intention of the secretariat to request additional resources for the Evaluation Unit in the course of the biennium 1986-1987. He added that the entry for consultants under that part of the proposed programme budget was not a regular feature but was intended to provide for cross-sectoral advice to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on studies prepared by the secretariat. He confirmed that the annual supplement to the Guide to UNCTAD Publications should not appear as output (iii) of programme element 1.6 since it was already recorded under Conference affairs (para. 15.98 (b) (iii)).

(b) Money, finance and development

301. Several delegations expressed strong concern that programme element 1.6 (Financial flows among developing countries) was included in programme 1 (Money, finance and development) in spite of the strong objections of the States members of the Group of 77, as contained in the report of the Working Party. They requested that the programme element be reassigned to programme 6 (Economic co-operation among developing countries) and be accorded highest priority. Other delegations stated that the Committee on Invisibles and Financing related to Trade had the mandate to deal with the subject-matter, although the Committee for Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries should be informed of the activities concerned. In response, one delegation stated that the Committee on Invisibles and Financing related to Trade had no such mandate. That delegation reiterated its strong objections to the inclusion of programme element 1.6 in programme 1 and proposed that it be reassigned to the programme on economic co-operation among developing countries. Several delegations agreed that the Secretary-General should reconsider the decision to include programme element 1.6 in programme 1 (Money, finance and development) and instead include it under programme 6 (Economic co-operation among developing countries).

302. Another delegation inquired about the exact contents of the report on sector-specific financial requirement (output 1.1 (iv)). One delegation objected that the title of programme element 1.2, unlike the relevant text in the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989, 12/ did not refer to reverse flows of funds from developing to developed countries; it suggested that the title should be rephrased to read "Financial flows to and from developing countries with regard to private capital markets and foreign private direct investment" and that the words "and reverse transfer of resources" should be inserted at the end of output 1.2 (iii). One delegation argued that the balanced treatment given in the medium-term plan to the inflow and outflow of financial resources to and from developing countries was not adequately reflected; it was suggested that the programme be revised to rectify the absence in the entire programme of any specific mention of the reverse transfer of financial resources from developing countries. Other delegations inquired about the mandates for the substantive servicing of up to four sessions of the Trade and Development Board (output 1.4 (i)); for the reports to the Board on other aspects of debt issues (output 1.4 (v)); and for the technical assistance under output 3.2. Another delegation expressed its support for the designation of programme element 1.4 (Debt problems of developing countries) as an element of highest priority, while another suggested that outputs 1.5 (ii) and (iii) should be combined. One delegation said that although the Board was likely to deal with debt problems of developing countries (Programme element 1.4), there would not necessarily be work for the secretariat as envisaged under output 1.4 (i).

303. In reply, the Director of the Programme Planning and Evaluation Branch of the Office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination said that programme element 1.6 fell within the strategy of subprogramme 1, described in paragraph 16.14 of the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 ^{12/} and that when that paragraph had been discussed by the Committee during its consideration of revisions to the medium-term plan, no proposal to change it had been made. The representative of UNCTAD added that the required resources, including facilities for generating models, were available under programme 1 and that the programme element had been allocated the same number of work-months in the biennium 1986-1987 as in the previous one. The representative of UNCTAD further stated that with respect to reports on sector-specific financial requirements (output 1.1 (iv)), such reports to the Trade and Development Board would deal with flows of financial resources from developed to developing countries which were tied to a particular sector. With regard to output 1.4 (i), he said that an item, "Debt problems of developing countries", had been included in the agenda of the Board for several sessions and, though the secretariat could not anticipate the Board's future agenda, it had to assume that the item would be retained. Similarly, the reports to the Board on other aspects of debt issues (output 1.4 (v)) indicated the secretariat's expectation of the Board's requirements. The outputs envisaged under 1.5 (ii) and (iii) were distinct: the first included a report on international monetary issues to the Committee on Invisibles and Financing related to Trade in 1986, whereas the second covered the substantive servicing of the seventh session of UNCTAD in 1987. The mandate for programme element 3.2 (Quantitative analysis relating to debt management), derived from Board resolution 222 (XXI).

(c) Commodities

304. One delegation said that, though the share of UNCTAD resources allocated to the programme 2 (Commodities) had diminished, the programme remained central to UNCTAD; the delegation inquired about the mandate for output 1.1 (iv) and favoured combining programme elements 2.3 (Marketing and distribution of primary commodities for export in developing countries) and 2.4 (Trade expansion, protectionism and structural adjustment in the primary commodity sector). Several delegations doubted whether, during the biennium, it would be necessary to provide substantive services for "up to 15" meetings on commodities not covered by existing international commodity agreements (output 1.1 (i)) and whether "up to 30 reports" would be required under output 1.1 (iii). Another delegation inquired about the mandate for programme element 1.3 (Support for the Common Fund) and pointed out that the mandate for programme element 2.5 (World trade and food security) had been given by UNCTAD at its fifth session but had not been renewed at the sixth session. One delegation stated that programme element 2.5 involved duplication with the work of FAO, while another considered that the subjects of the reports envisaged under programme elements 2.1 and 2.2 were unrealistic.

305. The representative of UNCTAD stated in reply that programme elements 2.3 and 2.4 covered different areas and it would not be advisable to combine them. As regards the meetings and reports envisaged under outputs 1.1 (i) and 1.1 (iii), he said that the numbers represented the estimate of the secretariat on the basis of its experience, especially in view of the fact that in the case of some commodities several reports and/or meetings could be required. He added that the mandate for output 1.1 (iv) would be specified by the Committee on Commodities and that, if the agreement on the Common Fund were not ratified, the resources envisaged for programme element 1.3 would be redeployed to other activities of UNCTAD. On the other hand, the mandate given by UNCTAD in its resolution 155 (V) for the output of

programme element 2.5 remained valid. The Director of the Programme Planning and Evaluation Branch of the Office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination informed the Committee that FAO and UNCTAD had agreed to amend the output description of programme element 2.5 as follows: the words "mechanisms ... food aid" at the end of the description would be replaced by the words "trade mechanisms to reduce food insecurity and in the same context the trade aspects of food aid".

(d) Manufactures and semi-manufactures

306. With regard to programme 3 (Manufactures and semi-manufactures), two delegations disagreed with the assignment of highest priority to programme element 1.1 (Examination of the principles and policies related to international trade), and one of them proposed that highest priority should be assigned instead to programme element 2.3 (Implementation and improvement of the Generalized System of Preferences and of special and differential treatment for developing countries). Two delegations expressed concern about the availability of extrabudgetary funds for the technical co-operation programme on the Generalized System of Preferences (output 2.3 (v)) and proposed the redeployment of regular budget funds to this activity to reduce its dependence on extrabudgetary resources. The representative of UNCTAD confirmed that the Trade and Development Board attached great importance to programme element 1.1. As regards output 2.3 (v), UNCTAD had been trying to raise funds for that technical assistance and several Governments had made voluntary contributions; if intergovernmental organs so decided, the secretariat would welcome the opportunity of allocating regular budget resources for that activity.

(e) Shipping, ports and multimodal transport

307. During the discussion of programme 4 (Shipping, ports and multimodal transport), the question was raised whether the programme provided for the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Conditions for Registration of Ships. The representative of UNCTAD stated that the Conference would take place in July 1985 and that whether or not UNCTAD would have a monitoring role depended on the conclusions of the Conference. The Director of the Programme Planning and Evaluation Branch of the Office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination informed the Committee that the International Maritime Organization (IMO) had examined the proposed programme and found it complementary to IMO activities.

(f) Transfer of technology

308. With regard to programme 5 (Transfer of technology), the question of the avoidance of duplication between programme element 2.3 (Economic, commercial and developmental aspects of the industrial property system) and related programmes of UNIDO, ILO and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) was raised by several delegations. They argued that inter-agency co-operation in the area of science and technology should be strengthened. It was noted that whereas, in the case of pharmaceuticals, paragraph 17 of UNCTAD resolution 143 (VI) called for the joint participation of UNCTAD and other agencies, in particular WHO, the report on the subject to the Trade and Development Board had been submitted by UNCTAD secretariat alone.

309. It was also noted that several proposed outputs in programme 5 were contingent on future intergovernmental decisions; since the assumptions of the secretariat

seemed, in some cases, to be unrealistic, the need could well arise to redeploy some staff resources to other programmes. It was pointed out that the activities under subprogramme 3 (Advisory service on transfer of technology) might have expanded rather disproportionately. The question was raised whether a mandate had been given for work on co-operative exchange of skills (output 1.4 (iii)) and for two sessions of intergovernmental expert meetings on reverse transfer of technology (output 1.4 (i)). It was also proposed that, in output 1.4 (ii), the words "to mitigate the adverse effects" should be replaced by the wording used in the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989, 13/ namely, "minimizing the negative impact".

310. The Director of the Programme Planning and Evaluation Branch of the Office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination commented that the proposed programme budget of UNCTAD had been circulated to the agencies but no comments had been received from them regarding the programme on transfer of technology. The representative of UNCTAD said that UNCTAD, at its sixth session, had called for the strengthening of the subprogramme 3 (Advisory service on transfer of technology), while the Trade and Development Board, at its thirtieth session, had called for an evaluation of the subprogramme. Several activities, including those for work on co-operative exchange of skills and for the second session of the intergovernmental expert meeting on reverse transfer of technology, had been included on the assumption that the relevant intergovernmental decision would be forthcoming.

(g) Economic co-operation among developing countries

311. During the discussion of programme 6 (Economic co-operation among developing countries), one delegation reiterated that the programme element on financial flows among developing countries, at present contained in programme 1 (Money, finance and development), should be transferred to programme 6. Several delegations, referring to programme element 1.1 (Global System of Trade Preferences among developing countries), emphasized that, in accordance with United Nations principles, particularly the principle of universality, no developing country should be excluded from any benefits resulting from the programme. One delegation, while expressing satisfaction with programme element 1.1, suggested that the Committee should recommend that all activities take into account the universal character of UNCTAD, that they be in accordance with the principle of transparency, and that UNCTAD play a key role in the work of United Nations bodies dealing with global and interregional aspects of economic co-operation among developing countries. Another delegation doubted whether such a recommendation would be compatible with the mandate of the Committee; other delegations suggested that any such recommendation should take into account the views of the developing countries as expressed in the Trade and Development Board and the Committee on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries. As regards the coverage of the Global System, the representative of UNCTAD said that the secretariat would follow the clear-cut decisions of intergovernmental organs.

(h) Trade among countries having different economic and social systems

312. Regarding programme element 1.3 (Expansion of East-West trade) of programme 7 (Trade among countries having different economic and social systems), some delegations stated that work in that area duplicated the activities of ECE, which had competence over East-West economic relations; however, other delegations pointed to paragraph 16.70 of the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 which

gave a specific mandate to work on East-West trade. Other delegations argued that the balanced treatment given in the medium-term plan to East-South and East-West trade was not adequately reflected; it was suggested that the programme be amended (e.g., programme element 1.4) to rectify the absence throughout the programme of any specific mention of East-South trade. During the discussion it was also stated that responsibility for work on the schemes of preferences of the socialist countries of Eastern Europe (output 1.2 (i)) belongs to the programme 3 (Manufactures and semi-manufactures), and proposals were made for reformulating the title of programme element 1.4 (Prospects in trade with the socialist countries of Eastern Europe).

(i) Administration and common services

313. With reference to the request for a provision of \$308,100 for additional word-processing and electronic data-processing equipment (para. 15.119), one delegation questioned whether the provision was really necessary. The representative of the Office of Financial Services informed the Committee that the matter was being considered by ACABQ.

Reservations

314. One delegation expressed its reservation with regard to programme element 1.2 of programme 1 (Money, finance and development) because it did not adequately reflect the provisions of the medium-term plan, namely, paragraph 16.14 thereof, in which it is stated that the "impact of problems associated with reverse flows of funds from developing to developed countries, both on account of debt service payments and private remittances, will be assessed."

315. Several delegations expressed their strong reservations with regard to the following: (a) the mandates given by the General Assembly had not been fully reflected in section 15 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987; (b) the placement of programme element 1.6 under programme 1 (Money, finance and development) and not under programme 6 (Economic co-operation among developing countries); and (c) the siding of Secretariat officials with the minority of Member States when it should be neutral.

Section 16. International Trade Centre

1. Introduction

316. At its 31st meeting, on 17 May, the Committee considered section 16 of the proposed programme budget for 1986-1987. For the recommendation of the Committee, see paragraph 666 below.

2. Discussion

317. A number of delegations noted that the rate of real growth of 0.2 per cent for the United Nations share, shown in table 16.1, was not comparable with increases in other sections of the budget, because that share took into account an increase in the projected miscellaneous income of the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT (see para. 16.4); the rate of real growth for ITC as a whole, shown in table 16.2,

was 2.7 per cent. During the course of the discussion, questions were raised about whether the last sentence of paragraph 16.6 and the first sentence of paragraph 16.8 should be retained and about the Centre's mandate to undertake "substantive research and development on trade promotion and export development techniques" (para. 16.6). Further questions were raised about the publication FORUM (Administration and common services, programme element 2.4), which had not been envisaged in the medium-term plan for 1984-1989, and about the justification for the reclassification of posts proposed in paragraph 16.41 and for the participation of ITC in meetings of the International Civil Service Commission. It was also noted that, since more than 200 short-term advisory missions were envisaged, most of them under subprogramme 2 (Export market development) of the programme of activity (Trade promotion and export development), some economies could perhaps be achieved by combining missions to the same country.

318. In addition to replying to specific questions asked by delegations, the representative of ITC recalled that the role of the Centre had been reaffirmed by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 1819 (LV) of 9 August 1973 and that research was essential to the technical assistance activities of the Centre.

Section 18. United Nations Environment Programme

1. Introduction

319. At its 51st meeting, on 28 May, the Committee considered section 18 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987. For the recommendations of the Committee, see paragraphs 667-668 below.

2. Discussion

320. One delegation observed that as a result of the withdrawal by UNEP of support to the regional commissions in the form of Professional posts for their environment programmes, replacement posts had been proposed from the regular budget. The question was then raised whether the released resources would be used by UNEP for other activities. The same delegation also asked for further details on the justification for the transfer of one P-5 post for desertification activities from the Environment Fund to the regular budget (see para. 18.47 of sect. 18) and expressed its opposition to the transfer.

321. Another delegation asked for a clarification of the relationship between the priorities indicated in the programme narratives of section 18 of the proposed programme budget for 1986-1987 and priorities I and II indicated in document UNEP/GC.13/8 presented to the Governing Council of UNEP at its thirteenth session.

322. A third delegation expressed particular interest in the reason for programme element 2.2 (Health of the people and the environment) under subprogramme 2 (Human settlements and human welfare) of programme 2 (Environment) being designated lowest priority. Another delegation asked for an explanation why that programme element was being proposed in the programme budget when its subject-matter appeared to be more closely related to the activities of WHO. A similar question was raised regarding the inclusion of programme element 2.3 (Working environment) and the activities of the International Labour Organisation (ILO). In a related inquiry, in connection with programme element 7.1 (Natural disasters), involving a technical

publication on early warning systems, another delegation requested an explanation why there had been no proposal to carry out the work jointly with the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO); the delegation raised the question whether there might not be duplication of activities between UNEP and UNDRO. The same delegation, in regard to programme element 8.1 (Environmental education) expressed the view that the UNEP/United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) strategy in that area should involve close collaboration.

323. One of the delegates questioned the need for consultants under programme elements 1.1, 2.1, 3.4, 3.7 and 10.1 (see para. 18.42 of sect. 18) and expressed doubt about the need, under programme element 2.1 (Environmental aspects of human settlements planning), for an ad hoc expert group meeting to discuss the UNEP input to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless (1987) (see para. 18.43), when the engagement of a consultant was also proposed to prepare those same inputs.

324. Replying to the questions raised, the Assistant Executive Director of the Office of the Environment Programme, representing UNEP, stated that UNEP support for the regional commissions had been financed from extrabudgetary resources; those posts had been or would be discontinued and were not, therefore, released for other activities. He said that it had been a decision of the Governing Council of UNEP, some eight years ago, to support the environment programmes in the regional commissions through the provision of two Professional posts in each commission. UNEP had taken the position that the support would be provided for four years and that, as a first step, support would be reduced to one post in each commission. As regards the proposed transfer of the P-5 post from the Environment Fund to the regular budget, he explained that the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Desertification could not be completely implemented owing to financial constraints.

325. Regarding the differences in priority designations between those contained in section 18 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987, and those prepared for the UNEP Governing Council (UNEP/GC.13/8), the UNEP representative explained that the designations "priority I" and "priority II" had been used, since those designations applied to activities financed from the UNEP Environment Fund. Specifically, priority I activities represented those that had been or would be initiated in the biennium 1984-1985 and would continue in the next biennium, while priority II activities were those that had not yet been initiated, owing to lack of extrabudgetary funds, but which were still considered relevant for implementation during the biennium 1986-1987 if those funds became available. The designation of highest and lowest priority in the proposed programme budget was used for activities falling under programme elements financed from the regular budget.

326. Regarding the lowest priority designation for programme element 2.2 (Health of the people and the environment), the representative of UNEP drew the Committee's attention to the fact that it had recommended that designation at its twenty-third session. 14/ On the relationship of the activities under that programme element to those of WHO, he noted that the activities were actually carried out by WHO, with contributions from UNEP. Regarding programme element 7.1, the activity was being undertaken with WMO, not UNDRO, from the point of view of early warning systems pertaining to unfavourable weather events. The representative of UNEP stated that the output under programme element 2.3 was, in fact, being implemented by ILO, with UNEP participation in the financing but that the emphasis was on the environmental

concerns of UNEP. Concerning the view that there should be close collaboration between UNESCO and UNEP on a strategy for environmental education under programme element 8.1, the representative noted that this area of activity had been the subject of mutual programming with UNESCO since the intergovernmental conference in Belize in 1978.

327. On the question raised about the need for consultants for a number of programme elements, the representative of UNEP stated that consultants were often needed since UNEP staff did not have the technical knowledge relating to all the specializations required for implementing the programme. Regarding a consultant for programme element 3.4 (Soils), it was noted that UNEP did not develop the World Soils Policy and that, for its continued implementation by UNEP, consultants were needed to bring it up to date. It was further explained that the justification for consultants under programme element 3.7 (Wildlife and protected areas) arose from the need to assist developing countries in the initiation of national strategies for activities falling under the World Conservation Strategy, for which many activities were still to be launched. Finally, in regard to the proposal under programme element 2.1, both to contract a consultant and to hold an ad hoc expert group meeting in preparation for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless (1987), it was stated that the expert group meeting was planned to generate proposals on the integration of environmental concerns into the design of low-cost housing. The consultant, on the other hand, was needed to assist in the preparation of the UNEP input documents, since there was only one Professional staff member to cover all activities under the subprogramme.

Section 19. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

1. Introduction

328. At its 30th meeting, on 17 May, the Committee considered section 19 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987. For the recommendations of the Committee, see paragraphs 669-670 below.

2. Discussion

329. In the course of the discussion several delegations expressed the view that the programme was clear and well presented. One delegation, however, stated that the activities described, in particular those in subprogrammes 6 to 8, did not show a clear relationship to the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 since they concentrated on pilot projects and publications; in the medium-term plan, the provision of assistance to Governments and appropriate institutions for implementing strategies and guidelines elaborated by the Centre was emphasized.

330. The Committee discussed at length the need for a temporary post to carry out evaluation activities (see para. 19.15 of sect. 19) and raised several questions regarding the requests for resources. Some delegations asked why consultancy services were requested for more of the programme elements in the 1986-1987 programme than in the 1984-1985 programme even though the total work-months of consultancies remained constant. One delegation considered that the distribution of the same number of work-months as in the biennium 1984-1985 among a greater number of programme elements indicated increased efficiency in programme implementation. Other delegations expressed their concern about the

disproportionate growth of administrative costs relative to the growth in substantive programme areas (8 per cent and 1 per cent, respectively) and about the increase in the resources for external printing.

331. In the course of the discussion of subprogrammes 5 (Low-cost infrastructure for human settlements) and 6 (Land), one delegation questioned the reasons for referring specifically to low-cost and low-technology infrastructure, since low quality standards often led to problems relating to the early breakdown of equipment and expensive maintenance. Another delegation proposed the deletion of programme element 5.3 (Standards and technologies in the field of transportation), since it had been assigned lowest priority in the proposed programme budget for both the 1984-1985 and 1986-1987 bienniums.

332. Several delegations expressed their concern about the venue for sessions of the Commission on Human Settlements and requested further information on the decisions of the Commission concerning a biennial cycle of sessions - and on the joint meetings of its bureau and the bureau of the Governing Council of UNEP.

333. One delegation stated that funds were provided in the programme for attendance of liberation movements at sessions of the Commission and took the position that such expenditure was not justified. Another delegation stated that that provision had been mandated by the General Assembly and that it was not within the purview of the Committee to make a recommendation on the matter.

334. In reply to questions raised, the Director of the Programme Planning and Evaluation Branch of the Office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs explained that provision was being made for temporary funding of evaluation experts under several programmes, so as to establish a self-evaluation capability in substantive departments of the Secretariat. He informed the Committee that those posts could be needed for as long as four years to ensure that a workable system was put in place and became a routine part of substantive activities. He explained that departments located away from Headquarters could make only very limited use of internal printing facilities, so that flexibility was needed to enable external printing of their published outputs; he explained that all external printing was approved and controlled by the Publications Board.

335. On the question of consultancies, the representative of the Centre stated that consultants were needed for the collection of data and preparation of the national case studies proposed in the programme of work. Most consultancies were awarded to experts who were nationals of the countries concerned with the case studies, since it had been found that it was less expensive and often faster and easier for nationals to collect information than for the staff of the Centre to do so.

336. In reply to questions regarding subprogrammes 5 and 6, the representative of the Centre explained that "low technology" was not synonymous with "low quality", and that "low-cost" was measured in terms of both capital and operating expenses, not merely inexpensive first costs. The objective was to optimize cost-effectiveness and to identify technologies which were appropriate to each developing country. He informed the Committee that the Centre and ILO were collaborating on several publications dealing with appropriate technologies for non-motorized and simple motorized vehicles for rural transportation. He explained that the Centre was looking at all technological aspects of human settlements infrastructure as a whole, and that programme element 5.3 was important since it

was aimed at improving the conditions of transportation of the low-income groups living on the periphery of urban areas.

337. In response to questions about the implementation of activities relating to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless within the framework of the work programme and the consideration by the Commission of the cross-organizational programme analysis of the activities of the United Nations system in human settlements, the representative of the Centre pointed out that activities for the Year had been incorporated in all subprogrammes of the 1986-1987 work programme, as requested by the Commission, and that a list of each work element which included an output related to the Year was set out in paragraph 19.30. He informed the Committee that the Commission at its eighth session (Kingston, 29 April-10 May 1985) had reviewed the cross-organizational programme analysis and adopted a resolution thereon.

338. On the question of the venue of sessions and biennial cycle of sessions of the Commission, the representative of the Centre informed the Committee that the ninth session of the Commission would be held at Istanbul, on the invitation of the Government of Turkey and in accordance with General Assembly guidelines, and that, at its eighth session, the Commission had recommended the discontinuance of the joint meetings of its bureau and that of the Governing Council of UNEP and had decided to adopt a biennial cycle of sessions after 1987, but to hold a short special session in 1988 devoted to a review of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.

Section 20. International drug control

1. Introduction

339. At its 12th to 14th meetings, on 6 and 7 May 1985, the Committee considered section 20 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987, together with the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on drug abuse control activities in the United Nations system (A/39/646), the comments of the Secretary-General thereon (A/40/260 and Corr.1, annex I) and the report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the drug control programme (E/AC.51/1985/8 and Corr.1 and Add.1). For the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee with regard to section 20, see paragraphs 671-672 below.

2. Discussion

340. In discussing subsection B of section 20, dealing with the Division of Narcotic Drugs, and in reference to paragraph 33 of the evaluation report, in which it was indicated that subprogramme 3 (Supply and demand reduction) was understaffed, and also to paragraph 36, in which it was stated that consideration should be given to dividing subprogramme 3 into two separate subprogrammes, many delegations drew the attention of the Committee to resolution 2 (XXXI), adopted on 20 February 1985 by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its thirty-first session. ^{15/} In paragraph 4 of that resolution, the Secretary-General was requested to consider reallocating resources from subprogrammes 2 and 4 to subprogramme 3. Those delegations also suggested that resources could be redeployed from another section of the budget if the General Assembly agreed.

341. Several delegations stressed the need for close co-operation between the three drug control units of the Secretariat (the Division of Narcotic Drugs and the secretariats of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control) and suggested various ways to effect further resource redeployments to subprogramme 3. Some delegations stated that the Division of Narcotic Drugs should not carry out activities undertaken by other bodies, such as the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), and others suggested that the multilingual dictionary of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances under international control should be issued in loose-leaf form so that the entire edition need not be reissued to reflect changes. Many delegations stated that in the long run it might also be possible to transfer resources from the United Nations Narcotics Laboratory to other activities in subprogramme 3. Apparent overlaps between some programme elements were mentioned by a number of delegations and it was suggested that some outputs could be condensed.

342. One delegation questioned the value of publishing the national drug control laws (output (iv) of programme element 1.1 (Implementation of treaties and related resolutions and decisions of legislative organs)) and another wondered if it would be possible to consolidate the publications programmes of the Division of Narcotic Drugs and the INCB secretariat. The possibility of curtailing the number of reports was mentioned, as was the meeting schedule of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs which was biennial but which, because of special sessions, had become annual. One delegation wondered why there was a substructure of the Commission devoted to the Near and Middle East when the drug problem was world-wide. Some delegations expressed the view that the support the United Nations Narcotics Laboratory had given to the developing countries should continue to be given to those countries that did not have their own laboratories and that this should be taken into account if the proposed feasibility study on the role and functions of the Laboratory recommended in the evaluation report was to be carried out (E/AC.51/1985/8, para. 116, recommendation 2).

343. Replying to the observations of delegations, the Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs stated that careful attention had been paid to the resolution adopted by the Commission but, given the limited staff available (19 established Professional posts) and the fact that most of the staff had permanent contracts, the possibilities for redeployment were limited. She mentioned that there was one post vacant at the P-2 level which could be redeployed to subprogramme 3 at this time. As regards the suggestion to divide subprogramme 3 into two separate subprogrammes, she recalled that there had been two subprogrammes but that they had been combined in response to a recommendation of a previous study. She also stated that her Division was concerned with projects on forfeiture for drug crimes and that it had a staff member focusing on demand reduction. Treatment, however, was a specialty of WHO and the Division wished to avoid duplication. It would be useful to have more resources for demand reduction and to respond to the non-governmental and national organizations that appealed to the Division for information, support and attendance at meetings to explain drug problems.

344. The Director stressed that there was no overlapping with the work of INTERPOL since the objectives of that organization were somewhat different from those of the Division and the Division in fact co-ordinated actively with INTERPOL. She recalled that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had mandated the publication of national drug control laws. She explained that the ninth special session of the Commission had been included in the budget since it had been recommended by the

Commission, 16/ although it had not yet been approved by the Economic and Social Council. She also stated that efforts were being made to identify regional laboratories that could train fellows within their regions. In paragraph 35 of the evaluation report, the need to establish and improve national narcotics laboratories to help achieve enforcement objectives had been expressed, and the Division had established standards for training in regional laboratories for which the production of manuals was necessary. Procedures for decentralization were under way and it might be possible to decentralize in Asia and the Far East within the next biennium. This would release resources for other areas. The multilingual dictionary had been discussed in depth by the Commission and the comments by CPC would be taken into account in determining the final format.

345. In reply to questions, the representative of the INCB secretariat stated that the Board had acquired data- and word-processing equipment to assist it and that the secretariat had only 13 established Professional posts. He explained that there had been a considerable increase in the activities of INCB because the number of substances under control had risen from 40 to 74 without a commensurate increase in resources, and that those activities had been mandated by treaties.

Reservation

346. One delegation stated that its understanding was that the phrase "supply reduction" in paragraph 671 (a) below referred to reduction in the supply of illicit drugs.

Section 21. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

1. Introduction

347. At its 28th and 30th meetings, on 16 and 17 May, the Committee considered section 21 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987. For the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, see paragraphs 672-675 below.

2. Discussion

348. Strong support was expressed for the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). A number of delegations requested justification and clarification of the proposed reclassification of posts and the transfer of posts to the regular budget. One delegation raised serious objections to the proposed transfer of posts to the regular budget and asked what programmatic requirements gave rise to the proposed transfer and to the proposed reclassification. The representative of the High Commissioner explained that the proposals for reclassification were the result of a job classification exercise that was undertaken at the request of the Executive Committee of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Programme and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. It was carried out with the assistance of the Office of Personnel Services for the purpose of determining, for the first time on a global basis, the proper grade of each post within UNHCR. As a result, one out of every four posts was suggested for either upgrading or downgrading; the rest were to be maintained at the same level. He also drew the attention of the Committee to the note by the High Commissioner on the Professional job

classification exercise (A/AC.96/639/Add.1), which contained detailed and comprehensive information on the matter and gave a further explanation on the agreement reached between the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner as contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the review of the financing of the administrative costs of UNHCR (A/C.5/37/1 and Corr.1), and the Committee was assured that all the posts proposed for transfer had been reviewed against the criteria outlined in that report. He pointed out that the transfer of posts had been the subject of considerable discussion by intergovernmental bodies and that the above-mentioned report had been reviewed in 1982 by the Advisory Committee, whose recommendations had been endorsed by the General Assembly. The present proposals formed part of the continuing implementation of those recommendations.

349. Two delegations expressed their Governments' opposition to the proposed reclassification of posts and to the transfer of posts from extrabudgetary resources to the regular budget.

350. One delegation noted that the highest and lowest priority programme elements had not been indicated and asked whether UNHCR had been exempted by the Secretary-General from that requirement. Another delegation considered that the difficult functions of UNHCR could not be viewed from the standpoint of priorities. In response, the representative of the High Commissioner stated that because of the intermingling of protection and assistance activities and the intricacy of budget presentation, it had not been possible to designate the programme elements of highest and lowest priority representing 10 per cent of total programme resources.

351. One delegation referred to the activities described in outputs (i) and (ii) of programme element 2.3 (Implementation of refugee rights), output (i) and (iii) of programme element 3.1 (Promotion of refugee law), output (ii) of programme element 3.2 (Dissemination of refugee law) and output (vii) of programme element 5.2 (Implementation of self-support activities) and asked whether mandates existed for those activities, how the related figures were determined and what were the measures involved in their implementation. In reply, it was stated that UNHCR considered that article I of its statute, as contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 428 (V) of 14 December 1950, was the mandate for all the Office's activities. The number of conferences, seminars and workshops was determined by needs arising from efforts to secure the rights of refugees throughout the world. Those activities involved initiatives by, and the participation of, the authorities of the countries concerned, individuals, non-governmental organizations and regional organizations in a common endeavour to promote the rights of refugees. Although UNHCR issued a number of publications itself, it also made contributions on a selective basis to support external publications in order to assist in the dissemination of refugee laws. The issuance of publications in various languages made them more effective.

352. In reply to questions, it was explained that the services of consultants were required from time to time in the absence of staff expertise in certain areas of the wide spectrum of problems relating to the promotion of international protection of refugees, for example, anti-piracy, military attacks on refugee camps and the disappearance or abusive detention of refugees. It was also stated that as regards publications, there was no duplication between the activities of the Department of Public Information and UNHCR.

353. One delegation questioned the need for the Liaison Unit with European Institutions in view of the ease of communication between Geneva and Brussels, the regular contact between members of the European Economic Community (EEC) and UNHCR, and the presence of an EEC office in Geneva and a UNHCR office in Brussels. In reply, it was stated that because of the importance of EEC as the second largest contributor to UNHCR, a close relationship was maintained with the Community through a focal point at UNHCR headquarters, which had proved dynamic and effective in maintaining interest in UNHCR work in the various capitals. A question was also raised about the phasing out of posts as recommended by the Administrative Management Service, as mentioned in the report of CPC on its twenty-third session. In response, it was explained that the High Commissioner could not approve the phasing out of all the posts recommended by the Administrative Management Service and had decided to continue the posts of the chiefs of the regional sections and their secretaries. However, in view of current efforts to meet new requirements in the redeployment of posts from UNHCR headquarters to the field, the Office was in the process of reviewing the question of discontinuing those posts.

Section 22. Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator

1. Introduction

354. At its 28th and 29th meetings, on 16 May, the Committee considered section 22 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987. For the conclusion and recommendation of the Committee, see paragraphs 676-677 below.

355. In his introductory statement, the Director and Deputy to the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator outlined the main thrusts of the programme activities of UNDRO in the forthcoming biennium. He pointed out the increased demands put on the Office, as indicated by its involvement in 40 major disasters during 1984, as compared with an annual average of 20 major disasters during previous years.

2. Discussion

356. Several delegations commended the presentation of the programme and noted the important function that UNDRO fulfilled.

357. Some delegations emphasized the need to confine the activities of UNDRO within the framework of the medium-term plan. One delegation questioned whether the medium-term plan mandated UNDRO staff to assist in person, rather than by long-distance communication, the resident co-ordinators of the United Nations system's operational activities for development or the resident representatives of UNDP in reviewing the damage and establishing immediate relief needs with the Government of the stricken country, as provided for in programme element 1.2 (Disaster assessment and inter-agency missions). In addition, one delegation questioned the mandate for programme element 1.3 (Relief logistics). In reply, the representative of UNDRO explained that effective assistance could only be provided to resident co-ordinators or resident representatives, who in general possessed little experience in the area of disaster relief, if an UNDRO expert were present in the disaster-stricken country. That had been the practice during the previous biennia and would require provisions for travel during the 1986-1987 biennium. As regards programme element 1.3, it was not envisaged that UNDRO would be responsible

for the repair of roads or the provision of storage facilities for relief supply. UNDRRO would be concerned with determining and advising on the most effective ways of undertaking such activities. In this connection, it was emphasized that the relief supply depot at Pisa was funded from extrabudgetary resources and did not involve any cost to the regular budget of the United Nations.

358. Several delegations questioned whether there was duplication of efforts between UNDRRO and other bodies of the United Nations system concerned with emergency relief activities, such as the Office for Emergency Operations in Africa of the United Nations Secretariat, UNDP, FAO and the World Food Programme (WFP). The Committee was assured that all activities of UNDRRO were closely co-ordinated with those of other organizations of the United Nations system and that no duplication of efforts would result. There were memoranda of understanding with all relevant organizations of the system concerning the responsibility of each organization in a disaster situation, and UNDRRO was not the only body providing disaster relief. The food and drought emergency in Africa was cited as an example. UNDRRO had 20 people placed in Africa, of whom 18 were funded from extrabudgetary resources as contributions in kind, to keep a running assessment and report to UNDRRO on ongoing relief requirements, as well as to co-ordinate the on-site relief assistance operation. The activities of UNDRRO and the Office for Emergency Operations in Africa were closely co-ordinated through a task force.

359. A number of delegations raised questions of mandate and duplication with regard to the request for a new temporary P-5 post to strengthen activity under programme elements 1.1 (Relief co-ordination operations) and 1.3 (Relief logistics) (see para. 22.10 of sect. 22). In addition, it was questioned why that new post had not been requested in the context of a statement of programme budget implications at the time the General Assembly was considering the adoption of resolution 39/207 of 17 December 1984. In reply, it was pointed out that UNDRRO did not have a logistics specialist on its staff. Such an expert would be qualified to bring together the experience gained so far by UNDRRO staff in relief projects and could study the logistic problems involved in the current relief activities for Africa, which might result in substantial savings in transport costs. Whereas the post had not been requested in the context of a statement of the programme budget implications of General Assembly resolution 39/207, the need for such a request had been reinforced by the Secretary-General's statement of 17 December 1984 with regard to the emergency situation in Africa.

360. Different opinions were voiced concerning the adequacy of the distribution of resources among the various subprogrammes. One delegation inquired about the rationale for proposing a decrease in regular budget funds and an increase in extrabudgetary funds under subprogramme 2 (Disaster preparedness) while proposing an increase in regular budget funds and a decrease in extrabudgetary funds under subprogramme 3 (Disaster prevention). In reply, it was noted that the distinction between preparedness and prevention was somewhat artificial. Whereas prevention measures in general included a number of countries, preparedness projects were limited to one country only. It was the experience of UNDRRO that voluntary contributions were more likely to be forthcoming if earmarked for a preparedness project in a specific country. The funding mix for subprogrammes 2 and 3 took into account the preferences of the donor countries, while maintaining a similar level of activities in both subprogrammes as compared with the programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985.

361. A number of delegations questioned the assignment of lowest priority to programme elements 3.1 (Technical co-operation for the promotion of disaster prevention on a regional scale) and 4.2 (Collection and processing of information for UNDRO's data base). In reply, it was explained that the relief activity under subprogramme 1, which required the largest share of regular budget resources, had always been the highest priority activity. In accordance with established procedure, activities of the lowest priority had to be selected from within the remaining subprogrammes, and such selection involved some arbitrary judgement.

362. A number of delegations expressed the opinion that the amount of resources from the regular budget allocated to subprogramme 4 (Disaster information) was too high, reflecting approximately a doubling of the share in the programme total. In addition, one delegation inquired as to the reasons for including programme element 4.3 (Use of warning systems), which was included in subprogramme 3 in the programme budget for 1984-1985, in subprogramme 4. In response, it was explained that the activities under programme element 4.3 were not concerned with research or with the development of early warning systems, but with the use of such systems as sources of information on the occurrence of disasters, which justified the programme element's inclusion in subprogramme 4. Such information activities were directly related to disasters, inter alia, in providing donors with details on the requirements for relief supply, and did not serve public information needs. The UNDRO News, which was published once every two months and which had been issued for the past six years, fell under subprogramme 4.

Section 23. Human rights

1. Introduction

363. At its 29th and 41st meetings, on 16 and 22 May, the Committee considered section 23 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987. For the recommendation of the Committee, see paragraph 678 below.

2. Discussion

364. Some delegations sought clarification concerning the provision of resources for travel of staff to service meetings of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, since it was assumed that the States parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination paid those costs. It was stated that both the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination seemed to regard New York as their established headquarters, when in fact their headquarters were in Geneva. As committees did not appropriate resources, CPC should make a recommendation calling on those Committees to observe the rules. If meetings were held at Geneva the human rights programme would certainly not be impaired and might even be improved. The travel costs of the Centre for Human Rights were exceptionally high; there were too many missions and costs should be kept under stricter control.

365. Questions were also raised concerning the mandate for two working groups of the Human Rights Committee, the travel of the ad hoc bodies mentioned in paragraph 23.17 of the proposed programme budget, and the need for representatives of national liberation movements to attend meetings of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

366. Two delegations questioned the redeployment of a P-2 post from Geneva to New York and the request for a new P-2 post at Geneva (see paras. 23.22 and 23.26 of sect. 23). They stated that the programmatic arguments for the new post were not convincing because it had taken 20 years to put article 14 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination into effect and communications could be received from only 10 countries, in accordance with that article. Therefore the work-load could not be heavy enough to justify the proposed redeployment.

367. Concerning the output of programme element 1.1 (Implementing regular supervision procedures), some delegations stated that Governments sometimes submitted voluminous reports for discussion by the various Committees and too much money had to be spent on translating them. These delegations also questioned the mandates for meetings of the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the mandate for the publication of the official records and documentation of the Human Rights Committee in bound volumes under output (xvii).

368. Concerning programme element 1.2 (Implementing procedures for dealing with alleged violations of human rights), two delegations requested information on the basis for estimating 40,000 to 50,000 communications in output (iii), and information on the number of communications received in the past year was requested. One of those delegations also wanted to know what the good offices missions mentioned in output (viii) involved; what type of report was given to the Economic and Social Council under output (ix); and what was meant by "complaints" in output (xi). The same delegation asked what the "special procedures" were in programme element 1.3 (Servicing special procedures including assistance to ad hoc investigating or fact-finding bodies) and what basis there was for estimating 20 exercises of a fact-finding or conciliatory nature under output (iv) of that programme element. One delegation wished to know the actual number of missions undertaken in the past year.

369. The mandate for programme element 2.1 (Elimination and prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities and vulnerable groups) was questioned, as was that for output (ii). One delegation wanted to know the number of seminars envisaged on subjects concerning racism and racial discrimination under output (iv) and how many members there were in the Working Group on Slavery, mentioned under output (xi). Another delegation pointed out that output (iv) of programme element 2.1 was based on a draft resolution of the Commission that had not yet been adopted by the Council. A third delegation asked when the Working Group of the General Assembly engaged in drafting a declaration on the rights of persons who were not citizens of the country in which they lived (output (xiv) of programme element 2.1) was going to complete its task.

370. Concern was expressed that programme element 3.1 (Documentation and publications) had been assigned lowest priority and that this might conflict with the high priority accorded to servicing the meetings listed under programme element 1.1. Another delegation asked how it was possible to predict precisely that there would be two volumes of records of the Human Rights Committee under output (v) of programme element 3.1; why the Centre's contribution to the United Nations Yearbook was shown as an intermediate output; and what was meant by the phrase "in as many languages as possible" under output (vii). Regarding programme element 3.2, one delegation referred to the two seminars proposed under output (i) and recommended that the resources for one of those seminars should be redeployed to output (iv).

371. In the discussion on subprogramme 4 (Standard-setting research and studies), questions were asked concerning the four working groups mentioned under programme element 4.1 (Standard-setting), output (i); the mandate for the frequency of meetings of the Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Right to Development, mentioned under output (ii); and the servicing of the Working Group of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities on the human rights of detained persons, mentioned under output (iii). With reference to programme element 4.2 (Research and studies), it was pointed out that reports on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights were listed for both the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights under outputs (iv) and (v), and the delegation wished to know why two reports and two outputs had been listed. The same delegation inquired about the mandate for output (vi); the number of reports that were envisaged under output (vii) for 1986; and the difference between the two types of documents cited in intermediate output (ii) of programme element 4.2. Regarding the same intermediate output, another delegation wondered why Member States would ask for notes verbales and why they should be shown as output. One delegation expressed concern at the number of studies being requested by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities that were then sent directly to the Commission on Human Rights without being discussed in the organ which had requested them. It was the understanding of that delegation that the Commission had adopted a resolution to limit the number of such studies. It was also stated that there was no need for the Centre to seek outside expertise because it could gather information from Member States. The same delegation wished to know the reason for the reduction in requirements for external printing and binding shown in paragraph 23.32.

372. Replying to the questions posed by the Committee, the representative of the Centre for Human Rights said that the estimate of 40,000 to 50,000 communications shown under output (iii) of programme element 1.2 was based on actual experience. The communications were received within the framework of Economic and Social Council resolution 728 (XXVIII) of 30 July 1959 and the authors usually were individuals, non-governmental organizations, or other organizations or groups with an interest in human rights. It was difficult to give precise figures on the number of communications received; it might be 30,000 in one year and less in another. The numbers for 1986-1987 would depend on the human rights situation throughout the world. The representative of the Centre stated that the Working Group of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities met for two weeks prior to the session of the Sub-Commission, on the basis of Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII) of 27 May 1970. With regard to output (viii) of programme element 1.2, the good offices missions were undertaken in the context of the procedure outlined in Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII) and were aimed at assisting Governments. The representative of the Centre explained that the Commission designated individuals to perform investigative missions, although sometimes such missions were undertaken by members of the Secretariat who were appointed by the Secretary-General. Concerning output (xvii) of programme element 1.1, volumes of decisions adopted by the Human Rights Committee had been published at the request of the Human Rights Committee, as endorsed by the General Assembly. The first volume was almost ready for publication and others would follow on an annual basis.

373. The representative of the Centre explained the special procedures mentioned in programme element 1.3 and stated that the Commission took its decisions on the basis of requests for special rapporteurs for activities falling outside the sphere of the regular activities of the Centre. In 1984, 13 or 14 missions had been

undertaken; therefore the estimate of 20 for the next biennium was a realistic figure. Turning to the question of seminars on subjects concerning racism, the representative explained that there had been several seminars during the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination but none in 1984; the seminar that would be held in September 1985 had resulted from a decision taken by the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session.

374. Concerning programme element 4.1, the representative of the Centre explained that the Commission on Human Rights had established the Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Right to Development to study the possibility of drafting an international instrument and had authorized it to meet at least twice a year. The Centre had assumed that the Working Group would need more meetings in 1986-1987 because no progress was being made. The summary records of the Working Group were being transmitted to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council for examination, and the output could be amended after the Assembly had completed its examination. The representative of the Centre confirmed that there were two reports on national institutions listed under programme element 4.2 but that the information contained in the report to be presented to the Commission would be updated in the report submitted to the General Assembly. The reports to the General Assembly on the importance of self-determination for the promotion and protection of human rights, including the question of mercenaries (output (vi) of programme element 4.2), had been requested by the Assembly on an annual basis. He mentioned the large number of studies requested by the Commission and the Sub-Commission under programme element 4.2 and explained that the notes verbales shown as intermediate output under that element were needed to collect information from Governments.

375. On the question of priorities, the representative of the Centre explained that programme element 1.1 had been given high priority in order to ensure that standards were respected by the States parties to the various covenants and conventions. He went on to clarify that the travel costs of members of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination were the responsibility of the States parties but that the travel or other costs of the Secretariat were not; the latter were borne by the United Nations. As to the role of members of national liberation movements in the work of the Sub-Commission, he stated that their participation was authorized by the General Assembly. The Sub-Commission was an expert body whose work was of interest to national liberation movements and its meetings were also attended by many observers from Member States and non-governmental organizations.

376. The representative of the Centre explained that the Human Rights Committee had established two pre-session working groups and pointed out that the Economic and Social Council was due to discuss the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and would review the general comments made by the Committee on the basis of a draft proposed by one of the working groups. The Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission had approximately four working groups, as shown under output (ix) of programme element 4.2.

377. Replying to questions on the request for a new P-2 post at Geneva and the transfer of a P-2 post to the New York Liaison Office, the representative recalled that the Centre had 48 Professional posts in January 1982 but now had only 47, for reasons explained in paragraph 23.15 of the proposed programme budget for 1984-1985. ^{17/} That left only one Professional post in the Liaison Office. Since the work-load of that Office had become too heavy for one person to handle, a P-2

post had been redeployed from Geneva. He stressed that the transfer of that post was not in any way connected with the request for a new P-2 post at Geneva. Article 14 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination had been ratified by 10 States and the new communications procedure was in effect. The number of other activities had increased and the work-load made a new post necessary. The representative of the Centre later explained the procedures established under article 14 of the Convention and under article 1 of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, stating that both dealt with the consideration of complaints by individuals subject to the jurisdiction of States parties that had recognized the competence of the relevant committee to consider such complaints. Individual communications received under the Optional Protocol were examined by the Human Rights Committee, whereas those under article 14 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination would be dealt with by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. It was difficult to say if the latter procedure would be exactly the same as that set out under the Optional Protocol, but the Centre believed that considerable support from the Secretariat would be required.

378. Concerning the records of the Human Rights Committee, the representative of the Centre explained that the Committee had been in operation since 1976; as the estimate shown in output (v) of programme element 3.1 referred to the existing backlog in the records of the Committee, the number of volumes was known. The languages to which reference was made in output (vii) of that programme element were certain specific local languages; the purpose of publishing the instruments on human rights in those languages was to publicize human rights activities as widely as possible. He stated that all human rights publications were published in the official languages, including Russian. In response to a question on paragraph 23.2, the representative stated that the Centre for Human Rights was the focal point for human rights activities as defined in the medium-term plan. While there were other bodies for dealing with certain specific human rights problems, the Centre was the focal point within the United Nations Secretariat. As to the voluminous nature of the country reports, the representative of the Centre pointed out that it was not within the Centre's competence to comment on the reports of the States parties; it simply had the responsibility to process them. He also confirmed that the Centre had received complaints regarding violations of trade union rights and that reports on them had been submitted to the Economic and Social Council, as shown in output (ix) of programme element 1.2.

379. Responding to the question on the nature of the ad hoc bodies under programme element 1.3, the representative of the Centre cited the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on Human Rights in Southern Africa, the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances of Persons; four or five special rapporteurs, such as those on summary executions and torture, were also appointed on an ad hoc basis. The vulnerable groups mentioned in subprogramme 2 included such groups as children, women, disabled persons and religious minorities. He went on to confirm that the Working Group of the General Assembly concerned with drafting a declaration on the rights of non-citizens (output (xiv) of programme element 2.1) was still considering the declaration, but if its task should be completed in 1985 it would be taken into account in the programme performance report. The Working Group of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities on the rights of detained persons (output (iii) of programme element 4.1) was also still engaged in its task. With regard to the estimated 12 studies mentioned under output (viii) of programme element 4.2, the representative of the Centre stated

that the Sub-Commission had entrusted some of its members with those reports and they would be prepared during the next biennium. Included were reports on science and technology, criminal justice, computerized files and mental illness. As to travel resources, the Centre was responsible for servicing a large number of groups, including the two treaty bodies whose meetings were alternately held at Geneva and New York, as the Conventions permitted. The Centre had to send three Professionals and two General Service staff to New York for such meetings; he agreed that it would save money and be better for the Centre if the meetings were held at Geneva.

380. The representative of the Budget Division confirmed that the reduction of \$2,900 in external printing had resulted from the costing of the publication programme by the Department of Conference Services as approved by the Publications Board. He also explained the significance of "intermediate output" as used in the programme budget; it designated an output that was not itself going to be given to Member States, committees or the like but included material to be used in a separate final output elsewhere. For example, the Centre's contribution to the United Nations Yearbook was shown as an intermediate output, but the department that published the Yearbook would show it as a final output. He confirmed the answer given by the representative of the Centre for Human Rights on the financing of the Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, saying that the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination obliged the Secretariat to service the Committee. The travel of the members was covered by the States parties but that of the staff was not. If the Committee were to meet at Geneva, there would be savings on staff travel.

Reservations

381. One delegation* expressed its strong reservations concerning the following:

(a) The International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid;

(b) The Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories;

(c) The Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. (It was recalled that the delegation had not participated in votes or decisions on that question.);

(d) Programme element 2.1, output (xvii): annual reports containing lists of organizations giving support to racist régimes in southern Africa.

Section 24. Regular programme of technical co-operation

1. Introduction

382. At its 53rd meeting, on 29 May, the Committee considered section 24 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987. For the recommendation of the Committee, see paragraph 679 below.

* United States of America.

2. Discussion

383. At its twenty-third session, the Committee had concluded that additional information and cross-references to the regular programme of technical co-operation were required in the sections of the programme budget pertaining to those departments charged with the substantive support of the programme. In response to a question, it was explained that appropriate cross-references by means of footnotes had been made to activities that were described in other sections of the proposed programme budget for which the resources were requested under section 24. It was stated that there were no cross-references in sections 15, 17 and 19 because those sections did not contain any descriptions of the work programme planned under the regular programme of technical co-operation.

384. One delegation expressed serious concern that despite the priority given by the General Assembly to the food crisis in Africa, no activities were included under the regional and subregional advisory services of ECA to assist in relieving the crisis. It was explained that the proposals under section 24 were formulated on the basis of government requests existing at the time the proposed programme budget was prepared and that new priorities of the General Assembly, as expressed by Member States, would be taken into account in implementing the programme. If necessary, resources would be redeployed to undertake activities in sectors in which advisory services were not envisaged in the proposed programme budget.

385. In response to questions concerning how subjects of advisory services were covered in view of the fact that the average cost per work-month in sectoral advisory services appeared to be relatively high, it was explained that the budget estimates for each sector included provision for salaries of advisers, their travel and secretarial support, as well as travel for staff and consultants to undertake additional advisory missions. In addition, it was stated that the cost of a mission was affected by many factors, including the distance to be travelled, the length of stay required and the possibility of combining advisory missions with other travel. In response to a question raised whether there was real growth in regional advisory services, to which the Committee should give its attention, it was stated that adjustments were required among the offices concerned to take into account the demand for services which, spanning more than one biennium, was met within the constraint of no overall growth for section 24.

386. One delegation stated that a budgetary policy of zero growth to meet the needs of Member States under that section was not satisfactory. However, another delegation expressed the view that technical assistance should only be provided from extrabudgetary funds.

387. In connection with a proposal for a human resources facility expected to be approved by the Governing Council of UNDP, one delegation referred to the importance of the capabilities in public administration and finance of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and inquired about the co-operation envisaged in that area between the Department and UNDP. The Committee was informed that there had been exchanges between the Department and UNDP on the subject and that those exchanges might be further strengthened in the future.

Section 26. Legal activities

1. Introduction

388. At its 50th meeting, on 28 May, the Committee considered section 26 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987. For the conclusion and recommendations of the Committee, see paragraphs 680-682 below.

2. Discussion

389. One delegation remarked that the presentation of section 26 was functional rather than programmatic and as such was not in accordance with the regulations governing the preparation of the programme budget. The Director of the Office of Legal Affairs explained that the subprogramme on the study of legal questions and elaboration of codification instruments had been divided between the International Law Commission and the Codification Division, depending upon which had the primary responsibility for the activity, but added that the subprogramme could be presented in a way which would meet the wishes of CPC. The representative of the Budget Division indicated that the major organizational units in the Office of Legal Affairs did not correspond to the five programmes approved in the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989. He explained that, as in the 1984-1985 proposed programme budget, the resources were shown under the various organizational units concerned and a recapitulative table attempted to reconcile that presentation with the medium-term plan format.

390. Some delegations felt that, on technical grounds, it was inappropriate to attribute highest priority under the International Trade Law Branch to programme elements 1.11 (Substantive servicing of meetings) and 1.13 (Maintenance of the UNCITRAL Law Library). The Director of the Office of Legal Affairs agreed that programme element 1.11 should not be designated as of highest priority on the understanding that that would in no way affect the importance attached to the activity by the Secretariat. With respect to the Library, he explained that with the relocation of UNCITRAL to Vienna, the question of access to the Dag Hammarskjöld Library had become moot and that, as a research institute, it was vital for UNCITRAL to have an up-to-date library.

Section 27. Department of Public Information

1. Introduction

391. At its 37th and 40th to 43rd meetings, on 21, 22 and 23 May, the Committee considered section 27 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987. For the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, see paragraphs 683-695 below.

392. In his introductory statement, the Under-Secretary-General for Public Information pointed out that the activities proposed in section 27 were based on continuing mandates from the General Assembly and requests from various intergovernmental committees. He drew the Committee's attention to three salient changes in the proposed biennium budget. First, the Radio and Visual Services Division had been restructured as two divisions, the Visual Services Division and the Radio Services Division, which was intended to enhance the effectiveness of

those two expanding sectors of the Department of Public Information. He further explained that the Administrative Management Service and the Programme Planning and Budgeting Board had approved the change, that the proposal had no budgetary implications, and that the recent expansion of the Radio Services and the distinct and separate activities performed by each Division had created serious problems, particularly in the supervisory area. Secondly, a post had been established for the head of the Information Service at Vienna, which had been separated from the Information Service of UNIDO. Thirdly, the radio programmes on women had been terminated, since they had been mandated by the General Assembly only up to the end of the United Nations Decade for Women (1976-1985). The Under-Secretary-General stressed that in adhering to the policy of maximum budgetary restraint, the proposals of the Department reflected a negative real growth of 0.3 per cent. He also noted further improvements in terms of presentation by objective rather than by organizational unit and the submission of more adequate information on the outputs, which took account of previous recommendations of CPC and the Committee on Information.

2. Discussion

393. Several delegations noted the progress that had been made in the presentation of the section. A number of delegations welcomed the negative growth proposed under the section. Some delegations noted with appreciation the establishment in the Department of a programming and evaluation unit. Others questioned whether the Department, in its listing of outputs, was acting on specific mandates. With respect to the proposed major changes for the next biennium, some delegations expressed serious doubts on the restructuring of the Radio and Visual Services Division as two divisions while other delegations strongly supported the proposal. In the view of the former, no serious justification was provided by the Secretariat. A number of delegations proposed that the question of restructuring should be submitted to the Committee on Information for consideration prior to its endorsement by CPC. Some other delegations were of the view that the Secretary-General was empowered to make such administrative changes and was not required to submit such changes to the Committee on Information. Some delegations also questioned the establishment of a post for the head of the Information Service at Vienna. The majority of delegations expressed reservations on the termination of the radio programmes on women, which they considered extremely useful and effective, and suggested that the mandate continued in General Assembly resolution 31/136 of 16 December 1976 could well be interpreted in such a way that these programmes could be continued in the next biennium.

394. With respect to the pamphlets and films that the Department was to produce, one delegation questioned whether the Department was adhering to the mandates laid down in the medium-term plan (see programme 9, paras. 9.18 and 9.23), since the pamphlets described in the proposed programme budget were not simplified versions of already published studies that contained detailed background information and the films to be produced numbered more than one or two per year. The representative of the Department assured the Committee that the medium-term plan had provided it with the mandates to produce the proposed pamphlets and films.

395. One delegation questioned the criteria for the designation of priorities. The representative of the Department indicated that applying the criteria for priority setting in respect of public information was a difficult task for the Department inasmuch as new mandates for public information activities were constantly being

adopted by legislative bodies. Since there were really no objective criteria by which the Department could designate priorities, the designation of priorities under the section was, at the most, a tentative exercise. The representative of the Department further indicated that the termination of the radio programmes on women was being proposed since their mandate would cease at the end of the United Nations Decade for Women, without prejudice to the recommendations that would result from the 1985 World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women.

396. Some delegations expressed their strong concern about the proliferation of information activities in several departments of the Secretariat other than the Department of Public Information.

397. With regard to paragraph 27.4, the Committee recommended that the Secretary-General, in arriving at a decision on the restructuring of the Radio and Visual Services Division as two divisions - the Radio Services Division and the Visual Services Division, should take into account the views expressed by members of the Committee on this issue.

398. With respect to subprogramme 1 (Coverage), a number of delegations expressed serious doubts on the value of the press releases and questioned their accuracy and quality. Other delegations questioned why in some instances the outputs under press releases and news dispatches listed German as one of the languages but not the official languages of the General Assembly. Some delegations asked about the relationship of programme element 1.1 (Press releases) to output (viii) of programme element 1.7 (Other activities). A number of delegations questioned the rationale for the selection of languages for radio programmes and asked about the criteria used for its language forecast. One delegation stated that the photo coverage indicated in output (i) in programme element 1.6 (Photo coverage) should be limited only to regular and special sessions of the General Assembly and meetings of the Security Council.

399. The representative of the Department replied that output (viii) of programme element 1.7 would be better listed under programme element 1.1; that in respect of press releases, the target audiences were media representatives rather than members of legislative bodies and that since those press releases were issued within three hours of any given meeting, quality and accuracy were often sacrificed for the sake of speed; that the output listed under programme element 1.2 (News dispatches) could be reformulated, since the Information Service at Vienna did not send out news dispatches in German to developing countries; that a number of languages used for radio programmes were based on specific mandates given by legislative bodies and other radio programmes were conceived on the basis of requests from radio stations in countries of Member States; and that photo coverage of sessions of other bodies listed in output (i) of programme element 1.6 was necessary, since that was a means of disseminating information about the United Nations to newspapers all over the world.

400. With respect to subprogramme 2 (Information in depth), a number of delegations stated that the film proposed in output (i) of programme element 2.2 (Disarmament) should either be produced in all the languages of the General Assembly or be deleted. With regard to the output listed under programme elements 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4, other delegations questioned why information activities undertaken in those fields were again provided for in other sections of the proposed programme budget. One delegation reiterated its request made during the Committee's discussion of

section 2B (Disarmament affairs activities) that it should be provided with a list of the total information activities in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987. The representative of the Secretariat provided a list of information activities to the Committee but stated that since the resources in other sections of the programme budget were not easily identifiable, the amounts indicated should be viewed as indicative.

401. The discussions also touched on programme element 2.9 (New world information and communication order). One delegation objected to the wording of output (i) and indicated that it was a violation of the basic mandate contained in General Assembly resolution 13 (I) of 13 February 1946. While several delegations supported the output, some delegations were of the opinion that the film should deal with a topic on which consensus had been reached. In response to a query, the Under-Secretary-General, Department of Public Information, confirmed that the use of the definite article in output (iii) of programme element 2.9 was an error and that steps would be taken to correct that error. On programme element 2.17 (Multi-subject), some delegations questioned the ability of the Department to carry out fully its mandate as contained in General Assembly resolution 38/82 B of 15 December 1983 concerning radio programming in French/Creole and Dutch/Papiamentu, and some questioned the need to use those languages for the outputs listed under the programme element.

402. It was the understanding of delegations that the recommendation concerning the Caribbean Unit in the Radio Service Division of the Department of Public Information (see para. 701 below) would not result in a higher level of programme activity than that already provided for in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987.

Reservation

403. One delegation strongly objected to the inclusion, in programme element 2.5 (Human rights) of subprogramme 2 (Information in depth), of output (vii) which provided for the production of a pamphlet on the role of individuals and groups in the promotion and protection of human rights. In the view of that delegation, the Department of Public Information had no mandate for this output and should strictly abide by the relevant intergovernmental mandates with regard to the languages for its publications.

Sections 17, 25, 28 to 33 and income sections 1 to 3

404. In accordance with rule 101.1, subparagraph (a) of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and Methods of Evaluation, the Secretary-General exempted the activities of the International Court of Justice from the application of those Regulations and Rules, hence the Committee did not consider section 25 (International Court of Justice) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987.

405. At its 46th meeting, on 25 May, the Committee, on the proposal of its Bureau, decided that, owing to constraints of time, it would not consider sections 28 (Administration and management), 29 (Conference and library services), 30 (United Nations Bond issue), 31 (Staff assessment), 32 (Construction, alteration,

improvement and major maintenance of premises) and 33 (Grant to the United Nations Institute for Training and Research) and income sections 1 (Income from staff assessment), 2 (General income) and 3 (Revenue-producing activities).

406. At its 57th meeting, on 31 May, after a procedural debate, the Committee decided that it could not discuss section 17 (United Nations Industrial Development Organization) of the proposed programme budget, owing, inter alia, to constraints of time. One delegation expressed the view that the Chairman had changed a previously announced decision taken with respect to that section and that his delegation had intentionally not challenged the most recent decision.

B. Improvement of the process of programme budgeting

407. At its 35th meeting, on 20 May, the Committee was informed by the Director of the Budget Division of certain initiatives intended to improve the process of programme budgeting within the Organization.

408. The Director informed the Committee that the overall objective of the study undertaken was to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the programmes of the United Nations. That involved the development of a strategy and phased plan of implementation for the improvement of the preparation, approval and monitoring of the programme budget through the enhanced use of data processing and data communications and related managerial improvements. The improvement of the process would result in the availability of more complete and timely information on programme activities and costs, greater flexibility in analysing alternatives to current cost levels, a greater focus on important management and programme issues, increased centralized control over programme expenditures in order to ensure that programme managers adhered to budgets, and greater efficiency in producing the programme budget and in ensuring that preparation schedules were met.

409. He stated that the review had been initiated with the objective of providing an improved programme budget document for future biennia. Such a document would consist of two parts: (a) a concise presentation oriented towards policy issues accessible to both specialists and non-specialists; and (b) a supporting detailed document. The approach taken was intended to meet the differing needs of reviewing bodies for examining questions of policy or detail, as appropriate. Specific recommendations for implementing such an arrangement for the programme budget proposals for the biennium 1988-1989 would be submitted to the General Assembly at its fortieth session.

410. The Committee took note of the information provided by the Director.

C. Experience gained in the provision of statements of programme budget implications to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session

1. Introduction

411. At its 35th meeting, on 20 May, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on experience gained in the provision of statements of programme budget implications to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session (A/40/262),

prepared pursuant to section II, paragraph 12 of Assembly resolution 38/227 A of 20 December 1983. For the recommendations of the Committee, see paragraphs 696-698 below.

412. In introducing the report, the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination referred to some of the constraints involved in the preparation of statements of programme budget implications. In this context, he drew the Committee's attention to the continuing absence of a fully operational monitoring system; such a system, however, was currently under development and would ultimately, inter alia, facilitate the optimum use of existing data bases for the preparation of statements of programme budget implications.

2. Discussion

413. After a preliminary round of comments, the Committee held informal consultations on the report of the Secretary-General.

D. Food and agricultural activities in Asia and the Pacific: 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

1. Introduction

414. At its 10th meeting, on 3 May, the Committee considered the progress report of the Secretary-General on food and agricultural activities in Asia and the Pacific: co-operation and co-ordination between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) (E/AC.51/1985/4). For the conclusions of the Committee, see paragraphs 699-700 below.

415. In his introductory statement, the representative of the Office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination recalled that, at its twenty-third session, the Committee had requested FAO and ESCAP to forward the Secretary-General's report on this subject (E/AC.51/1983/3), together with a joint statement by the Executive Heads of the two organizations on the question of harmonization of their work programmes (E/AC.51/1983/3/Add.1) and the comments of the Committee, to the intergovernmental bodies of FAO and ESCAP for their views, which should be brought to the attention of the Committee at its twenty-fifth session. ^{18/} Accordingly, ESCAP, at its fortieth session, in April 1984, had considered the documentation, supported the steps taken by ESCAP and FAO to harmonize their work programmes, and expressed satisfaction with the understanding that had been reached between the two organizations. Similarly, the FAO Conference, at its twenty-second session, in November 1983, had endorsed the joint statement of FAO and ESCAP defining their respective roles and expressed the hope that, with such arrangements, duplication of work would be avoided.

2. Discussion

416. The Committee expressed its appreciation regarding the course of action that the two organizations had adopted in responding to its earlier recommendations and the fact that they were collaborating on a regular basis through established co-ordinating mechanisms, as evidenced by progress in co-operation on their work programmes.

417. While the Committee noted that there were still areas which required harmonization of respective programmes, the hope was expressed that limited resources would be used in the most effective manner by avoiding duplication. It was felt that joint efforts in co-operation and co-ordination were in the right direction and should continue, as there was still room for improvement in ensuring that gaps and duplication of activities did not occur in the region.

E. Aspects of co-ordination and rationalization of the activities of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization

1. Introduction

418. At its 22nd to 24th meetings, on 13 and 14 May, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on aspects of co-ordination and rationalization of the activities of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) (E/AC.51/1985/11). For the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, see paragraphs 701-703 below.

419. In introducing the report, the representative of the Office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination recalled that, in its resolution 1983/49 of 28 July 1983, the Economic and Social Council had 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 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 of UNIDO, 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. An oral report had been made to the Committee at its twenty-fourth session. The content of the report now before the Committee (E/AC.51/1985/11) was complementary to that of the report of the Secretary-General on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its twentieth session on the manufactures programme (E/AC.51/1985/10).

420. The representative of UNIDO remarked that matters of co-ordination, both within UNIDO and between UNIDO and other units of the United Nations, were regularly reviewed by the Permanent Committee of the Industrial Development Board and had been discussed at the Fourth General Conference of UNIDO.

2. Discussion

421. Several delegations expressed their regret that the report had been submitted to CPC at its twenty-fifth session, rather than its twenty-fourth session, as requested by the Council in resolution 1983/49, which had detracted from its usefulness. The Committee, in view of its co-ordinating role in the United Nations

system, would remain seized of matters concerning UNIDO even after the organization became a specialized agency. That was especially necessary because of the perceived habit of individual agencies to execute their mandates without informing their governing bodies of competing mandates of other agencies. It was consequently desirable to envisage that a cross-organizational programme analysis of all activities in the United Nations system related to industrial development would be carried out in 1990.

422. A number of delegations stated that the report did not constitute the in-depth and exhaustive study of the programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 that had been requested by the Council. It simply reported the views of the secretariats of UNIDO and UNCTAD and the Centre for Science and Technology for Development, whose activities were being analysed, and only rarely expressed the view of the Office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination. In numerous instances, the authors of the report had recorded their perceptions rather than their assessments. This approach did not do justice to the role of the Office, which was expected to express its critical judgement on a matter, rather than describe it or accept the description of an organizational unit under review.

423. One delegation noted that, at the twenty-fourth session of CPC, the representative of the Office had remarked that there was no duplication in the activities of UNIDO, whereas it was stated in paragraph 14 of the report that, in the absence of detailed information, it was not always possible to conclude definitively whether duplication existed or not. Some delegations expressed their amazement at the statement in the same paragraph that, in the programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985, similar descriptions could apply to different outputs and different descriptions could apply to similar outputs. Others expressed their disagreement with the option of attempting to confirm an ex ante perception of duplication by means of an ex post analysis (para. 15), because duplication had to be avoided rather than noted. The report made clear that the machinery for avoiding duplication existed, but the Committee expected to be informed whether the machinery produced the desired results. One delegation suggested that output descriptions could be standardized and that intergovernmental bodies should be involved in the monitoring of implementation, the better to avoid duplication.

424. The representative of the Office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination stated in reply that while the programming, planning, reporting and evaluation phases of the cycle were operational, monitoring was not. In the absence of data on implementation of individual outputs, the report had to be based on (a) output descriptions that were not always precise and specific and (b) statements of intent to co-ordinate. Once monitoring was functioning and once a data base of actual performance had been accumulated, the Secretariat would be in a better position to give its judgement on programmes in the course of their implementation. While acknowledging the shortcomings of the report, the representative of the Office stated that it had nevertheless succeeded in conveying its message, namely, that the machinery for co-ordination exists, that, on the whole, it works well, and that intergovernmental oversight is needed to ensure and to improve its functioning.

425. In addition to answering a number of specific questions, the representative of UNIDO remarked that his organization attempted to avoid duplication, through its internal machinery and through inter-agency co-ordination. It also paid great attention to the recommendations of CPC. Regarding the recommendation that the external relations functions of UNIDO should be reorganized, he reiterated that it would be preferable for any internal reorganization to be undertaken on a global

rather than on a piecemeal basis. He further stated that, since the conversion of UNIDO into a specialized agency would come into effect in 1986, it would be preferable to undertake any reorganization of functions after that conversion. With regard to the possibility of CPC recommending that a cross-organizational programme analysis be undertaken of all activities in the United Nations system related to industrial development (E/AC.51/1985/11, para. 15), he remarked that such an analysis would be most useful if it were undertaken a few years after UNIDO had begun to function as a specialized agency.

F. Further implementation of General Assembly resolution 37/214

1. Introduction

426. At its 53rd meeting, on 29 May, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the further implementation of General Assembly resolution 37/214 of 20 December 1982 (E/AC.51/1985/13). For the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, see paragraphs 704-705 below.

427. In introducing the report, the Director of the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation recalled previous discussions on the subject in relevant intergovernmental bodies, including CPC. He stated that pursuant to the recommendations made by the Committee at its twenty-fourth session, the Programme Planning and Budgeting Board had included an item relating to the distribution of responsibilities between global and regional entities in the instructions for the preparation of submissions for the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987. Those instructions required that consultations be held between regional commissions and global entities on the matter. No specific activities and corresponding resources were identified through such consultations for redeployment from global entities to the regional commissions in the context of the programme budget proposals for the biennium 1986-1987. He stated that in the preparation of the programme budget proposals, the Programme Planning and Budgeting Board had paid careful attention to eliminating duplication and overlapping in the activities of United Nations entities and to making the best utilization of available resources and that the Board had given priority consideration to the requirements of the regional commissions within existing constraints. As indicated in paragraph 5 of the report of the Secretary-General, the programme budget proposals did not contain proposals for redeploying activities or resources from global to regional entities. However, as stated in the introduction to the proposed programme budget, a higher-than-average rate of growth was proposed for the regional commissions. The Director also indicated that in past years, various efforts had been made to decentralize activities; those efforts had included detailed programme analysis. None of those efforts, however, had yielded any tangible results.

2. Discussion

428. The Committee expressed its general disappointment with the lack of progress reflected in the report of the Secretary-General but recognized the difficulties and complexities of the issue. The Committee was apprised of previous efforts to elaborate criteria for decentralizing activities. The view was expressed that the policy of maximum budgetary restraint rendered ineffective the higher-than-average growth proposed for the regional commissions in the biennium 1986-1987. On the

other hand, the view was also expressed that greater effort should have been made to identify programmes that could be more effectively undertaken at the regional level with the redeployment of commensurate resources. The Committee recognized however that decentralization should not be seen as an end in itself but as a programming device to improve the overall functioning of the Organization. The Committee also recognized the need for a measure of caution in proceeding with the exercise, given the problems and complexities of the issue.

429. The view was also expressed that the issue of decentralization should be taken into account both by the Secretariat and by intergovernmental bodies in preparing relevant documentation or legislation in the future.

G. Recurrent publications of the United Nations

430. Owing to constraints of time, the Committee, at its 46th meeting, on 25 May, decided, on the proposal of its Bureau, to defer the consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on recurrent publications of the United Nations (E/AC.51/1985/14) to its twenty-sixth session.

CROSS-ORGANIZATIONAL PROGRAMME ANALYSIS

431. The Committee considered item 4 of its agenda at its 3rd to 10th, 28th and 34th meetings, on 29 and 30 April and 1 to 3, 16 and 20 May. The Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on areas for future cross-organizational programme analysis (E/AC.51/1985/2);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the cross-organizational programme analysis of the activities of the United Nations system in marine affairs (E/AC.51/1985/3);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the scope and general approach of the cross-organizational programme analysis of economic and social research and policy analysis (E/AC.51/1985/6);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the cross-organizational programme analysis of the activities of the United Nations system in the area of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries (E/1985/53).

432. In pursuance of the request of the Committee at its 4th meeting, on 30 April (see para. 444 below), further information on the follow-up to the cross-organizational programme analysis of the activities of the United Nations system in marine affairs was provided by the Secretary-General (E/AC.51/1985/3/Add.1).

433. In a general opening statement made at the 2nd meeting of the Committee, on 29 April, the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination noted that the reports to be considered by the Committee under agenda item 4 represented the four stages of a cross-organizational programme analysis: the selection of a subject; the review of the proposed methodology; the review of the analysis; and follow-up. He noted that while such a sequence might convey an impression of rationality and effectiveness in terms of the impact of such analyses on co-ordination in the United Nations system, complacency might not be warranted. Since 1977, in addition to other managerial instruments that had been used - such as prior consultations on programme planning documents, joint planning, and cross-organizational reviews of selected major issues in medium-term plans, some 15 cross-organizational programme analyses had been prepared to assist the Committee in discharging its co-ordinating function. The experience gained, in terms of methodology and outcome, was important, and it was perhaps time to review critically the overall efficacy of those instruments, including cross-organizational programme analyses, in their present form.

A. Future areas for cross-organizational programme analysis

1. Introduction

434. At its 3rd, 8th to 10th and 28th meetings, on 29 April and 2, 3 and 16 May, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on areas for future

cross-organizational programme analysis (E/AC.51/1985/2). For the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, see paragraphs 707-715 below.

435. In introducing the report, the Director of the Interorganizational Co-operation and Joint Planning Branch of the Office for Programme Planning and co-ordination invited the Committee, in this context, to review broadly the concept, structure and future development of cross-organizational programme analysis as a tool for its work. In doing so, he identified four areas in which the Committee might wish to guide the future work of the Secretariat: (a) the role that cross-organizational programme analyses should play in assisting the Committee in performing its functions; (b) the criteria to be used in selecting the subjects for such analyses; (c) the criteria to be used in defining the scope, or coverage, of each analysis; and (d) the form of presentation of the reports on such analyses. As regards the selection of the subject for analysis in 1987, he recalled that the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination had considered three subjects: environment; science and technology for development; and activities relating to women. For the reasons outlined in the report before the Committee, environment had been considered the most appropriate.

2. Discussion

436. It was generally agreed that cross-organizational programme analyses were an extremely important and useful tool for the work of the Committee in promoting greater efficiency, co-operation and co-ordination in the activities of the United Nations system. Their basic function had been well defined during previous sessions of the Committee and remained valid. Briefly, they should provide a critical and analytical assessment of the activities of the organizations of the United Nations system in relation to their mandates, with special attention to gaps in coverage, overlapping and duplication of activities, and problems of co-ordination. The Committee welcomed the opportunity to review the current status of those analyses, since it believed that they could and should be further improved. Previous cross-organizational programme analyses had, for example, tended to be too long, too descriptive and insufficiently critical and analytical and to lack objective insights and adequate conclusions by the Secretariat. However, it was important to maintain a clear distinction between cross-organizational programme analyses and evaluations, which were limited to the United Nations and assessed the content and effectiveness of activities in selected programme areas.

437. A number of criteria were considered important in selecting subjects for cross-organizational programme analysis. A primary criterion in this regard was that the subject should be of high priority to Member States. Other criteria included participation in the programme area by a large number of organizations of the system, possible linkage with evaluations, strong potential for follow-up action, and perceived or potential problems of co-ordination. The Committee agreed that, in future, it should be provided with information on several subjects meeting those criteria so as to have a firm basis on which to make its selection.

438. It was noted that a recurring problem in designing cross-organizational programme analyses, particularly in complex multisectoral and multidisciplinary areas such as environment and economic and technical co-operation among developing countries, was the formulation of agreed operational criteria to determine on a case-by-case basis which activities of the system should fall within their scope.

It was suggested that resolution of that problem could be, in itself, a useful result of the analysis.

439. The Committee recognized that considerable work had already been done in refining and elaborating the methodology and structure of cross-organizational programme analyses. It was felt, however, that greater efforts should be made to tailor each study more closely to the particular circumstances of the subject considered. In some instances, for example, this might entail less description of activities and instead a selective focus on a cluster of crucial problems. In the light of the criticism that previous analyses had not fully dealt with such issues as gaps, overlaps and duplication, and co-ordination problems, some delegations felt that future reports should have distinct separate sections for such key elements. The Committee agreed that future analyses should be structured in such a way as to facilitate its task in formulating action-oriented conclusions and recommendations and emphasized the importance of effective follow-up. In this context, some delegations felt that the Secretariat should provide, as conclusions, a clear statement of its objective insights and views rather than a set of consensus conclusions, which often tended to be both bland and vague. It was felt that this would be a useful gauge of the system's capacity for constructive self-criticism. A suggestion was also made that the Committee might benefit in its review of the future development of cross-organizational programme analyses by considering at its twenty-sixth session a report on the results of previous analyses.

440. The Committee did not feel that the report before it gave members an adequate basis on which to select the subject for cross-organizational programme analysis in 1987 and requested information on alternatives to environment, the subject recommended by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination. On the basis of that information, the Committee considered four subjects: environment; science and technology for development; women and development; and transport. The subject of industrial development was also mentioned as a possibility. After an extended exchange of views, the Committee decided to consider cross-organizational programme analyses of the activities of the United Nations system in the area of science and technology for development at its twenty-seventh session, in 1987, and in the area of environment at its twenty-eighth session, in 1988. Reservations were expressed on selecting the subject for 1988 three years in advance. It was stressed that not only environment but also a number of other subjects, including transport and industrial development, met the three basic criteria for selection, namely, the manageability of the analysis, the scope for improvement in co-ordination and co-operation and the interest of the subject to Member States.

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

1. Introduction

441. At its 4th and 34th meetings, on 30 April and 20 May, the Committee considered the note by the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the cross-organizational programme analysis of the activities of the United Nations system in marine affairs (E/AC.51/1985/3), the annex to which contained a report of the Secretaries-General of IMO and UNCTAD regarding consultations on maritime liens and mortgages. For the conclusion and recommendation of the Committee, see paragraph 716 below.

442. In introducing the note, the Director of the Interorganizational Co-operation and Joint Planning Branch of the Office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination recalled that the initial report on follow-up to the cross-organizational programme analysis on marine affairs by the Secretaries-General of IMO and UNCTAD (E/AC.51/1984/4, annex) had been considered by the Committee to be a preliminary report, since consultations were still in progress between the two organizations on areas of responsibility and the identification of possible joint or co-operative programmes regarding maritime liens and mortgages. The joint report now before the Committee contained the text of an agreement between IMO and UNCTAD on the method of work to be followed by the two organizations in the area of maritime liens and mortgages.

2. Discussion

443. A number of delegations observed that the clarification requested by the Committee at its twenty-fourth session regarding the arrangement proposed by the two organizations to meet the needs of developing countries in the area of maritime transport and the proposed involvement of the regional commissions in that exercise had not been provided. Follow-up action was an essential aspect of cross-organizational programme analyses, and there was insufficient information in the report before the Committee to draw conclusions regarding duplication and overlaps in the area of maritime transport.

444. The Committee therefore requested the Secretariat to obtain from IMO and UNCTAD additional information during the course of the twenty-fifth session. In accordance with that request, IMO and UNCTAD submitted further information on their activities in the field of maritime transport and on the involvement of the regional commissions, which was subsequently circulated in document E/AC.51/1985/3/Add.1.

C. Scope and general approach of the cross-organizational programme analysis of economic and social research and policy analysis

1. Introduction

445. At its 3rd and 4th meetings, on 29 and 30 April, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the scope and general approach of the cross-organizational programme analysis of economic and social research and policy analysis (E/AC.51/1985/6). For the conclusions of the Committee, see paragraphs 717-722 below.

446. In introducing the report, the Director of the Interorganizational Co-operation and Joint Planning Branch of the Office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination outlined the features specific to the cross-organizational programme analysis in that area. He stated that its scope was a priori extremely large, its basic unit of analysis was to be reports and publications produced by the United Nations system rather than programmes, and it was being prepared within an overall context that was not always favourable to the development of research activities. The cross-organizational programme analysis would therefore be particularly difficult to prepare, and, as stressed by the Committee at its twenty-fourth session, its scope had to remain practical and manageable. Three levels of

analysis were proposed in the report before the Committee: an essentially qualitative panorama of the research activities of the United Nations system; a review of the content and main orientation of a sample of about 300 reports and publications produced by the United Nations system; and a more detailed description of the research activities for the preparation of a small number of reports and publications. The Committee might wish, in particular, to examine the criteria proposed for delineating the scope of the analysis.

2. Discussion

447. During the discussion, a number of concerns were expressed that should be borne in mind by the Secretariat in preparing the cross-organizational programme analysis and by the Committee itself in reviewing the analysis and making recommendations thereon at its twenty-sixth session. The comments made related essentially to the purpose of the analysis and to the approach to be adopted for its preparation.

448. It was stressed that the purpose of the analysis should remain clear and precise. A cross-organizational programme analysis, as indicated in paragraph 2 of the report before the Committee, was intended to provide the Committee with information that would enable it to assess the overall work of the system in relation to mandates, to identify possible gaps and overlaps, and to consider the effectiveness of the arrangements for co-ordination, and the resources used. The analysis on economic and social research should not deviate from that framework. The statement in paragraph 28 of the report that the analysis should allow the Committee to see what the research role of the system was and make suggestions on how it should evolve further was misleading. It was not within the mandate of the Committee to determine future orientation of research activities. Rather, the analysis should show how the system was implementing the mandates given by Member States. Also, the analysis should not shift to an evaluation exercise. Paragraphs 28 to 31 of the report could imply such a shift.

449. The Committee emphasized that both in preparing the analysis and in drawing up recommendations a very cautious attitude was required on the issue of apparent duplication. It was pointed out that intergovernmental bodies benefited from the fact that different organizations approached the same questions from different perspectives and reached different conclusions. The cross-organizational programme analysis should be prepared cautiously, so as not to become a factor in that debate or be used in a way which would be detrimental to the cause of development and international co-operation. It was noted that the analysis should focus on the extent of co-operation between organizations and between their various research teams, as well as on means of improving such co-operation in the use of data and in the exchange of information and views on the topics being studied, as well as on the research process. A detailed comparison of the reports and publications was not desirable.

450. While the purpose of the cross-organizational programme analysis should be clear, precise, cautious and not overly ambitious, the approach used in its preparation should be flexible and pragmatic. The Committee underlined the strong need for such flexibility in the interpretation of the criteria suggested in the report for delineating the scope of the analysis, in the selection of reports and publications to be included in the reviews corresponding to the proposed second and third levels of analysis, and in the time-period to be used. It was indicated that

although criteria for limiting the scope of the analysis and selecting reports and publications were obviously indispensable, too rigid a methodology was to be avoided. The criteria indicated in paragraphs 5 to 11 of the report were acceptable, but many research activities and the reports and publications were on the borderline and a pragmatic approach was desirable. A simple and operational approach would help make the cross-organizational programme analysis more comprehensive. What would perhaps be lost in the depth of the analysis by using a not too sophisticated methodology would be gained in the scope and breadth of the exercise. Similarly, the questions mentioned in paragraph 14 of the report should not constitute a strait-jacket in the preparation of the analysis.

451. Several delegations observed that the research work of the United Nations system was important and useful and that the purpose of the Committee was to ensure that that research was done in the best possible manner, in accordance with mandates, with a maximum level of co-operation and co-ordination, and in full recognition of the needs and requirements of the audience for which the reports and publications were intended.

452. On specific points, it was noted that the major intergovernmental texts mentioned in paragraph 22 of the report were only examples. Other broad mandates were to be used for framing the scope of the analysis. It was also noted that the distinction between national and international issues made in paragraph 20 of the report was not altogether clear. It was indicated that the inventory of research activities described in paragraph 8 of the report should be essentially qualitative. The suggestion was made that the estimate of resources devoted to research in the economic and social fields should be complemented by an estimate of the resources wasted, in particular through delays in the completion and availability of reports and publications.

453. The Committee noted that the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General on the scope and general approach of the analysis had benefited from the active involvement of and consultations with the other organizations of the system concerned.

454. The Committee also noted that its discussion on the cross-organizational programme analysis was closely related to its consideration, under agenda item 6, of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on reporting to the Economic and Social Council and the comments of the Secretary-General thereon (see chap. V, sect. A below).

455. The Committee further noted that many of the questions raised and comments made suggested the need for a general debate on the functions, style and use of cross-organizational programme analyses.

D. Cross-organizational programme analysis of the activities of the United Nations system in the area of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries

1. Introduction

456. At its 4th to 8th and 10th meetings, from 30 April to 3 May, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the cross-organizational programme analysis of the activities of the United Nations system in the area of

economic and technical co-operation among developing countries (E/1985/53). For the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, see paragraphs 723-734 below.

457. In introducing the report, the Director of the Interorganizational Co-operation and Joint Planning Branch of the Office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination recalled that the Committee, at its twenty-fourth session, had considered an analysis of the mandates of and problems addressed by the United Nations system in the area of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries (A/39/154-E/1984/46 and Corr.1). In preparing the report now before the Committee, the Secretariat had drawn on that analysis and the results of its consideration by the Committee. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 39/216 of 18 December 1984, the report also incorporated a cross-organizational review of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries in the medium-term plans of the organizations of the United Nations system which was to be considered by the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1985. Considerable attention was given in the report to the methodology of the study, since there was a clear lack of consensus among the organizations of the system on which activities should be included. That matter was clearly important for future reporting on the subject, and the report also raised the question of how to meet the needs of Governments for information most effectively and economically in the future. Among other points raised in the report, he drew attention to the conclusion that intergovernmental decisions did not provide clear guidance on relative priorities in the area and that the sum of objectives and strategies in the individual medium-term plans of the organizations of the system did not yet constitute a complete and coherent response to the mandates of the system. He also drew the Committee's attention to the uneven pattern of secretariat arrangements for promoting and co-ordinating activities in support of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries, despite recommendation 33 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, 19/ and to the importance that the report attached to regional and subregional action, including the possible need for strengthening the system's activities in that connection.

2. Discussion

458. Members of the Committee expressed their appreciation for the work that had gone into the preparation of the report and recognized the Secretariat's efforts to prepare the study in accordance with the guidance given by the Committee at its twenty-fourth session. The report contained a considerable volume of original information that should prove of value in the Committee's consideration of the work of the United Nations system in economic and technical co-operation among developing countries. At the same time, they considered that the report was overly descriptive and failed to provide the critical and independent analytical assessment of the system's role and the relationship between activities and mandates that the Committee had requested at its twenty-fourth session. That made it difficult for the Committee to form its own assessment and the questions raised in the context of the system's activities in the field, and scepticism was expressed about the essentially positive conclusions of the report concerning the absence of major problems of overlap between organizations' activities and of gaps in the system's coverage, and the effectiveness of inter-agency co-ordination arrangements. The length of the report was found burdensome and it was considered that a more analytical approach would have allowed the Secretariat to make a more concise presentation.

459. There was general recognition that the methodology used in preparing the report was broadly consistent with the approach outlined in the report of the Secretary-General on mandates and problems and represented a genuine attempt to respond to the concerns expressed by the Committee at its twenty-fourth session. At the same time, the view was expressed that the methodology was unduly complex, which detracted from the report's value. A variety of views were expressed concerning the application of the agreed criteria for deciding which activities would be included in the report. Some delegations considered that the application of those criteria was too restrictive and that that had led to an understatement of some activities, notably those of ESCAP. Others considered that the application of the criteria was realistic and consistent, albeit conservative. Other delegations were of the opinion that the criteria had been applied too broadly and that the volume of activities shown in the report was unrealistically large. In this context, it was suggested that many activities in the cross-organizational programme analysis were of long-standing and were ECDC or TCDC more in name than in fact. Note was taken of the clarification given by the Secretariat that the figures for 1978-1979 had been derived directly from the cross-organizational programme analysis considered by the Committee in 1978 (E/AC.51/90/Add.1 (Part I) and Corr.1 and E/AC.51/90/Add.1 (Part II) and Corr.1 and 2) and that the figures for 1982-1983 and 1984-1985 were based on the Secretariat's best efforts to apply strictly the agreed selection criteria to the content of each activity considered. One delegation expressed the view that activities of indirect relevance to co-operation among developing countries should also have been covered, but others disagreed. Another delegation stressed the importance of making greater use of the capacities of developing countries in the implementation of the system's programmes, although recognizing that this was not ECDC or TCDC in a strict sense.

460. Several delegations expressed concern that the report took as its point of departure the Caracas Programme of Action (A/36/333 and Corr.1, annex), which was a programme adopted by the Group of 77, rather than the mandates of the United Nations system, as was a normal function of cross-organizational programme analyses. The Committee noted the clarification provided by the Secretariat that the pattern of the system's mandates in economic and technical co-operation among developing countries had been analysed in detail in the report considered by the Committee at its twenty-fourth session. The structure of the cross-organizational programme analysis drew heavily on that earlier report and, in that sense, the analysis of activities in relation to mandates was implicit in the present report. The adoption of the Caracas Programme of Action as the conceptual framework for the report was based on the reference made by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 1983/50 of 28 July 1983. Several other delegations agreed with the approach taken by the Secretariat.

461. Some delegations questioned the adequacy of resources currently devoted by the organizations of the system to economic and technical co-operation among developing countries, while others expressed the view that this was not an appropriate subject for the Committee to consider in the context of a cross-organizational programme analysis. Some delegations pointed to the above-average rate of growth of spending on programme activities for co-operation among developing countries, while others questioned the reliability of the underlying data. It was also observed that the growth was from a very low base. Some delegations pointed out that facilities for using resources programmed through UNDP indicative planning figures for TCDC purposes had not been fully utilized, but others recalled the difficult financial situation existing at the time as well as the administrative difficulties presented by UNDP procedures in that regard.

462. A number of delegations stressed the importance of activities at the subregional and regional levels for promoting co-operation among developing countries and, in this context, of the regional commissions and resident co-ordinators as instruments for promoting such co-operation. In this connection, the representative of UNDP cited the weakness of some national mechanisms for TCDC as a stumbling block which his organization was actively working to overcome.

463. The representative of UNDP saw TCDC as an important tool for ECDC, but one whose scope went beyond the economic sphere. The representative of UNCTAD expressed the view that the distinction between ECDC and TCDC prevented complications instead of creating them. Both representatives stressed the close co-operation between their organizations and gave examples of co-operative activities. Many delegations questioned the practical importance of the distinction between ECDC and TCDC, however, and stressed instead that the linkages between the two should be given greater emphasis. A number of delegations also expressed regret that the report did not convincingly dispel concern about possible problems of co-ordination between UNCTAD and UNDP and considered that the report should have contained an objective assessment of that question rather than relying on the views of the two protagonists.

464. Concern was expressed that many organizations appeared to have inadequate internal arrangements for promoting and co-ordinating economic and technical co-operation among developing countries and, in this connection, recalled recommendation 33 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action. A number of delegations felt that that situation reflected the lack of commitment by many within the system to the principle of co-operation among developing countries. There was general agreement that the situation should be rectified.

465. A number of delegations questioned the adequacy of the arrangements for inter-agency co-ordination and were of the opinion that the report had not provided the Committee with an adequate basis for considering that question. The Committee noted the request of the General Assembly, in its resolution 39/216, that the activities of the United Nations system in the field should be kept under periodic review in the existing inter-agency machinery and considered that that aspect should be more critically analysed in any future reporting to the Committee on the subject of co-operation among developing countries.

466. Note was taken that the very general treatment of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries in the section reviewing that subject in the medium-term plans of the organizations of the system reflected, at least in part, the degree of generality in many planning documents. In the treatment of co-operation among developing countries - a dimension relevant to many different areas of activity, planning documents taken together did not reflect the full range of the system's activities as outlined in the report. Furthermore, they did not provide a comprehensive and coherent response to the relevant mandates of the system. Concern was expressed that that was so in view of the requests in this regard of the General Assembly in its resolution 34/202 of 19 December 1979 and a number of earlier resolutions. It was considered that organizations of the system should endeavour to devise a coherent and workable strategy for their efforts in support of co-operation among developing countries, which should be reflected in their documents for the next planning cycle. The view was expressed that the existing mandates of the system constituted a sufficient basis for articulating the priorities to be elaborated in medium-term plans.

467. It was agreed that every effort should be made to rationalize the collection of information on the activities of the United Nations system in support of co-operation among developing countries in order to ensure the maximum degree of consistency and economy in the work of the system. In view of the importance of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries, the Committee agreed to consider a report on the follow-up to its conclusions and recommendations on this subject at a future date to be decided.

CHAPTER IV

EVALUATION

468. The Committee considered item 5 of the agenda at its 12th to 14th, 22nd to 24th, 27th and 36th meetings, on 6, 7, 13 to 15 and 20 May 1985. The Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on an in-depth evaluation of the drug control programme (E/AC.51/1985/8 and Corr.1 and Add.1);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by CPC at its nineteenth session on the programme on transnational corporations (E/AC.51/1985/5);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by CPC at its twenty-second session on the mineral resources programme (E/AC.51/1985/9);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by CPC at its twentieth session on the manufactures programme (E/AC.51/1985/10).

469. In accordance with the decision taken at its 1st (organizational) meeting, on 1 April, the Committee examined the reports submitted under the item in connection with the consideration of the relevant sections of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987.

470. In accordance with the decision taken at its twenty-fourth session, 20/ the Committee, also at its 1st (organizational) meeting, decided to consider, at its twenty-fifth session, the report of JIU on drug abuse control activities in the United Nations system (see A/39/646). The Committee agreed to consider that report in connection with section 20 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987 and the report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the drug control programme (see E/AC.51/1985/8 and Corr.1 and Add.1). The comments of the Secretary-General on the report of JIU were before the Committee (A/40/260 and Corr.1, annex I).

A. In-depth evaluation of the drug control programme

1. Introduction

471. At its 12th to 14th meetings, on 6 and 7 May, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the drug control programme, together with section 20 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987, the report of JIU on drug abuse control activities in the United Nations system and the note by the Secretary-General containing his comments on the report of JIU. The in-depth evaluation study was undertaken in response to the timetable established by the Committee at its twenty-third session for intergovernmental review of the in-depth evaluation study and triennial evaluation studies. 21/ For the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, see paragraphs 735-742 below.

472. In introducing the in-depth evaluation report, the representative of the Secretary-General explained that it concentrated on the international drug control programme of the United Nations and that the drug-related programme activities of the specialized agencies and other relevant bodies of the United Nations were covered by the report of JIU. The general approach and methodology utilized in preparing the study followed the broad guidelines established by the Committee. The methods used for the evaluation included the review of mandates, the review of files, an extensive use of questionnaires, on-site inspection of four field projects, and numerous interviews with persons involved in drug abuse control activities. The study was prepared under the general guidance of the Programme Planning and Budgeting Board, and the three United Nations entities responsible for drug abuse control, namely, the Division of Narcotic Drugs, the secretariat of INCB and UNFODAC, were actively involved in the study.

2. Discussion

473. Many delegations commended the quality of the in-depth evaluation report. The dovetailing of the Secretary-General's report on programme activities of the Secretariat with the JIU report on drug abuse control activities in the United Nations system was considered useful in providing a clear overview of the system-wide effort in the field of drug control. Some delegations, however, expressed their concern that the report had been distributed only one week prior to its discussion.

474. Some delegations raised the question of discrepancies in the number of end-users who responded to questionnaires. In response, the representative of the Secretariat explained that each questionnaire had been sent to a specific audience, each varying in size. Consequently, the number of end-users would correspond in each case to the individual questionnaire.

475. Several delegations stated that the review of the harmonization of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, and the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances should be left to experts fully conversant with the subject-matter covered by the Conventions. While accepting, in principle, the idea of reviewing the two Conventions, several delegations cautioned against any action that would weaken either Convention. They stated that they would only support action to strengthen them.

476. Many delegations acknowledged that the United Nations Narcotics Laboratory had fulfilled a useful function in the past, but that the time had come to review its role and to reassess its work programme. Most delegations agreed that a feasibility study should be undertaken by independent experts to determine whether certain functions should be decentralized to regional and national laboratories. One delegation, however, felt that a feasibility study was not necessary and that, if such a study were to be carried out, it should be undertaken by the Secretariat. Other delegations stressed the need to ensure that any change in the role of the Laboratory should continue to provide for the vital support services for national Governments, especially of the developing countries. Many delegations also underlined the important role played by the Laboratory with regard to the needs of their countries, in particular in the field of applied research, and expressed the view that such needs should be fully taken into account when the review of the role of the Laboratory was undertaken.

477. Several delegations expressed reservations about the need for a new, updated edition of the multilingual dictionary of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, as the present edition had not been in use for a long enough period for its usefulness to be determined. In order to economize limited resources and to ensure the usefulness and long life of the dictionary, they suggested that it might be more efficient and less expensive to issue amendments to it than to produce a new edition.

478. Many delegations agreed, in principle, on the need for international protocols for tracing, freezing and seizing illicit assets, but felt that that would be better taken up by political or expert bodies, such as the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. They stated that a great deal of preparatory work would have had to be done by experts in the formulation of such protocols.

479. Many delegations agreed that the technical capacity of the Division of Narcotic Drugs should be strengthened and a few stated that that should be realized through redeployment of resources. A strengthened Division of Narcotic Drugs would be better equipped to fulfil its mandate as adviser to UNFODAC and would be in a better position to propose measures to counter the new problems that constantly arose. In that connection, it was agreed that the subprogramme on supply and demand reduction should be given top priority for purposes of strengthening and that increased emphasis should be placed on demand reduction, particularly in its preventive aspects.

480. With regard to the earmarking of contributions to UNFODAC for specific purposes, several delegations stated that the practice was inevitable. Other delegations noted that earmarking could circumvent or prevent the application of criteria for technical assistance established by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and result in inequalities in the distribution of aid. Many delegations agreed that countries receiving UNFODAC assistance should show genuine willingness and ability to implement the changes sought, and that another appeal to major donors to increase their general, unearmarked contributions should be made by the General Assembly. It was only through such contributions that many worthwhile but unfunded projects could receive assistance.

481. A number of delegations emphasized that the crucial nature of the issue of drug abuse control warranted greater participation of the specialized agencies, and stated that improved co-operation and co-ordination among the three United Nations entities responsible for drug control was vital but that the magnitude of the problem necessitated a system-wide enhanced co-operative effort.

482. With regard to the proposal to set up a small technical committee to advise the Executive Director of UNFODAC on the type of projects to be funded, the determination of priorities, and project execution, a number of delegations stated that they were not opposed to the committee as long as it was informal, but they did not see the need for a formal body since a similar consultative mechanism already existed through major donors. In their view, closer collaboration with the specialized agencies was more useful in setting priorities and helping to define each agency's area of participation.

483. It was fully agreed that working arrangements among three drug control units should be devised to eliminate duplication of efforts, ensure team work and improve collaboration. It was noted that the Secretary-General's report highlighted the need for better co-ordination, and that a clearer definition of the division of

responsibilities among the three units was indeed necessary. In that regard the designation of the Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs to oversee co-ordination and to mobilize the system-wide effort was strongly supported. It was hoped that under his guidance a clear division of responsibilities among the three units would be achieved.

484. In response to a question on the scope of the mandate given to the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs, a representative of that Office explained that the Secretary-General had recognized the need for both improved co-ordination and co-operation system-wide, and that the responsibility and the co-ordinating role given in May 1984 to the Under-Secretary-General were described in detail in document ST/SGB/203 of 24 May 1984. He also stated that the terms of reference of the three units responsible for drug control were being revised. With regard to the concern expressed by delegations about lack of integrated effort, he informed the Committee that the question of increasing the system-wide effort in the area of drug abuse control had already been included in the agenda of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination for its session in October 1985. He reiterated that the evaluation report did not cover the period since that role had been assigned to the Under-Secretary-General. He stated that additional steps had already been taken in the area of co-ordination among the three units. The Committee was also informed that a senior official in the Office of the Under-Secretary-General had been assigned to follow problems in the drug control programme.

485. While satisfaction was expressed with the JIU report and it was considered to be good and useful, a few delegations expressed reservations about recommendations 4 and 5. Regarding recommendation 4, it was felt that the Secretary-General should retain his right to decide who should represent him at the inter-agency meetings on drug control and the sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The language of recommendation 5 was considered to be paternalistic to the developing countries.

**B. Triennial review of the implementation of the
recommendations of the Committee on the
programme on transnational corporations**

1. Introduction

486. At its 27th and 36th meetings, on 15 and 20 May, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at its nineteenth session on the programme on transnational corporations (E/AC.51/1985/5). For the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, see paragraphs 743-748 below.

487. The Executive Director of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations stated that the evaluation study submitted to the Committee in 1979 had pointed out shortcomings in the programme and provided an external impetus to correct them. The Committee's recommendations based on the evaluation study, which he regarded as far-reaching, had been taken seriously by the Centre and used to redirect its activities.

488. In introducing the triennial review, the representative of the Secretary-General referred to her statement on the methodology of the triennial

review of the manufactures programme (E/AC.51/1985/10) and stated that the same methodological approach had been employed in preparing the report before the Committee.

489. The representative of the Secretary-General informed the Committee that more than 80 per cent of the Committee's recommendations had been implemented, although there was a variation in the degree to which they had been implemented. It was also pointed out that the Centre had taken measures to implement all the recommendations that did not require action by intergovernmental bodies. While recognizing the progress made by the Centre in implementing the recommendations, the representative of the Secretary-General drew the attention of the Committee to the areas where further improvement was needed. As in the case of the triennial review of the manufactures programme, among the general problems described in the report was a question of the determination of priorities between the mandates given by different intergovernmental bodies. In the case of the programme on transnational corporations, difficulties had arisen between priorities for activities established by the Commission on Transnational Corporations, on the one hand, and the mandates of the regional commissions, on the other.

2. Discussion

490. The Committee's discussion focused on (a) general comments regarding the report under consideration, (b) the methodology employed in the triennial review and (c) the conclusions and recommendations of the review. It was noted that the report was presented in a systematic and concise form.

491. Concerning the issue of priorities between the mandates given by different intergovernmental bodies, many delegations reaffirmed the position stated during the consideration of the triennial review of the manufactures programme that there should be no hierarchy of mandates and that the recommendations of CPC, as endorsed by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, should be fully implemented.

492. Some delegations expressed their regret that the evaluation study submitted to CPC in 1979 and the resulting recommendations made by CPC had not been formally submitted to the Commission on Transnational Corporations and stressed that, in future, the recommendations of CPC should be officially transmitted to the appropriate intergovernmental bodies. One delegation stated that there was no need for CPC to request that its recommendations should be formally transmitted to those bodies, since the recommendations were endorsed by the Economic and Social Council and subsequently by the General Assembly; they should be transmitted automatically by the Secretariat to the Secretariat units and the intergovernmental bodies concerned.

493. Some delegations questioned the appropriateness of the examples cited in paragraph 70 as possible ways of transmitting the recommendations of CPC stemming from evaluation reports to other intergovernmental bodies. Reservations were also expressed concerning a statement in the same paragraph on the need for criteria or target points for assessing the desired degree of implementation of a particular recommendation.

494. With regard to the scope of the triennial review, one delegation stated that the report had been prepared in accordance with the mandate given by CPC to examine

the implementation of its recommendations on the transnational corporations programme, and within that framework, it was a good report. However, considering that at the time of the evaluation the Centre had been in existence for only three years, the findings and recommendations of the evaluation, and consequently of CPC, were inevitably limited. As a result, by focusing on the implementation of the recommendations made six years ago, the review did not present ideas about the Centre's activities in implementing the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989. That delegation believed that future triennial reviews should take into account activities under the current medium-term plan and programme budget. The view was also expressed by another delegation that triennial reviews should be more independent and rely less on the views of the Secretariat units responsible for carrying out the programmes that had been evaluated.

495. The view was expressed that there was a need for clarifying the methodology of triennial reviews. The Committee, therefore, decided to have a thorough discussion of the methodology of future triennial reviews after it had examined the triennial review of the mineral resources programme (E/AC.51/1985/9).

496. With respect to the mandate of the joint units, one delegation observed that the information contained in paragraphs 53, 56, 57 and 61 and table 3 indicated serious discrepancies between the views of the Centre and those of the joint units. It was also suggested that relations between the Centre and the joint units should be improved so that part of the work scheduled to be carried out by consultants could be undertaken by the joint units, thereby saving resources.

497. Regarding the feedback system for the Centre's research programme, it was suggested that the Secretary-General should periodically send official letters to Member States, requesting them to evaluate the Centre's research programme.

498. In response to certain points raised in the discussion, the Executive Director re-emphasized that the Centre had taken serious measures to implement all of the Committee's recommendations addressed directly to the Centre without waiting for the Commission to review those recommendations. With regard to a feedback system for the Centre's research programme, he stated that a good number of the Centre's research reports had been utilized as inputs into its technical co-operation programme, which, in his view, had been subjected to one of the most rigorous evaluations undertaken in the United Nations. Some of the research outputs, therefore, had already been evaluated. He recognized, however, the need to establish a more systematic and comprehensive feedback system for the Centre's research programme and informed the Committee that a feasibility study on that matter was being prepared. Regarding the mandate of the joint units, the Executive Director stated that difficulties arose not so much from the mandate itself but from the need to improve co-ordination between the entities executing the programme. He informed the Committee of certain measures that either had been taken or would be taken to improve co-ordination arrangements between the Centre and the joint units. For example, he had already held consultations with the Executive Secretaries of ECE, ECLAC and ESCAP. Consultations had also been held between the staff of the Centre and the chiefs of the joint units during the recent session of the Commission. That exchange of views had resulted in agreements between the Centre and the regional commissions to undertake joint projects.

499. On a more general point concerning the methodology of triennial reviews, the Executive Director, speaking from his experience as former head of the Office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination, stated that it would not be realistic to

require the Office to obtain independent data, given the size and work-load of its Evaluation Unit and the number of individual programmes to be evaluated.

500. In responding to various points raised in the discussion, the representative of the Secretary-General stated that if the Committee wished to widen the scope of triennial reviews to include issues other than those dealt with in the relevant recommendations of CPC, such as new activities under the current medium-term plan, it would be helpful if specific guidelines were to be provided on the issues that the Committee felt should be covered. Concerning the question of the hierarchy of mandates, the representative of the Secretary-General stressed that the triennial review was merely reporting the existence of such a hierarchy but did not endorse it. The Committee was informed that in 1980 the Executive Director of the Centre had brought the conclusions and recommendations of CPC on the evaluation to the attention of the Commission. However, the subject was not placed on the agenda of the Commission. She cited examples in which the recommendations of CPC had been placed on the agenda of other intergovernmental bodies because CPC had officially requested it. In that connection, she also referred to certain expeditious means of transmitting the Committee's request to other intergovernmental bodies. With regard to the need for technical criteria or target points for assessing the desired degree of implementation, the representative of the Secretary-General described the difficulties encountered in the absence of such criteria in objectively assessing the extent to which the recommendations had been implemented.

Comments relating to recommendations

501. Many delegations stated that they supported most of the recommendations in essence; however, some reformulation was required. One delegation noted that the review had concentrated more on reiterating the original recommendations made by CPC in 1979 rather than on making new recommendations. Another delegation suggested that the recommendations should be more specific in order to ensure that the necessary measures would be taken to produce concrete results. Other delegations were unable to support those proposals, since they considered that they were not relevant to the specific task allotted to the triennial review or to its conclusions.

502. With regard to the recommendation in paragraph 72 on programme formulation and the review process, one delegation proposed that it be expanded by reiterating that the programme of work of the Centre should fully conform to the Centre's mandate and terms of reference and should focus on the implementation of the relevant provisions of the medium-term plan and programme budget and other decisions taken by intergovernmental bodies.

503. With reference to the recommendation in paragraph 73 on policy analysis (research), one delegation proposed that the role of Governments be highlighted in the systematic feedback system established by the Centre for its research programme.

504. Concerning the recommendation in paragraph 74 on the comprehensive information system, one delegation proposed that the information stored in that system should cover all aspects of the activities of transnational corporations and should be aimed at strengthening the negotiating capacity of the developing countries in their relations with transnational corporations.

505. Other delegations were unable to support the above proposals since they differed from the recommendations arising from the triennial review.

506. A number of delegations questioned the necessity of including the recommendation in paragraph 76 on the code of conduct on transnational corporations, since the code had not yet been adopted. One delegation considered that that recommendation should be excluded. Another view emphasized the need to include a recommendation on the code, since it was a key element of the Centre's work. One delegation proposed that the Centre should continue to provide support and assistance for the early conclusion of the work on the code of conduct on transnational corporations and should continue its present activities in respect of promoting understanding and acceptance of the code.

507. Many delegations supported the recommendation in paragraph 79 regarding the need to re-examine the mandates of the joint units with a view to clarifying them, while one felt that no problem existed. One delegation suggested that CPC might wish to request the Secretary-General, rather than the Economic and Social Council, to take the necessary action. Another delegation stated that co-ordination of procedures between the Centre and the joint units should also be examined. It was also suggested that such an examination should be undertaken by the Commission.

508. Several delegations supported the recommendation in paragraph 80 that the triennial review and the recommendations of CPC therein should be made available to the Commission on Transnational Corporations for action and that the Commission should then present its comments to CPC, because they felt that it was important to have an exchange of information between CPC and the Commission. Some of those delegations, however, suggested that the recommendation should be reformulated. Some delegations said that they could not accept that, while others stated that they had difficulty in endorsing the recommendation.

509. The Executive Director of the Centre informed the Committee of his views on the recommendations of the triennial review, as well as of various measures that had already been taken or were planned to be taken in order to implement several of the recommendations.

510. On a point of clarification, the representative of the Secretary-General stated that where the original recommendations of CPC had not been fully implemented and might still be valid, they had been brought to the attention of the Committee. That was a basic function of such a review. Those recommendations were, therefore, presented in the review, with certain modifications to reflect new developments.

C. Triennial review of the implementation of the
recommendations of the Committee on the
mineral resources programme

511. Owing to constraints of time, the Committee, at its 46th meeting, on 25 May, decided, on the proposal of its Bureau, to defer to its twenty-sixth session the consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations of the Committee at its twenty-second session on the mineral resources programme (E/AC.51/1985/9).

D. Triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations
of the Committee on the manufactures programme

1. Introduction

512. At its 22nd to 24th meetings, on 13 and 14 May, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its twentieth session on the manufactures programme (E/AC.51/1985/10). For the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, see paragraphs 750-755 below.

513. In introducing the report, the representative of the Secretary-General said that the report now before the Committee and the two similar reports on the programme on transnational corporations and the mineral resources programme (E/AC.51/1985/5 and E/AC.51/1985/9) had been prepared in response to the decision taken by the Committee at its twenty-second session to assess the implementation of recommendations which it had made on the basis of in-depth evaluations conducted three years' previously. 22/

514. The representative of the Secretary-General pointed out that, since this was the first occasion on which triennial reviews had been prepared, it should be made clear that their methodology was different from that of in-depth evaluations in scope, coverage and detail and that their purpose was not to evaluate anew the programmes concerned but rather to inform the Committee of the extent to which its recommendations had been implemented, the difficulties encountered, and the impact, beneficial or otherwise, of the implementation of the recommendations on programme content or execution, and to provide background information to assist the Committee in its examination of the relevant sections of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987.

515. In discussing the general problems revealed by the triennial review, it was noted that there was an apparent tendency among some programme managers to accord a different priority to recommendations of a substantive nature than to those of a programme planning or co-ordination nature. It was pointed out that more than 80 per cent of the Committee's recommendations on the manufactures programme had been either fully or partially implemented by the two organizational entities concerned (UNCTAD and UNIDO). However, a number of difficulties had been encountered which contributed to the inability to achieve full implementation. They included lack of resources to support technical assistance for expanding the benefits of the generalized system of preferences and the control of restrictive business practices, the absence of a reliable source for obtaining end-user opinions on the activities undertaken to implement the recommendations, and inadequate dissemination of informational outputs.

516. The representative of UNIDO informed the Committee of the recent steps taken to strengthen the measures that UNIDO had taken in response to the Committee's recommendations. Those initiatives were said to relate to the System of Consultations and included the assignment of responsibility to the chairman of the relevant interdivisional task force to initiate measures to carry out the recommendations of each consultation meeting; a more systematic involvement of the senior industrial development field advisers in the system; the expansion of the work of the Evaluation Unit beyond technical co-operation projects to cover programmes, including the System of Consultations; and routine requests in writing, one week after consultation meetings, for the observations and comments of all participants on the proceedings, selection of issues and background documentation.

2. Discussion

517. In addition to general comments on the triennial review exercise under consideration, the Committee's discussion dealt with the methodology used, the findings of the study and the recommendations made.

(a) General comments

518. Several delegations commended the Secretariat for its efforts to develop the methodology for the triennial reviews. With regard to intergovernmental mandates, a number of delegations stressed that no distinction should be made between recommendations of other technical bodies and those emanating from the Committee. It was considered that there could be complementarity but no hierarchy among mandates and that recommendations of CPC should have parity with those of other intergovernmental bodies. The view was also expressed by one delegation that while in principle it would not be appropriate for the organizational bodies concerned to view mandates in hierarchical terms, in practice delegations did not always express the same views in one body as they did in another. Other delegations did not agree with that view. Another delegation deprecated the discrepancy between a ritual acceptance of the role of CPC in principle and what happened in practice. That delegation stated that it was necessary to bridge the gap, and that ways must be found to strengthen the impact of CPC and the Office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination in carrying out the decisions of the Committee.

519. The representative of the Secretary-General remarked that there was a need to establish the immediacy of recommendations of CPC everywhere, not just in the Office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination, and assured the Committee that it was not the position of the Office to accept that problem passively. It was for that reason that the problem had been brought to the attention of the Committee. She further pointed out that as discussed and proposed in the report (paras. 20 and 122) and mentioned by the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination in his opening statement, a practical way of improving the situation would be to link the discussion of an evaluation or other related report with the related section of the proposed programme budget. That procedure, it was believed, would facilitate the translation of recommendations of CPC arising from its consideration of evaluation reports and other reports into decisions on the programme budget and the medium-term plan.

(b) Methodology

520. Delegations thought the new methodology enabled them to better assess the extent of the implementation of the Committee's recommendations on the manufactures programme. In addition, in identifying and highlighting the shortcomings of the situation in general, the report did make it possible to have an extensive discussion and exchange of views touching upon basic questions relating to the role of the Committee and the impact of its work.

521. Several delegations also felt, however, that the report could have gone further in providing the Committee with a more critical analysis and objective assessment. In that respect, a number of points were made:

(a) Assessment could not be left to the organizational bodies alone; the Evaluation Unit of the Office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination should give its own views. Relevant findings of independent research should be taken into

account as appropriate. Reporting of the information provided by the organizational body concerned or of its views should be accompanied by appropriate critical assessment;

(b) Systematic feedback of end-users' views and opinions was regarded as crucial; assessment should be based on such data and not on impressions;

(c) Emphasis should be on critical analysis rather than on description;

(d) Focus should be on the immediate difficulties encountered in implementation rather than on general external constraints.

522. While recognizing the inherent difficulties in attempting to take into account in triennial reviews external factors, new developments and new factors given the current methodology, some delegations felt that efforts should be made to give them proper weight in the reviews. In this connection, it was noted that, as observed by one delegation, that would blur the line between a review and an in-depth evaluation and make it difficult to assess the impact of recommendations of CPC separately from that of other recommendations and factors.

523. In replying to questions, the representative of the Secretary-General reiterated that a triennial review was not intended to evaluate a programme or programme area anew and that its scope had been limited by the Committee to an assessment of the extent of implementation of the Committee's recommendations. On the question of the Evaluation Unit of the Office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination undertaking directly the systematic collection of feedback information from end-users for the purpose of triennial reviews, the representative of the Secretary-General agreed that end-user opinions were essential, as amply documented in the report. She informed the Committee, however, that if the Office itself were to seek those sources in a triennial review, it would take far more than the available resources. It was felt that a reliable basis for greater objectivity in future triennial reviews would depend on greater end-user feedback which, it was hoped, would become routinely available as part of the self-evaluation system in various parts of the United Nations. On the specific point that insufficient assessment of reporting by the secretariats concerned had been given by the Office, she stated that the assessment could be found at the end of each relevant section in the report, based on existing feedback data and findings of independent research where they were available.

524. A number of delegations, while acknowledging the difficulties involved, believed that, even within the limited scope of triennial reviews and available resources, more could have been provided in terms of critical analysis.

(c) Findings relating to UNCTAD

525. Concerning the effectiveness of the generalized system of preferences, several delegations observed that while those limitations of the system that were highlighted in the report (para. 29) were of marginal significance to developing countries, the overall assessment in paragraph 30 was too optimistic, had no basis in facts, and was contradictory to the content of paragraph 29. They believed that the system had not worked well. Other delegations defended the role of the generalized system of preferences but argued also that CPC was not the forum in which to discuss its impact.

526. Several delegations expressed concern about the lack of financial support which had adversely affected the UNCTAD/UNDP project on technical assistance to developing countries for the fuller utilization of the generalized system of preferences and which had delayed the establishment of technical assistance related to the control of restrictive business practices.

527. The representative of the Secretary-General explained that the purpose of the report was not to evaluate the generalized system of preferences as such but specific recommendations to strengthen its effectiveness. She acknowledged that the limitations mentioned in paragraph 29 were not fully reflected in paragraph 30 and that the wording of the two paragraphs could have been harmonized.

528. The representative of UNCTAD informed the Committee that considerable progress had been made in implementing the recommendations of the Committee; where there had been little or no progress, for example in the area of technical assistance activities relating to the generalized system of preferences and restrictive business practices, it had been for lack of resources. He said that UNCTAD had made efforts to raise funds for the generalized system of preferences, even at the expense of work in other areas. With regard to the questions of dissemination of informational outputs and the collection of user-feedback data, the representative of UNCTAD mentioned that they would be dealt with as part of the evaluation activities of the recently established Programme Co-ordination and Evaluation Unit which would cover not only the generalized system of preferences and restrictive business practices but also other activities. The representative of UNDP informed the Committee that UNDP shared the UNCTAD assessment of the value of that project, but that financial support which had been given for more than 10 years had had to be curtailed in mid-1984 because of a shortage of funds.

(d) Findings relating to UNIDO

529. A number of delegations saw improvement in the System of Consultations, but thought further progress was needed and should be sought. It was suggested that it would be easier to assess the relevance of various consultations than of the system as a whole and that it would be useful to have information on how themes for future consultations would be selected on the value of information provided for consultations on the efficiency of the conduct of consultations and on results.

530. One delegation expressed the view that there was a need for a review of the System of Consultations based on opinions of Governments.

531. Emphasis was also placed on the need for UNIDO to improve co-ordination aspects of its work programme, including those discussed below.

(e) Findings relating to co-ordination between UNCTAD and UNIDO

532. A number of delegations had reservations about the assessment in the review concerning co-ordination between UNCTAD and UNIDO. It was stressed that problems of co-ordination must be recognized and identified. One delegation thought that the area of technology should be more properly placed in UNIDO. Another delegation stressed the role in co-ordination of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation and suggested that it would be better to have co-ordination before activities were started.

533. In his reply to the question whether it was sufficient for the Ad Hoc UNCTAD/UNIDO Group of Experts on Trade and Trade-related Aspects of Industrial Collaboration Arrangements to have met only once since 1980, the representative of UNIDO informed the Committee that the Trade and Development Board and the Industrial Development Board, having considered the outcome and recommendations of the Group, had decided, as stated in the report, that it had completed its work and that further work in that respect could be done by the secretariats of UNCTAD and UNIDO.

(f) Recommendations in the report

534. With regard to the recommendation in paragraph 113 of the report, while the need was stressed for financial support for technical assistance activities relating to the expanded use of the generalized system of preferences and control of restrictive business practices, some delegations doubted that it would be useful or appropriate for CPC to draw the attention of the Governing Council of UNDP to that need and request it to ensure continuation of the funds-in-trust arrangement on a firmer basis. One delegation believed that CPC had the right to raise the question with the General Assembly, which would make the final decision.

535. Delegations commented favourably on the recommendation in paragraph 114 and found it acceptable.

536. With regard to the recommendations relating to UNIDO (paras. 115-119) in general, there were different opinions, in view of the prospective transformation of UNIDO into a specialized agency. Several delegations did not think that it would be useful in the circumstances for the Committee to make any recommendations relating to UNIDO. Others believed that the prospect of change in the status of UNIDO should not prevent CPC from making the necessary recommendations.

537. With regard to specific recommendations relating to UNIDO, one delegation thought CPC should refrain from making recommendations on the System of Consultations (para. 116). The recommendations contained in paragraph 117 received broad agreement. It was recognized, in particular, that there was a need for the Evaluation Unit of UNIDO to extend its functions beyond evaluation of technical co-operation activities to cover activities in other areas, including research, policy analysis and negotiations. There was some favourable reaction to the recommendation in paragraph 119 but the question was raised of the manner in which new mandates were to be explained or interpreted and by whom.

538. There was general agreement with the recommendations contained in paragraph 120.

539. There was general agreement with the recommendations contained in subparagraphs 122 (a) and (b). Some delegations found them to be a practical approach to the problems, revealed by the review, relating to implementation of the Committee's recommendations by the organizational entities.

540. There was general agreement that the recommendations in subparagraphs 122 (c) and (d) would be difficult to implement and should not be endorsed.

CHAPTER V

REPORTS OF THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT

541. The Committee considered item 6 of the agenda at its 35th meeting, on 20 May. The Committee had before it the report of JIU on reporting to the Economic and Social Council (see A/39/281-E/1984/81 and Corr.1 and Add.1) and the comments of the Secretary-General thereon (A/39/281-E/1984/81/Add.2 and Add.2/Corr.1 and A/40/284-E/1985/71). Also, in accordance with the decision taken at its twenty-fourth session, 23/ the Committee, at its 1st (organizational) meeting, on 1 April, elected to consider, at its twenty-fifth session, the following:

(a) Report of JIU on publications policy and practice in the United Nations system (see A/39/239) and the comments of the Secretary-General thereon (A/39/239/Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1);

(b) Report of JIU on drug abuse control activities in the United Nations system (see A/39/646) and the comments of the Secretary-General thereon (A/40/260 and Corr.1);

(c) Report of JIU on field offices of UNDP (see DP/1983/67) and the comments of the Secretary-General thereon (DP/1984/7);

(d) Report of JIU on the evaluation system of UNDP (see DP/1983/68) and the comments of the Secretary-General thereon (DP/1984/9).

542. In accordance with the decision taken at its 1st (organizational) meeting, the Committee considered the report of JIU on drug abuse control activities in the United Nations system and the comments of the Secretary-General thereon in connection with section 20 (International drug control) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987 and the report of the Secretary-General on an in-depth evaluation of the drug control programme (E/AC.51/1985/8 and Corr.1 and Add.1) (see chap. II above, paras. 339-346 and chap. IV above, paras. 471-485).

A. Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on reporting to the Economic and Social Council

1. Introduction

543. The Committee considered the report of JIU on reporting to the Economic and Social Council (see A/39/281-E/1984/81 and Corr.1 and Add.1) and the comments of the Secretary-General thereon (A/39/281-E/1984/81/Add.2 and Corr.1 and A/40/284-E/1985/71) at its 35th meeting, on 20 May. For the conclusions and recommendation of the Committee, see paragraphs 756-758 below.

544. In introducing the report, Inspector Maurice Bertrand of JIU recalled that the purpose of the study was to examine the workings of a major intergovernmental body and, within its political context, to suggest what technical improvements would be possible in servicing it. It was not intended to propose solutions to the problems faced by the Council but only to see what technical improvements in reporting could be made which could help make the Council's debate and its conclusions and recommendations more useful. He stated that the reactions of the Secretary-General

were particularly important and noted with satisfaction the further comments by the Secretary-General on the report.

545. With regard to the major sections of the report, the Inspector noted that in programme planning there had been positive and encouraging developments in methodology and that only a few questions needed to be addressed, including the involvement of subsidiary organs of the Economic and Social Council in the programme planning process and the wide publication of the programme planning regulations and rules. With regard to the co-ordination functions of the Council, the most important recommendation concerned the use of outside expertise, to which the Secretary-General had not agreed. Finally, with regard to the research issues dealt with in recommendations 1-4, the Secretary-General's response was encouraging as regards the form of presentation of documents and the changes that would be made in the World Economic Survey. He noted that there were four improvements in research orientation that seemed particularly important: a concern with medium-term projections as opposed to short- or long-term ones; a concern with both the structure and functioning of the world economy; a harmonization of views around a broader joint vision presented sectorally and, partially, in the specialized work of individual organizations of the system; and the development of new approaches to old problems.

546. The further comments of the Secretary-General were introduced by the Director of the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, who stated that the Secretariat found it useful for JIU to have addressed those major issues. He pointed out that the Secretary-General shared the view of the Inspector that, in spite of the current political difficulties, solutions should be found to a number of technical problems relating to the provision of secretariat support services and that the Secretariat was ready, wherever feasible and appropriate, to introduce the necessary changes and improvements. He drew the attention of the Committee to the views of the Secretary-General on various issues addressed by, and recommendations of, the Inspector. He also drew attention to the suggestions on the part of the Secretary-General relating to documentation in general and his reflections on the orientation of the World Economic Survey. He also commented further on the introductory statement made by the Inspector, Mr. Bertrand, and expressed the agreement of the Secretariat that the programme planning regulations and rules should be more widely disseminated. With regard to programme planning he stated that while the Secretary-General agreed largely with JIU on the desirability of a more active role for the subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly and the Council in reviewing their respective work programmes, there was a real problem with the timing of the meetings of such bodies that must be addressed. On the question of the utilization of outside expertise, while reiterating the view expressed in the comments of the Secretary-General, he reconfirmed the readiness of the Secretary-General in exercising his function as chief administrative officer of the Organization, to provide the necessary expertise to the Committee for Development Planning and CPC as required.

2. Discussion

547. Many delegations expressed their appreciation for the work undertaken by JIU to bring important issues to the attention of the Economic and Social Council. While general agreement on all of the underlying premises of the report was not possible, and some delegations expressed basic disagreement with the approach

employed, the Committee recognized the contribution of the report in presenting some of the problems that the United Nations, and the Council in particular, were confronted with, and in suggesting ways and means to improve the functioning of the Organization. Although several delegations did not regard the current situation as a "crisis", as it was viewed in the report, the Committee concurred that problems were raised in the report that needed to be addressed. While many delegations agreed with the diagnosis of the problems, different views were expressed on the measures suggested to deal with those problems. It was recognized that the report, as well as the comments of the Secretary-General, identified problems that should continue to be considered by Member States and the Secretariat and that additional efforts should be made to enhance the effectiveness of the activities of the Organization. There was general agreement with the views expressed in the report and the comments of the Secretary-General to the fact that in spite of the current political difficulties, solutions should be found to a number of technical problems to enable the Secretariat to respond more effectively to the needs of intergovernmental bodies. However, it was pointed out that the solution of many of the difficulties identified required the political will and the readiness of all Member States to better utilize the Organization as an instrument of multilateral co-operation.

548. Many delegations noted that some measures had been adopted since the issuance of the JIU report and that some of the recommendations, particularly those referring to the Committee for Development Planning, were based on an assumption that that Committee would be a technical advisory body. They stressed that a major change had taken place in the composition and role of that Committee in that it comprised persons eminent in their own right who had a broad political view of the questions that that Committee was asked to address.

549. Concerning the documentation for the Council, the Committee took note of the changes proposed by the Secretary-General in his further comments on the report (A/40/284-E/1985/71, para. 8), including the reorientation of the World Economic Survey. The Committee noted that those changes should be encouraged and kept under review.

550. While recognizing that different views were possible on the quality of the documents prepared and accepting that improvements were proposed in the Secretary-General's further comments, the Committee did not find itself competent to engage in a discussion on the substantive content of the research and policy documents prepared for the Council's deliberation. Many delegations shared to some extent the concern of the JIU report that the documents submitted to the Council were more descriptive than need be, while others held the view that it was necessary to ensure that the documents contained enough information to frame adequate conclusions and recommendations. At the same time, all delegations recognized the importance of enhancing the analytical contents of documents.

551. It was agreed that a diversity of views on major issues, as reflected in the surveys and reports prepared by the organizations of the United Nations system, was a positive contribution to the Council's debate and that the concern of the JIU report regarding the nature of that diversity and its underlying factual basis should be clearly conveyed to the Council. The Committee was of the view that that issue could be examined further in the context of the cross-organizational programme analysis on economic and social research and policy analysis, which it would consider in 1986.

552. The Committee held extensive discussions on the general debate of the Council. It recognized that the Council had been seized of the discussion on that matter for some time. It noted the effort of JIU to suggest means by which the general debate could be given a focus. The Committee recognized that no consensus had emerged on the issue, either in previous discussions in the Council or in the Committee itself. Many delegations stated that the general debate should be seen as an important vehicle for placing national positions in the arena of debate, from which the outline of a possible consensus on major issues might emerge. Other delegations stated that the general debate could be seen as having had limited usefulness when it was excessively general in form and content, and in that sense it might benefit from measures to sharpen the focus of the discussions. There was a general agreement that this needed to be examined further by the Council itself.

553. Some delegations stated that the issue of structure and content of the general debate of the Economic and Social Council was within the Council's mandate and outside the competence of CPC.

554. With regard to chapter II, on the function of co-ordinating system-wide plans and programmes, the description of the problems as presented in the report and in the further comments thereon of the Secretary-General was generally accepted. It was noted that a major problem was the lack of a common approach to the question of the manner in which the Council should discharge its co-ordination functions.

555. Many delegations pointed out that a prerequisite for improving the Council's ability to co-ordinate system-wide plans and programmes was some consensus on the nature of that function. In that context, they largely agreed with paragraph 37 of the Secretary-General's comments, which suggested that the time had come again for the Council to undertake a broad review of its objectives and functioning with regard to its responsibilities for system-wide co-ordination. It was recognized that some of the problems were inherent in the polycentric nature of the United Nations system; however, many delegations were of the view that measures should be taken to bring about improvements in system-wide co-operation and co-ordination.

556. The Committee expressed a strong feeling that the Council should fully utilize the means provided to it by the provisions of the Charter in discharging its co-ordination functions. The Committee reiterated its earlier conclusion that the co-ordination instruments provided by the Secretariat, such as cross-organizational programme analyses and cross-organizational reviews of major issues in the medium-term plans, could be improved further, as had been discussed under item 4, and noted that it intended to review, at its twenty-sixth session, the most critical aspects of those instruments, and particularly the follow-up to its recommendations. Many delegations observed that the problem was related, in part, to the extent to which Governments attached importance to the work of CPC.

557. Concerning the use by intergovernmental bodies of outside expertise, many delegations found the relevant recommendations of the JIU report unacceptable. Several delegations recalled that the discussions on the cross-organizational programme analysis on economic and technical co-operation among developing countries had elucidated the fact that the problem was not whether the expertise came from outside the United Nations or from within but whether independent points of view could be placed before intergovernmental bodies. Most delegations recognized that the issue was not simple. On the one hand, the fact that information was provided by the Secretariat did not inherently mean that it was not independent. Nor could it be assumed from the fact that experts came from outside

the system that independent views would be presented. They stated that several organizational components within the system had the capacity to make independent judgements and, in fact, the JIU report itself was an example of that. They also recalled that the Committee had emphasized the need for cross-organizational programme analyses to be critical and independent. Some delegations noted that in most national administrations, there were independent bodies whose function was to carry out independent appraisals, reviews and evaluations of the working of the administration. Many delegations had a strong predisposition that those independent points of view should come whenever possible from within the Secretariat itself. They recognized, however, that there could be instances where recourse could be made to outside expertise and noted the readiness of the Secretary-General in exercising his function as chief administrative officer of the Organization to provide such expertise.

558. The Committee noted the progress that had been made in the function of planning and programming in the United Nations and agreed that there was still room for improvement. In that connection, some delegations recognized the need for the greater and more substantive involvement of subsidiary bodies in the programme planning process. In this context, the Committee took note of the Secretary-General's observation that, in some cases, the scheduling of meetings of subsidiary bodies made their timely involvement somewhat problematic.

559. The Committee agreed that all documents prepared for the planning, programming and evaluation cycle should be distributed to subsidiary bodies as soon as they became available and that a very precise calendar should be drawn up so as to enable those documents to be produced and considered in good time.

560. The Committee strongly agreed that an effort had to be made to give wide dissemination to the programme planning regulations and rules.

B. Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit on publications policy and practice in the United Nations system, field offices of the United Nations Development Programme and the evaluation system of the United Nations Development Programme

561. Owing to constraints of time, the Committee, at its 46th meeting, on 25 May, decided, on the proposal of its Bureau, to defer the consideration of the reports of JIU on publications policy and practice in the United Nations system (see A/39/239), field offices of UNDP (see DP/1983/67) and the evaluation system of UNDP (see DP/1983/68), as well as the comments of the Secretary-General thereon (A/39/239/Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, DP/1984/7 and DP/1984/9, respectively) to its twenty-sixth session.

CHAPTER VI

REPORTS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON CO-ORDINATION

562. The Committee considered item 7 of the agenda at its 45th and 57th meetings, on 24 and 31 May. The Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) for 1984/85 (E/1985/57);

(b) Report of ACC on the co-ordination of information systems in the United Nations system: register of development activities (E/AC.51/1985/7);

(c) Note by the Secretariat containing the suggested provisional agenda for the twentieth series of Joint Meetings of CPC and ACC (E/AC.51/1985/CRP.4).

A. Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination for 1984/85

563. Owing to constraints of time, the Committee, at its 46th meeting, on 25 May, decided, on the proposal of its Bureau, to transmit the annual overview report of ACC for 1984/85 (E/1985/57) directly to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1985, without discussion (see para. 760 below).

B. Co-ordination of information systems in the United Nations system: register of development activities

1. Introduction

564. At its 45th meeting, on 24 May, the Committee considered the report of ACC entitled "Co-ordination of information systems in the United Nations system: register of development activities" (E/AC.51/1985/7).

565. The Committee heard an introduction of the report by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee for the Co-ordination of Information Systems of ACC who pointed out that the report responded to a long-standing concern of CPC and the Economic and Social Council about ensuring a coherent approach to information about development activities and that it was a first consequence of the new ACC approach to the co-ordination of information systems called for in Council resolution 1982/71 of 10 November 1982. In that resolution, the Council had urged that priority should be given to developing a meaningful register of development activities and that request had been reiterated by the General Assembly in its resolution 37/226. The proposal before the Committee represented a consensus by organizations of the system on a register which would be reasonably easy to produce, provide information of broad use to member States and require only minor adjustments in existing information systems. He noted that the proposal went beyond technical co-operation projects to include a wide variety of activities in support of economic and social development. He pointed out that the proposal had been costed on several different bases but that the overall impression of ACC was that the benefits would far outweigh the costs. The final determination of whether those benefits were sufficiently large to justify the costs rested with the Committee and the Council.

2. Discussion

566. Owing to constraints of time, the Committee, at its 46th meeting, on 25 May, decided, on the proposal of its Bureau, not to discuss the report of ACC on the register of development activities (E/AC.51/1985/7) but to transmit it to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1985 (see para. 761 below).

C. Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination

1. Introduction

567. At its 56th meeting, on 31 May, the Committee considered the note by the Secretariat containing the suggested provisional agenda for the Joint Meetings of CPC and ACC (E/AC.51/1985/CRP.4), which was introduced by the Assistant Secretary-General, Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters, in his capacity as Secretary of ACC. For the conclusions of the Committee, see paragraphs 762-763 below.

2. Discussion

568. In discussing the suggested provisional agenda for the Joint Meetings, one delegation proposed the delegation of item 3, entitled "Economic and technical co-operation among developing countries". Some delegations suggested that, in order to facilitate the participation of members of CPC in the Joint Meetings, their travel costs and per diem should be met from the regular budget.

569. Several delegations questioned the usefulness of the Joint Meetings. It was suggested that a review should be undertaken by ACC in that regard. Some other delegations expressed the hope that focusing the discussion on the agenda items and the background papers would improve the dialogue held at the Joint Meetings.

570. A background paper prepared by ACC on the effectiveness and co-ordination of United Nations organs and specialized agencies in relief efforts in Africa was subsequently circulated informally to members of the Committee.

CHAPTER VII

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE

571. In pursuance of 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-sixth session, together with the required documentation. In accordance with Council resolution 1984/61 C of 26 July 1984, the twenty-sixth session of the Committee shall be of five weeks' duration.

572. At its 57th meeting, on 31 May 1985, the Committee considered the provisional agenda and the documentation for its twenty-sixth session on the basis of a note by the Secretariat (E/AC.51/1985/L.4), as orally corrected by the Secretary. The attention of the Committee was drawn to the documentation requested by it in the context of its consideration of the other items on the agenda for its twenty-fifth session (see paras. 582, 684, 697, 713 and 758 below).

573. At the same meeting, one delegation proposed the inclusion in the provisional agenda for the twenty-sixth session of an item entitled "Improvement of the work of the Committee under its mandate with, inter alia, a view to its consideration of future programme budgets and medium-term plans". In accordance with that proposal, the Secretary-General, in consultation with interested delegations, would prepare in good time a working paper to assist the Committee in its consideration of the item. The Committee would also allocate two or three days to the discussion of the item.

574. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the above proposal and recommended the approval of the provisional agenda and documentation for its twenty-sixth session. For the recommendation of the Committee, see paragraph 764 below.

575. One delegation expressed the view that it did not participate in the discussion held on the provisional agenda for the twenty-sixth session of the Committee because of the procedure followed that allowed only the views of a few delegations to be reflected in the recommendations of the Committee.

CHAPTER VIII

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

576. At its 58th and 59th meetings, on 1 June, the Committee adopted the draft report on its twenty-fifth session (E/AC.51/1985/L.3 and Add.1-59), as orally revised during the discussion.

577. Many delegations expressed their regret about the departure from past practice, whereby one delegation which made reservations was identified in the report of the Committee. They also expressed the hope that the practice followed at the present session did not create a precedent for the work of the Committee. Another delegation registered its reservation as to the right of the Committee to pass judgement on any individual delegation's conduct of its affairs in the Committee.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987General conclusions and recommendations

578. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly reiterate its request contained in resolution 39/217 of 18 December 1984 to intergovernmental bodies reporting to the Second Committee to adjust their cycle of meetings to conform to the biennial programme of work of that Committee.
579. Bearing in mind the views expressed during its twenty-fifth session, the Committee reiterated the general recommendation made by it at its twenty-third session that the proposed use of consultant services was excessive and not conducive to an optimum utilization of regular staff resources. Noting the complexity of the issue, the need to take into account the principle of equitable geographical distribution in the hiring of consultants and the relevance of the issue to the mandate of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, the Committee decided once again to call the attention of the General Assembly to the issue.
580. In connection with the proposed use of consultant services, the Committee took note of the assurances made by the representative of the Secretary-General that information would be provided on the reasons for which particular tasks could not be carried out by existing Professional staff.
581. The Committee also recommended that the resources allocated for the programming of specific consultant services should be used for those purposes and requested the Secretary-General to ensure that, as far as possible, such resources were used for those purposes.
582. The Committee further recommended that the Secretary-General should submit to it at its twenty-sixth session a report on the results of the in-house consultations regarding the establishment, updating, access to, use and integrity of the mailing lists and registers maintained by the United Nations.
583. The Committee recognized the importance attached by Member States to the development of human resources of Member States, especially of developing countries, as well as activities undertaken by United Nations organs and programmes on various aspects of that question in response to relevant intergovernmental mandates.
584. A proposal was made to request the Secretary-General to compile information on activities in various fields of human resources development that were under way or planned by United Nations organs and programmes in accordance with intergovernmental mandates, bearing in mind the need to ensure an integrated and multi-disciplinary approach to all aspects of human resources development. The Committee took note of the proposal and decided, owing to the constraints of time at its present session, to consider the proposal at its twenty-sixth session.

585. The Committee agreed that its concern regarding the inadequacy of the length of its sessions should be brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1985 in the context of the Council's consideration of the calendar of conferences for 1986-1987.

Foreword and introduction

586. The Committee took note of the foreword and introduction to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987.

Section 1. Overall policy-making, direction and co-ordination

587. The Committee recommended that, in order to facilitate the work of the Committee in considering the proposed programme budget, section 1 should in future be submitted in a programmatic format.

588. The Committee expressed the view that there was no justification for the inclusion of paragraph 1.6 under resource requirements for the General Assembly.

589. The Committee recommended that the Committee on Conferences should review the external printing requirements for the General Assembly.

590. In connection with paragraph 1.41, the Committee requested the World Food Council to carry out an additional review, in consultation with FAO, on the need for the use of consultants and the programmatic justifications thereof.

591. The Committee recommended that, in paragraph 1.47, the words "on the North American continent" should be replaced by the words "wherever the Committee deems such activities are needed most".

592. The Committee noted that the provision in paragraph 1.51 for the travel of one staff member from the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs to attend sessions of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination appeared to duplicate the resources provided for in paragraph 4.8 of section 4 for the travel of staff of the Centre to attend sessions of the Economic and Social Council. The Committee decided to draw the attention of the General Assembly to this question.

593. With the above changes, the Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve the programme narrative of section 1 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987.

Section 2A. Political and Security Council affairs; peace-keeping activities

(a) Security Council, its committees and commissions

594. The Committee recommended that the Committee on Conferences should review the external printing requirements for the Security Council and its subsidiary organs (para. 2A.5).

(b) Department of Political and Security Council Affairs

595. The Committee, taking note of the intention of the Secretary-General to conduct in the near future an evaluation of the news service of the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs, requested that in undertaking the evaluation the Secretary-General bear in mind the views expressed by members of the Committee during the consideration of this aspect of section 2A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987.

596. The Committee recommended that the intermediate output under programme element 2.2 (Promotion of peace, including co-ordination of the International Year of Peace) should be redrafted to read as follows:

"Intermediate output: Co-ordination, as mandated, of all United Nations activities related to the International Year of Peace with a view to ensuring comprehensive and effective action to attain the objectives of the Year. The secretariat for the Year will also seek active participation within and, as appropriate, outside the United Nations system."

597. The Committee recommended the deletion of the reference to Antarctica in outputs (iii) and (iv) of programme element 2.3 (Peace, security and co-operation in the sea and ocean areas).

(c) Peaceful uses of outer space

598. The Committee recommended the deletion of output (ii) of programme element 3.6 (Space information services).

(d) Law of the sea affairs

599. With regard to the organization of two ad hoc expert group meetings (para. 2A.56), the Committee expressed doubts about their justification.

600. With the above changes, the Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve the programme narrative of section 2A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987.

Section 2B. Disarmament affairs activities

601. The Committee noted the importance of the role of the United Nations in the area of disarmament and the priority attributed to it by the Secretary-General.

602. The Committee recommended that the following text should be added to output (ii) under programme element 1.3 (Conference on Disarmament):
"(f) prevention of an arms race in outer space".

603. The Committee recommended that the word "possibly" should be deleted from output (i) of programme element 1.7 (Functions related to multilateral disarmament agreements of which the Secretary-General is depositary and/or which are requested by the General Assembly).

604. The Committee recommended the inclusion of a new programme element 1.9, which would read as follows:

"1.9 Relationship between disarmament and development

"Output: Substantive servicing of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development (date to be decided). Other activities include: (i) Substantive servicing of an annual meeting of the focal points within the United Nations system on the relationship between disarmament and development with the assistance of economic departments, as appropriate; (ii) Co-ordination, within the United Nations system, of activities on the relationship between disarmament and development, in collaboration with the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation."

605. The Committee recommended that mention should be made of the languages in which the publications in outputs (i) and (ii) of programme element 2.3 (Disarmament publications) were produced and of the fact that they were available for sale.

606. The Committee also recommended the deletion of output (iv) from programme element 2.3. Noting that the names of the organizations referred to in intermediate outputs (ii) and (iii) had been transposed, the Committee further recommended that the words "with the United Nations Association of the United States of America" should be deleted from intermediate output (iii) of the programme element.

607. The Committee recommended that the title of programme element 5.1 should be revised to read "Maintenance of mailing list"; that the output under that programme element should be listed as intermediate output; and that the text should be revised to read as follows:

"Intermediate output: Maintaining and updating a computerized mailing list for the dissemination to interested parties of information on the World Disarmament Campaign."

608. With the above changes, the Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve the programme narrative of section 2B of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987.

Section 3. Political affairs, trusteeship and decolonization

609. The Committee noted that in the final version of the proposed programme budget for 1986-1987, the words "still remaining to be decolonized" in the first sentence of paragraph 3.10 would be replaced by the words "on the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories".

610. The Committee recommended that the phrase "to the colonial peoples and their liberation movements" in paragraph 3.25 should be revised to read "to colonial peoples and liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity (OAU)".

611. With the above changes, the Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve the programme narrative of section 3 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987.

Section 4. Policy-making organs (economic and social activities)

612. The Committee noted that the Secretariat had undertaken to obtain the views of the Committee for Development Planning on the scheduling of its meetings and to submit them formally to the Economic and Social Council in good time for the Council to consider the issue.

613. The Committee recommended that the representatives of the regional commissions should attend meetings of the Committee for Development Planning only when that Committee considered their attendance useful or necessary.

614. The Committee, not being convinced of the programmatic justification for the continuation of temporary posts throughout 1987, as proposed in paragraph 4.37, or for the number of information officers shown in subparagraphs 4.42 (a) (iii) and 4.42 (b) (iii), noted the undertaking by the Secretariat to reconsider the proposals and recommended that the General Assembly re-examine those aspects of the arrangements for the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, taking into account the need for providing information.

615. With the above changes, the Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve the programme narrative of section 4 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987.

Section 5A. Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation

616. The Committee was of the view that section 5A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987 represented a significant improvement in presentation and asserted that further efforts should be made to improve the format in line with the conclusions and recommendations made by CPC at its twenty-third session and endorsed by the General Assembly.

617. The Committee emphasized the importance of the role played by the Office of the Director-General, in particular in the co-ordination, planning, programming, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation processes of the Organization.

618. The Committee noted the need to strengthen the Office of the Director-General in order to enable it to discharge fully its system-wide co-ordinating functions in the economic and social areas and stressed the importance of the involvement of the Office in co-ordination at an early stage in order to achieve the purposes for which it was established.

619. The Committee reiterated the recommendation made at its twenty-third session that the Secretary-General's bulletin and the section of the organizational manual devoted to the Office of the Director-General should be issued urgently and noted the commitment by the Director-General that this would be done.

620. The Committee recommended that the following revisions should be made in section 5A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987:

(a) Subparagraph 5A.3 (a): in the second line, the words "at the request of intergovernmental organs" should be inserted after the words "assistance to Member States", and the words "and promotion" should be deleted;

(b) Paragraph 5A.13: in the second entry under the description of tasks, the words "in the context of the United Nations" should be replaced with "through the United Nations".

621. With the above changes, the Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve the programme narrative of section 5A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987.

Section 5B. Centre for Science and Technology for Development

622. The Committee recommended that in paragraph 5B.13, in the description of the task relating to programme element 1.1, the words "to be" should be deleted.

623. With the above change, the Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve the programme narrative of section 5B of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987.

Section 5C. Regional Commissions Liaison Office

624. The Committee recommended the strengthening of the Regional Commissions Liaison Office, which would make possible better co-ordination between the regional commissions and reduce travel between Headquarters and the regional commissions.

625. The Committee recommended that in programme element 1.6 (see para. 5C.2) the words "assistance in" should be inserted after the words "Provision of".

626. With the above change, the Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve the programme narrative of section 5C of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987.

Section 6. Department of International Economic and Social Affairs

(a) Executive direction and management

627. The Committee recommended that the following revisions should be made:

(a) Programme elements 2.1 and 2.3 should be consolidated into a single programme element;

(b) Paragraph 6.15: in the last sentence the words "global negotiations (world economic recovery)" should be deleted and the words "and, as necessary, to global negotiations" should be added at the end of the sentence;

(c) Paragraph 6.17: the words "The North-South Round Table" should read "round-table meetings", "non-aligned nations" should read "the Non-Aligned Movement" and after "EEC", the "Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Council of Mutual Economic Assistance" should be added.

(b) Global development issues and policies

628. The Committee recommended that the following revisions should be made:

(a) Paragraph 6.23: at the end of the paragraph, the phrase "including global negotiations" should be added;

(b) Paragraph 6.24: after the words "derive policy suggestions" the words "upon request of intergovernmental organs" should be inserted;

(c) Paragraph 6.25: After "International Development Strategy" the phrase "and of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries" should be inserted;

(d) Subprogramme 2: a new programme element should be included, which reads as follows: "2.2 Unified approach to development analysis and planning

"Output: Report to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council (third quarter, 1986)".

The present programme element 2.2 would be renumbered 2.3 accordingly; .

(e) Programme element 3.1 should be given highest priority;

(f) Programme elements 3.2 and 4.1: in the output citations, the phrase "through the Committee for Development Planning" should be deleted and after the words "Economic and Social Council" the phrase "which should be made available to the Committee for Development Planning" should be added;

(g) Programme element 6.1: the following output should be added:

"(iv) Report to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, on the scope of possible confidence-building measures in international economic relations and on the role of the United Nations in that endeavour (second quarter, 1986).";

(h) Programme element 6.3: the following output should be added:

"(ii) Report to the Commission for Social Development on national experience in far-reaching economic and social changes for the purpose of social progress (first quarter, 1987)".

(c) Economic and technical aspects of marine affairs

629. The Committee recommended that the title of output (iv) of programme element 2.1 should be revised to read "Regulatory framework: review of activities in sea-bed mineral development".

(c) Global social development issues

630. The Committee recommended that the following revisions should be made:

(a) Programme element 1.1: the titles of outputs (ii) and (iii) should be made to conform with one another;

(b) Programme element 2.3: a new output should be added, as follows:

"(ii) Technical publication: guidelines for the provision of social services to migrant workers and their families".

(e) World statistics

631. The Committee recommended that the output under programme element 3.3 entitled Distributive-Trade Statistics Yearbook, 1985 should be given lowest priority.

(f) Programme planning and co-ordination

632. The Committee recommended that highest priority should be given to programme elements 1.5 (Co-ordination and improvement of programme planning and implementation in the economic and social sectors) and 2.1 (Strengthening United Nations evaluation systems and units for the continued development and support of the internal evaluation system).

633. With the above changes, the Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve the programme narrative of section 6 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987.

Section 7. Department of Technical Co-operation for Development

634. The Committee recommended that the regular budget resources in the subsection on policy and programming under executive direction and management should be reallocated to programme elements of greater interest to Member States.

635. The Committee recommended that the following changes should be made in section 7 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987, as contained in document A/C.5/40/2:

(a) Programme 5 (Public administration and finance), programme element 2.2: the phrase "of developing countries" should be added to the title of the programme element;

(b) Programme 5, programme element 5.2: the designation of lowest priority should be deleted.

636. With the above changes, the Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve the programme narrative of section 7 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987, as contained in document A/C.5/40/2.

Section 8. Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters

637. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve the programme narrative of section 8 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987.

Section 9. Transnational corporations

638. The Committee recommended that the question of co-ordination of the work of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations and the joint units be given priority consideration by the Centre.

639. The Committee recommended that the following revisions be made to section 9:

(a) Programme element 1.2 (Illicit payments) should be assigned lowest priority. In addition, the text of the output should be revised to read as follows:

"No final output: assistance to intergovernmental bodies in formulating and adopting an international agreement on illicit payments, as required.";

(b) In programme element 1.3 (International standards of accounting and reporting), the following output should be added:

"(iii) Sales publication: report of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (second quarter, 1986; second quarter, 1987)";

(c) The text of output (ii) under programme element 1.4 (Other arrangements and agreements relating to transnational corporations at the international, regional and bilateral levels) should be revised to read as follows:

"(ii) Sales publication: survey of trends in international, regional and bilateral arrangements and agreements relating to transnational corporations (first quarter, 1986)".

The resources released through the reduction in the number of outputs from two to one under output (ii) of this programme element would be redeployed to the preparation of the additional publication recommended under programme element 1.3;

(d) The designation of lowest priority assigned to programme element 2.2 (Transnational corporations in international trade) should be deleted;

(e) The title of programme element 2.8 should be revised to read: "Analysis of the political and social impact of transnational corporations";

(f) The designation of lowest priority assigned to programme element 2.11 (Transnational corporations and industrialization: activities and impact of transnational corporations in selected manufacturing sectors) should be deleted;

(g) The designation of lowest priority assigned to programme element 3.7 (Collection, storage and retrieval of information) should be deleted.

640. With the above changes, the Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve the programme narrative of section 9 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987.

Section 10. Economic Commission for Europe

641. The Committee expressed regret at the failure by the Secretariat to implement subparagraph 3 (d) of Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/7 of 26 May 1983.

642. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve the programme narrative of section 10 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987.

643. The Committee could not, however, agree to the establishment of the new P-3 post proposed in paragraph 10.55.

Section 11. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

644. The Committee made the following recommendations with regard to section 11:

(a) Executive direction and management: The Committee recommended that ESCAP should exercise restraint on overprogramming so as to narrow the existing wide gap between programming and performance and thus maintain the discipline of the United Nations programme planning and budgeting process. Doubts were expressed about the justification for the need of the Secretary-General to increase the number of posts in the Professional category;

(b) Development issues and policies: The Committee recommended that programme element 3.1 (Monitoring and review of progress in implementing the Substantial Programme of Action in the region) of programme 3 should be accorded highest priority;

(c) Industrial development: The Committee recommended elimination of the designation of lowest priority for programme element 1.1 (Regional review of industrial progress with special reference to the growth target envisaged in the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action on Industrial Development and Co-operation) of programme 6. It also recommended that the number of studies proposed under output (i) (b) of programme element 2.2 (Programme on project development and implementation) should be reduced to one;

(d) International trade and development finance: The Committee recommended that programme element 4.1 (Export and import planning techniques and marketing) and programme element 4.4 (Assistance to the least developed countries in trade development) of programme 7 should be accorded highest priority;

(e) Transport I: Transport, communications and tourism: The Committee recommended close co-ordination between output (i) of programme element 1.3 (Statistics and information systems for transport) and output (i) (b) of programme element 2.10 (Development of regional technical standards for roads and road transport), and between output (i) (b) of programme element 3.5 (Development of regional and interregional co-operation through the Asia-Pacific Railway Co-operation Group) and output (ii) of programme element 1.3 of programme 13. It

also recommended that the words "and public" should be added after the word "private" in output (i) of programme element 1.4 (Development of social and demographic statistics), and that the words "and public sectors" should be added after the words "private sector" in output (ii) of programme element 1.4. It also recommended that the ESCAP secretariat should examine carefully the need for the activities proposed under programme element 1.5 (Promotion of research and the development capability in transport) in the light of the view that developing member States were not sufficiently interested in those activities. It further recommended that programme elements 6.1 and 6.3 should be combined;

(f) Transport II: Shipping, ports and inland waterways: The Committee recommended close co-ordination between outputs (ii) (b) and (c) of programme element 3.1 (Port planning and development policy) of programme 14.

645. With the above changes, the Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve the programme narrative of section 11 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987.

Section 12. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

646. The Committee recommended that programme element 2.2 (Industrial restructuring in Latin America) of programme 5 (Industrial development in Latin America and the Caribbean) should receive highest priority designation.

647. The Committee recommended that the following revisions should be made in programme 6 (International trade and development finance in Latin America and the Caribbean):

(a) Programme element 3.2 (The effect of certain macro-economic policies on the Latin American economies) should receive highest priority designation;

(b) Programme element 4.1 (Analysis of the regional integration and co-operation processes and support for these processes) should not be designated as being of highest priority;

(c) The title of programme element 4.6 should be changed to read: "Economic integration and co-operation in Central America".

648. With the above changes, the Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve the programme narrative of section 12 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987.

Section 13. Economic Commission for Africa

649. The Committee recommended that the following changes should be made in section 13:

(a) In all appropriate programme elements and outputs, the words "the Lagos Plan of Action" should be replaced by the words "General Assembly resolution 35/64 on the Lagos Plan of Action";

(b) Under programme 1 (Food and agriculture in Africa), the title of programme element 1.2 should be changed to read "Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 35/64 on the Lagos Plan of Action with respect to food and agriculture during the period 1986-1990";

(c) Under programme 13 (Social development in Africa), in output (ii) of programme element 3.1 (Participation of women in development), after the words "contributions of women to" the words "the formulation of" should be inserted.

650. With the above changes, the Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve the programme narrative of section 13 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987.

Section 14. Economic Commission for Western Asia

651. The Committee recommended that programme element 2.2 (Survey of research and statistical services related to building materials in the ECWA region) of the programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 should be reinstated as programme element 3.2 of programme 4 (Human settlements in Western Asia) in the proposed programme budget for 1986-1987.

652. The Committee recommended that the Joint Inspection Unit, in its ongoing examination of the regional commissions, should give high priority to its review of ECWA.

653. The Committee recommended that, where relevant, more detailed information should be provided in the future on the co-ordination of ECWA programme activities with those of other United Nations bodies.

654. The Committee recommended that future proposed programme budgets of ECWA should identify all outputs financed from extrabudgetary resources by at least 50 per cent.

655. With the above changes, the Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve the programme narrative of section 14 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987.

Section 15. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

656. Taking into account the views expressed by its members, the Committee requested that greater efforts should be made to improve the presentation of the proposed programme budget for UNCTAD.

657. In the light of the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination concerning the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations on the manufactures programme (E/AC.51/1985/10), the Committee expressed the view that UNCTAD should strengthen its efforts in co-ordinating its activities with those of other agencies involved in order to avoid unproductive duplication.

658. The Committee recommended that the first sentence in paragraph 15.4 should be deleted in light of the clarification by the representative of UNCTAD that programme activities had been adequately costed in accordance with prescribed procedures.

(a) Executive direction and management

659. The Committee welcomed the establishment of the Evaluation Unit and expressed the hope that there would be close collaboration between the Unit and the Office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination.

(b) Money, finance and development

660. The Committee recommended that in programme element 1.5 (International monetary issues) outputs (i) and (ii) should be combined.

(c) Manufactures and semi-manufactures

661. The Committee recommended that designation of highest priority be given to programme element 2.3 (Implementation and improvement of the generalized system of preferences and of special and differential treatment for developing countries).

662. The Committee was of the view that it was necessary to prevent the disproportionate growth in resources allocated to advisory services, as compared to other areas.

663. The Committee recommended that UNCTAD should strengthen co-ordination of its activities with those of other organizations, especially UNIDO, UNDP and ILO.

(d) Economic co-operation among developing countries

664. The Committee noted that UNCTAD had played a key role in the work of United Nations bodies on global and interregional aspects of economic co-operation among developing countries, in accordance with their respective mandates.

665. With the above changes, the Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve the programme narrative of section 15 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987.

Section 16. International Trade Centre

666. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve the programme narrative of section 16 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987.

Section 18. United Nations Environment Programme

667. The Committee recommended that programme element 2.2 (Health of the people and the environment) should not be designated as being of lowest priority.

668. With the above change, the Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve the programme narrative of section 18 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987.

Section 19. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

669. The Committee recommended that the sessions of the Commission on Human Settlements should take place at the established headquarters at Nairobi, in conformity with the existing standards and procedures and without prejudice to relevant General Assembly resolutions, in order to guarantee the Commission the best possible assistance from the Secretariat.

670. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve the programme narrative of section 19 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987.

Section 20. International Drug Control

671. In addition to the conclusions and recommendations made in the context of its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the drug control programme (see paras. 735-742), the Committee:

(a) Recommended that increased emphasis should be given to demand reduction, particularly its preventive aspects, so that activities in demand reduction would be more equal to those in supply reduction;

(b) Recommended that subprogramme 3 (Supply and demand reduction) should be strengthened, taking into account the provisions of resolution 2 (XXXI) of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs; 15/

(c) Agreed, in principle, that consideration should be given to the possibility of the three United Nations drug units sharing common services and facilities.

672. Taking into account the above, the Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve the programme narrative of section 20 of the proposed programme budget for 1986-1987.

Section 21. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Conclusion*

673. The Committee could not reach a consensus on the proposed reclassification of posts and transfer of posts from extrabudgetary resources to the regular budget.

* * *

* The Committee agreed that the placement of the conclusion in the report of the Committee would not represent a precedent for its future work.

674. The Committee noted with appreciation the progress made in preparing the budget of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in a programmatic format. It also noted the difficulties faced in assigning priorities to its programmes. The Committee called upon the High Commissioner, in co-operation with the Programme Planning and Budgeting Board, to review the matter and report to CPC in the context of the proposed programme budget for 1988-1989.

675. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve the programme narrative of section 21 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987.

Section 22. Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator

676. The Committee requested that UNDRO continue its efforts to avoid any possible duplication with the activities of other organizations of the United Nations system in connection with the mobilization and co-ordination of relief efforts to meet the immediate needs of the emergency situation in Africa.

677. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve the programme narrative of section 22 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987.

Section 23. Human rights

678. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve the programme narrative of section 23 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987.

Section 24. Regular programme of technical co-operation

679. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve the programme narrative of section 24 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987.

Section 26. Legal activities

680. The Committee recommended that, in the future, section 26 of the proposed programme budget should be prepared in accordance with the rules and regulations governing programme planning and the programme aspects of the budget.

681. The Committee agreed that programme elements 1.11 (Substantive servicing of meetings) and 1.13 (Maintenance of the UNCITRAL Law Library) of programme 5 (Progressive harmonization and unification of the law of international trade) should not be designated as being of highest priority.

682. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve the programme narrative of section 26 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987.

Section 27. Public information

683. With regard to paragraph 27.4, the Committee recommended that further action be taken bearing in mind paragraph 397 above. The Committee also recommended the continuation of the radio programmes on women authorized by the General Assembly in its resolution 31/136 of 16 December 1976 in connection with the United Nations Decade for Women, taking into account the decision to be taken by the General Assembly on the outcome of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women.

684. The Committee recommended that the Secretary-General should submit to it at its twenty-sixth session a detailed report describing the mandates, programme outputs and resources devoted to public information activities in the United Nations for the biennium 1984-1985, together with a comparison of public information activities for the biennium 1986-1987. The report should also contain a description of existing procedures for the co-ordination of those activities.

685. With regard to programme element 1.1 (Press releases), the Committee recommended that the Secretariat should endeavour to improve the quality of press releases.

686. With regard to programme element 1.2 (News dispatches), the Committee recommended that the output should be revised to read as follows:

"Output: Daily United Nations news dispatches (in English, French and Spanish) on activities and events at Headquarters transmitted electronically to the Pool of Non-Aligned News Agencies and, through the Pool, to the Pan African News Agency and other regional news agencies of the developing countries; daily dispatches to Geneva from the Pool of Non-Aligned News Agencies and regular dispatches on activities and events in Vienna dispatched to the Pool and to regional news agencies in developing countries."

687. With regard to output (i) of programme element 2.2 (Disarmament), the Committee recommended that the words "Arabic, English, French and Spanish" should be replaced by the words "in all six languages of the General Assembly".

688. With regard to output (i) of programme element 2.9 (New world information and communication order), the Committee recommended that the text should be revised to read as follows:

"Output: A 30-minute film (in the six official languages) about the needs of the developing countries in the field of information and communication, intended for the general public world wide (first quarter, 1987)".

689. With regard to output (v) of programme element 2.12 (Development: economic and social), the Committee recommended that the text should be revised to read as follows:

"(v) A pamphlet on United Nations activities related to drug abuse control, for production in the six official languages, for use by non-governmental organizations, the press, educational institutions, parliamentarians, governmental institutions of Member States and the general public (fourth quarter, 1986); the pamphlet will also be published in German".

690. With regard to programme element 2.15 (General information about the United Nations), the Committee recommended that in output (viii) the words "or Flemish" should be deleted and, in output (x), the word "Flemish" should be replaced by the word "Dutch".

691. Regarding the programme of the Caribbean Unit in the Radio Services Division of the Department of Public Information, the Committee recommended that the Secretary-General should take the necessary steps to carry out the work called for by the General Assembly in paragraph 9 of its resolution 38/82 B of 15 December 1983.

692. The Committee recommended that a footnote indicator should be added to the headings that appear above tables 27.23 and 27.25 (2. Information Service, Geneva and 3. Information Service, Vienna), and that the related footnote should read as follows: "Including the information office".

693. Regarding publications in general, the Committee expressed the view that the Department of Public Information should have taken into account paragraph 9.18 of the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989, 6/ in which it was stated that, whenever a study was published containing detailed background information on a priority topic, the Department would produce a simplified version.

694. The Committee noted the assurances of the Under-Secretary-General, Department of Public Information, that a correction would be issued with regard to the wording used in output (iii) of programme element 2.9 (New world information and communication order).

695. With the above changes, the Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve the programme narrative of section 27 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987.

**B. Experience gained in the provision of statements
of programme budget implications to the General
Assembly at its thirty-ninth session**

696. The Committee decided, without prejudice to the positions of Member States, to recommend the continuation of the period provided for in paragraph 12 of section II of General Assembly resolution 38/227 A of 20 December 1983 for one more year in view of the short period in which the provisions of that resolution had been applied.

697. The Committee also recommended that the General Assembly should request the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its forty-first session, through the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its twenty-sixth session, a report on the further experience gained in the implementation of paragraph 7 of section II of General Assembly resolution 38/227 A, bearing in mind the related decisions.

698. The Committee further recommended that the above-mentioned report be submitted to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination in sufficient time to permit the Committee to consider it at an early stage during its twenty-sixth session.

C. Food and agricultural activities in Asia and the Pacific:
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

699. The Committee took note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on food and agricultural activities in Asia and the Pacific: co-operation and co-ordination between FAO and ESCAP (E/AC.51/1985/4) and expressed its satisfaction with the progress made during the past two years in furthering co-operation between the two organizations.

700. While it was not necessary to request an additional report on this aspect of their work, the Committee encouraged FAO and ESCAP to continue their efforts to further improve co-ordination of their activities of joint concern and to report to the Committee if they encountered any difficulties.

D. Aspects of co-ordination and rationalization of the
activities of the United Nations Industrial
Development Organization

701. The Committee expressed its regret at the delay in the submission of a substantive report in response to section VI, paragraph 2, of Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/49 of 28 July 1983. The Committee agreed that the report, by transmitting the views of the secretariats of UNIDO and UNCTAD, had failed to express the judgement of the Office for Programme Planning and Co-ordination on several matters relating to the rationalization of the work programme of UNIDO and the co-ordination of the activities of UNIDO, both internally and with other units of the United Nations.

702. The Committee recommended that the activities of UNIDO relating to external relations should be rationalized with a view to releasing resources for other activities having higher priority and that the activities of UNIDO and UNCTAD relating to the transfer of technology should be more thoroughly co-ordinated.

703. The Committee also recommended that a cross-organizational programme analysis of all activities in the United Nations system relating to industrial development should be carried out at an appropriate time.

E. Further implementation of General Assembly resolution 37/214

704. The Committee took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 37/214 (E/AC.51/1985/13).

705. The Committee recognized that the Secretary-General should keep the issue of decentralization under review and report to the Committee as required on the better distribution of responsibilities between global and regional entities.

F. Recurrent publications of the United Nations

706. The Committee deferred the consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on recurrent publications of the United Nations (E/AC.51/1985/14) to its twenty-sixth session (see para. 430 above).

G. Future areas for cross-organizational programme analysis

707. The Committee agreed that cross-organizational programme analyses were an important instrument for the Committee to fulfil its co-ordination function and to promote improved efficiency in the United Nations system as a whole. The analyses should, therefore, be responsive to the needs of Governments and of the organizations of the United Nations system.

708. The Committee also agreed that the role of cross-organizational programme analyses should be strengthened, particularly regarding follow-up to and implementation of the recommendations of the Committee. To that end, the Committee decided that future analyses should meet the following conditions: the subject should be well-chosen and its scope clearly defined; the analysis of the subject should be carefully documented; the activities of the United Nations system in that area should be critically assessed; and the reports should contain a set of clear and objective conclusions to guide the Committee's work.

709. The Committee considered that the main objective of the analyses was to facilitate the programme planning process within the United Nations system from the viewpoint of co-ordination and co-operation. For that purpose, and not for the purpose of restricting the system's activities, the analyses should identify duplication, overlaps and gaps in activities.

710. The Committee agreed that the programme areas to be analysed should be of high priority to Member States and should be areas where there was possibly a need for improved co-operation and co-ordination between different parts of the system.

711. The Committee recommended that the methodology used in preparing cross-organizational programme analyses should not only be precise but should also be flexible enough to accommodate the particular circumstances of each subject chosen. Depending on the subject and the outcome expected from the analysis, the final report could, for example, be more or less comprehensive in scope and more or less detailed in description and analysis.

712. The Committee recommended that future reports on cross-organizational programme analyses should be short and concrete and should clearly outline the conclusions of the Secretary-General. Those conclusions should be designed so as to assist the Committee effectively in formulating meaningful conclusions and recommendations, which were the raison d'être of the process of cross-organizational programme analysis. Steps should be taken to ensure that the Committee's conclusions and recommendations were effectively followed up, and the Committee should be informed regularly of the practical results.

713. The Committee requested that a report on the results of past cross-organizational programme analyses should be submitted to it at its twenty-sixth session.

714. The Committee decided to consider a cross-organizational programme analysis of the activities of the United Nations system in the area of science and technology for development at its twenty-seventh session, in 1987. The Committee also decided to consider the scope and general approach of the cross-organizational programme analysis on the basis of a report by the Secretary-General to its twenty-sixth session, in 1986. The Committee further decided to consider a cross-organizational programme analysis of the activities of the United Nations system in the area of environment at its twenty-eighth session, in 1988.

715. The Committee decided that in future, in order to assist it in the selection of topics for cross-organizational programme analysis, the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, should propose more than one topic.

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

716. The Committee took note of the information contained in the note by the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the cross-organizational programme analysis of the activities of the United Nations system in marine affairs (E/AC.51/1985/3 and Add.1) and recommended that IMO and UNCTAD should continue to strengthen co-ordination and co-operation in order to avoid overlapping and duplication of work.

I. Scope and general approach of the cross-organizational programme analysis of economic and social research and policy analysis

717. While reiterating its concern about the manageability of the cross-organizational programme analysis of economic and social research and policy analysis (see E/AC.51/1985/6) and calling for caution in its preparation and use, the Committee considered that the analysis on that subject was particularly important and accepted the proposed approach as a workable basis for its preparation.

718. Although the methodology proposed was acceptable, it should be applied with flexibility and pragmatism, taking full account of the suggestions made by the Committee. The proposed scope and stages of the analysis also were acceptable but required flexibility.

719. The analysis should include an examination of the research activities of the United Nations system in relation to legislative mandates but should not be confused with an evaluation or make suggestions on the future orientation of research activities.

720. The analysis should put more emphasis on the existing arrangements for co-operation and co-ordination and on areas for improvement in that respect than on apparent duplications in research activities and research products.

721. The analysis should be prepared and presented in a manner as to enable the Committee to draw specific conclusions and recommendations on co-ordination and co-operation regarding the economic and social research activities of the United Nations system.

722. In preparing the analysis, full account should be taken of the conclusions and recommendations reached by the Committee following its general discussion on future cross-organizational programme analyses (see paras. 707-715 above).

J. Cross-organizational programme analysis of the activities of the United Nations system in the area of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries

723. The Committee agreed that the report of the Secretary-General on the cross-organizational programme analysis of the activities of the United Nations system in the area of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries (E/1985/53) represented a serious effort by the Secretariat to provide it with a wider basis for consideration of the subject. The report treated the broad subject-matter comprehensively and contained much useful information.

724. The methodology used in preparing the report was broadly in line with the relevant conclusions and recommendations adopted by the Committee at its twenty-fourth session.

725. The Committee concluded, however, that the report was too descriptive and lacked a sufficiently critical and analytical assessment of the role of the United Nations system and the relationship between its activities and mandates. The report also lacked a clear statement of the insights and views of the Secretariat on important aspects of the subject.

726. The Committee also concluded that the report was too optimistic in its conclusions concerning the co-ordination of the work of the United Nations system in the area of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries. The information contained in the report did not justify a positive conclusion concerning the effectiveness of existing co-ordination arrangements and the actual capacity of the system to avoid both gaps in the coverage of its activities and unproductive overlaps.

727. The Committee further concluded that the report too frequently recorded uncritically the views on their work of units of the United Nations Secretariat that were active in ECDC and TCDC.

728. On the basis of the presentation in the report, it was not always easy for the Committee to formulate its own conclusions and recommendations on such important matters as the degree of consistency between the system's mandates and its activities, whether or not there were problems of co-ordination, and whether or not there were gaps and unproductive overlaps in the system's activities.

729. Although the responsibility for the development of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries lay primarily with the developing countries themselves, the United Nations system had an important role to play in catalysing and promoting such co-operation. In this context, the Committee recommended that the system should give greater attention in its work programmes to the implementation of existing mandates for the promotion of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries.

730. The Committee recognized the importance of the distinction between ECDC and TCDC in promoting the achievement of the overall objectives of co-operation among developing countries. Of great importance also was the identification of linkages between ECDC and TCDC.

731. The Committee recommended that active steps should be taken to implement recommendation 33 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action on internal secretariat arrangements in the organizations of the United Nations system in this area.

732. The Committee recommended that the medium-term plans of the organizations of the United Nations system or the equivalent documents for those without medium-term plans should reflect a commitment to carrying out their mandates concerning economic and technical co-operation among developing countries.

733. In view of the importance of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries, the Committee decided to consider the question again at a future session, to be determined, on the basis of a report on follow-up to the Committee's conclusions and recommendations, taking into account subsequent developments. That report should be more concise and should contain a critical and analytical assessment of the role of the United Nations system in the area and the relationship between the system's activities and mandates, including a clear statement of the views and insights of the Secretariat.

734. The Committee concluded that every effort should be made to ensure that information was collected on the activities of the United Nations system in economic and technical co-operation among developing countries with the maximum degree of consistency and economy. In that context, the Committee recommended that the Secretary-General should be requested to consult with the executive heads of the organizations of the United Nations system involved in order to further this aim.

K. In-depth evaluation of the drug control programme

735. The Committee took note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General (E/AC.51/1985/8 and Corr.1 and Add.1) and of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (see A/39/646) and the comments of the Secretary-General thereon (A/40/260 and Corr.1, annex I). It assessed the reports as a useful contribution to the role of the United Nations in international drug control and to the Committee's consideration of section 20 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987.

736. The Committee expressed the view that the in-depth evaluation report, undertaken on the basis of the broad guidelines established, had proved the importance of that kind of exercise in improving co-ordination and co-operation within the United Nations system and, through this particular evaluation, in the field of international drug control.

737. The Committee once more underlined the importance of the problem under consideration and, consequently, of the three United Nations drug control units. The Committee noted that, although their activities had been further improved, much remained to be done. The Committee considered that the alarming global dimension of the drug abuse problem and the need for optimum utilization of the limited resources available to curb that problem required effective co-ordination of all the efforts being made, not only in the organizations of the United Nations system but also among Member States and at the regional and national levels. The Committee therefore welcomed the assignment by the Secretary-General to the Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs of the responsibility for overall co-ordination of all United Nations drug control-related

considered, should lead to greater co-operation and further improvement in those activities. The Committee recommended that the Under-Secretary-General should undertake further corrective measures, as outlined in paragraphs 108 and 115 of the report of the Secretary-General.

738. The Committee took note of recommendations 1 and 3 contained in the report of the Secretary-General and recommended that they should be transmitted to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, through the Economic and Social Council, for consideration.

739. The Committee recommended also that the role, function and programme of work of the United Nations Narcotics Laboratory should be carefully reviewed in order to permit an examination to be made to determine whether certain of its functions should be decentralized to national or regional laboratories.

740. The Committee agreed that, although the work of the Division of Narcotic Drugs had improved in recent years, the Division was still weak in certain areas; the Committee recommended that the Division should be strengthened with additional technical capacity in order to deal more effectively with particular areas of concern, such as drug demand reduction, and that the Division should pay special attention to the countries in which the capacity for national intervention and control was limited or non-existent.

741. The Committee agreed that the format of the multilingual dictionary should be improved (for example, using a loose-leaf format) in order to maximize the usefulness of the dictionary.

742. The Committee recommended that recommendations 9 and 10 contained in the report of the Secretary-General should be endorsed and that the Secretary-General should implement recommendations 1 and 3 of the Joint Inspection Unit. In pursuance of recommendation 2, the Committee recommended that the General Assembly should again request the specialized agencies that had not already done so to develop specific drug control programmes and activities to be undertaken by member Governments. Recommendations 4 and 5 were, however, not acceptable to the Committee (see para. 485 above).

L. Triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the programme on transnational corporations

743. The Committee commended the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by it at its nineteenth session on the transnational corporations programme (E/AC.51/1985/5) and noted with satisfaction that it had been prepared with the full co-operation of the Centre on Transnational Corporations and the joint units.

744. The Committee reiterated its position, expressed during the consideration of the triennial review on manufactures, that there should be no hierarchy of mandates and that its recommendations, as approved by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, should be given equal weight with those of other intergovernmental bodies. It also reaffirmed its views that future triennial reviews should provide a more independent assessment of the implementation of recommendations and be less dependent on the views of the organizational bodies whose activities were being reviewed.

745. The Committee took note of the conclusion in the report that the Centre had taken steps to implement all of the recommendations of the Committee that had been addressed to it in the areas of programme formulation and the review process, policy analysis (research), the comprehensive information system, the code of conduct for transnational corporations and advisory services. Despite this, however, it was noted that in a number of instances certain recommendations needed to be implemented more fully.

746. The Committee endorsed the recommendation in paragraph 77 of the report of the Secretary-General that the Centre should intensify its efforts to utilize the useful experience gained in advisory and training projects as input into the decisions taken on the design and orientation of the other projects carried out by the Centre.

747. The Committee also endorsed the recommendation in paragraph 78 of the report of the Secretary-General that the Centre should improve the feedback system for assessing the impact of its advisory services.

748. The Committee, however, was not in a position to reach consensus on the other recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General. The Committee regretted the atmosphere that had pervaded its consideration of the issues relating to transnational corporations. It further regretted that its conclusions and recommendations on the recommendations in the report on the triennial review did not do justice to that review.

M. Triennial review of the implementation of recommendations
made by the Committee on the mineral resources programme

749. The Committee decided to defer the consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its twenty-second session on the mineral resources programme (E/AC.51/1985/9) to its twenty-sixth session (see para. 511 above).

N. Triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations
made by the Committee on the manufactures programme

750. The Committee, bearing in mind that the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations on the manufactures programme is the first triennial review, assessed the report of the Secretary-General (E/AC.51/1985/10) as an informative one. Although a number of reservations and criticisms were expressed in connection with the responses of the Secretariat units being analysed, the Committee considered that the report was useful as a basis for informing the Committee on the status of implementation of recommendations on the manufactures programme, and there was a useful exchange of views.

751. The Committee agreed that the new methodology made it possible to assess the extent of implementation of its decisions. As regards the content of the report, however, the Committee expressed the view that there should be less dependence on the reports of the organizational units concerned and more emphasis on an independent assessment of the implementation of the Committee's recommendations.

752. The Committee recommended that both UNCTAD and UNIDO should develop, in collaboration with their existing evaluation units, standardized procedures for the collection and analysis of the opinions of end-users in order to provide basic data for assessing the quality, usefulness and effectiveness of research reports and publications, seminars, meetings, including consultations and similar activities. These should be developed as an integral part of the self-evaluation system in accordance with paragraphs 114 and 117 of the report of the Secretary-General.

753. The Committee noted that in spite of concerted attempts on the part of the UNIDO and UNCTAD secretariats to avoid duplication and overlap there was a need to take special care to avoid any possibility of duplication. In this connection, the Committee pointed out the role of the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation in ensuring better co-ordination and avoiding duplication.

754. With regard to strengthening the Committee's work by taking evaluation findings into account in planning and programming documents, the Committee deplored the tendency revealed by the review that priority was given to the implementation of substantive recommendations in preference to recommendations of a programming, planning or co-ordination nature. The Committee stressed the importance of all its recommendations, whether of a programme planning or substantive nature, and reaffirmed the view that the Committee's recommendations, as approved by the Economic and Social Council or the General Assembly, should have parity with those of governing bodies or functional and technical bodies and were therefore entitled to equal treatment.

755. The Committee endorsed the recommendations contained in paragraph 120 and subparagraphs 122 (a) and 122 (b) of the report of the Secretary-General, which it thought would strengthen its role. However, as reservations were expressed about the recommendations in subparagraphs (c) and (d) of paragraph 122, the Committee did not endorse them.

O. Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on reporting to the
Economic and Social Council

756. The Committee took note of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on reporting to the Economic and Social Council (A/39/281-E/1984/81 and Corr.1 and Add.1) and the comments and further comments of the Secretary-General thereon (A/39/281-E/1984/81/Add.2 and Add.2/Corr.1 and A/40/284-E/1985/71).

757. The Committee considered that the Secretary-General should continue his efforts to bring about improvements as suggested in his further comments on the report and should keep the Economic and Social Council informed.

758. The Committee recommended that the Secretary-General submit to the Committee at its twenty-sixth session a report describing the existing expert bodies within the United Nations system, composed of members serving in their personal capacity and established by the General Assembly outside the structure of the Secretariat, to provide independent expert evaluation and advice to the Secretary-General and/or intergovernmental bodies in order to assist them in carrying out their functions.

P. Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit on publications policy and practice in the United Nations system, field offices of the United Nations Development Programme and the evaluation system of the United Nations Development Programme

759. The Committee decided to defer the consideration of the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit on publications policy and practice in the United Nations system (see A/39/239), field offices of the United Nations Development Programme (see DP/1983/67) and the evaluation system of the United Nations Development Programme (see DP/1983/68), as well as the comments of the Secretary-General thereon (A/39/239/Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, DP/1984/7 and DP/1984/9, respectively) to its twenty-sixth session (see para. 561 above).

Q. Reports of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination

760. The Committee decided to transmit the annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination for 1984/85 (E/1985/57) directly to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1985 without discussion (see para. 563 above).

R. Co-ordination of information systems in the United Nations system: register of development activities

761. The Committee decided to transmit the report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on the register of development activities (E/AC.51/1985/7) to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1985 without discussion (see para. 566 above).

S. Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination

762. The Committee expressed its firm belief that the work of future joint meetings of CPC and ACC should be substantially improved so as to enable those meetings to act as a useful basis for the provision of guidance for the activities of the United Nations system, and it requested the Secretary-General to undertake all possible measures to that end.

763. The Committee approved the provisional agenda for the twentieth series of Joint Meetings, as follows:

Provisional agenda for the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Effectiveness and co-ordination of United Nations organs and specialized agencies in relief efforts in Africa.
3. Economic and technical co-operation among developing countries.

It was agreed that two meetings would be devoted to the consideration of item 2 and one meeting devoted to the consideration of item 3.

T. Provisional agenda for the twenty-sixth session of the Committee

764. In pursuance of 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 herewith to the Council and the Assembly for their review the provisional agenda for its twenty-sixth session, together with the requested documentation:

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

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Improvement of the work of the Committee under its mandate with, inter alia, a view to its consideration of future programme budgets and medium-term plans.

Documentation

Working paper prepared by the Secretary-General

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

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989

Report of the Secretary-General on the results of the in-house consultations regarding the establishment, updating, access to, use and integrity of the mailing lists and registers maintained by the United Nations (see para. 592 above)

Report of the Secretary-General on the mandates, programme outputs and resources devoted to public information activities in the United Nations for the biennium 1984-1985, together with a comparison of public information activities for the biennium 1986-1987 (see para. 694 above)

Report of the Secretary-General on the further experience gained in the implementation of paragraph 7 of section II of General Assembly resolution 38/227 A (see paras. 707 and 708 above)

5. Programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1984-1985.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1984-1985

6. Cross-organizational programme analyses.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the cross-organizational programme analysis in the area of human settlements

Report of the Secretary-General on the cross-organizational programme analysis in the area of economic and social research and policy analysis

Report of the Secretary-General on the results of past cross-organizational programme analyses (see para. 723 above)

Report of the Secretary-General on the scope and general approach to the cross-organizational programme analysis in the area of science and technology for development

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

Documentation

Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination for 1985-1986

8. Evaluation.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the population programme

Report of the Secretary-General on the triennial evaluation review of the recommendations made by the Committee at its twenty-third session on the work of the Department of Public Information

Report of the Secretary-General on the triennial review of the recommendations of the Committee at its twenty-second session on the mineral resources programme (E/AC.51/1985/9)

9. Matter deferred from the twenty-fifth session of the Committee.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on recurrent publications prepared in the light of the criteria set forth in General Assembly resolution 38/32 E (E/AC.51/1985/14)

10. Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on reporting to the Economic and Social Council: existing expert bodies within the United Nations (see para. 768 above)

Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on publications policy and practice (A/39/239 and Add.1, Add.1/Corr.1 and Add.2)

Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on field offices of UNDP (DP/1983/67 and DP/1984/7)

Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the evaluation system of UNDP (DP/1983/68 and DP/1984/9)

11. Consideration of the provisional agenda for the twenty-seventh session of the Committee.
12. Adoption of the report of the Committee.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/39/38), para. 299.

2/ See the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 (Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/39/6 and Corr.1)).

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/38/38), part two, para. 59.

4/ Ibid., para. 88.

5/ See the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on relationships between the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation and entities of the United Nations Secretariat (A/36/419, annex), recommendation 20.

6/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/37/6 and Corr.1).

7/ Ibid., Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/38/38), part two, para. 180 (e).

8/ Ibid., para. 180 (g).

9/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1985, Supplement No. 8 (E/1985/28).

10/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/38/38), part two, para. 248.

11/ Ibid., Thirty-seventh Session, para. 311 (a).

12/ Ibid., Supplement No. 6 (A/37/6 and Corr.1), para. 16.14.

13/ Ibid., para. 20.54 (ii).

14/ Ibid., Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/38/38), part two, para. 287 (e).

15/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1985, Supplement No. 3 (E/1985/23), chap. IX, sect. A.

16/ Ibid., chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution VII.

17/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/38/6 and Corr.1), vol. III, para. 23.15.

18/ Ibid., Supplement No. 38 (A/38/38), part one, para. 124 (d).

19/ 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 and corrigendum), chap. I.

20/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/39/38), chap. X, sect. H.

21/ Ibid., Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/38/38), part one, paras. 195 and 196.

22/ Ibid., Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/37/38), para. 362.

23/ Ibid., Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/39/38), para. 388.

ANNEX I

Agenda for the twenty-fifth session of the Committee

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987.
4. Cross-organizational programme analyses.
5. Evaluation.
6. Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit.
7. Reports of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination.
8. Consideration of the provisional agenda for the twenty-sixth session of the Committee.
9. Adoption of the report of the Committee.

ANNEX II

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

A/39/239 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and Add.2	Publications policy and practice in the United Nations system: note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit, and the comments of the Secretary-General thereon
A/39/281-E/1984/81 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2 and Add.2/Corr.1	Reporting to the Economic and Social Council: note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Inspection Unit, and the comments of the Secretary-General thereon
A/39/646	Drug abuse control activities in the United Nations system: note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit
Future A/40/6	Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987 Introduction Foreword Overview tables and annexes to the introduction Section 1 (Overall policy-making, direction and co-ordination) Section 2A (Political and Security Council affairs; peace-keeping activities) Section 2B (Disarmament affairs activities) Section 3 (Political affairs, trusteeship and decolonization) Section 4 (Policy-making organs (economic and social activities)) Section 5A (Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation) Section 5B (Centre for Science and Technology for Development) Section 5C (Regional Commissions Liaison Office) Section 6 (Department of International Economic and Social Affairs) and Corr.1 Section 7 (Department of Technical Co-operation for Development) (and A/C.5/40/2) Section 8 (Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters) Section 9 (Transnational corporations) Section 10 (Economic Commission for Europe) Section 11 (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) Section 12 (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean) Section 13 (Economic Commission for Africa) Section 14 (Economic Commission for Western Asia)

Section 15 (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development)
 Section 16 (International Trade Centre)
 Section 17 (United Nations Industrial Development Organization) (and A/C.5/40/1)
 Section 18 (United Nations Environment Programme)
 Section 19 (United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat))
 Section 20 (International drug control)
 Section 21 (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)
 and Corr.1
 Section 22 (Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator)
 Section 23 (Human rights)
 Section 24 (Regular programme of technical co-operation)
 Section 25 (International Court of Justice)
 Section 26 (Legal activities)
 Section 27 (Public information)
 Section 28 (Administration and management (summary))
 Section 28A (Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management)
 Section 28B (Office of Financial Services)
 Section 28C (Personnel management services)
 Section 28D (Office of General Services, Headquarters)
 Section 28E (Administrative Management Service)
 Section 28F (Internal audit services)
 Section 28G (Electronic Data Processing and Information Systems Division)
 Section 28H (Division of Administration, Geneva)
 Section 28I (General Services, Geneva)
 Section 28J (Staff training activities (Headquarters, Geneva and the regional commissions))
 Section 28K (Miscellaneous expenses)
 Section 28L (Jointly financed administrative activities)
 Section 28M (Administrative Services, Vienna)
 Section 28N (Common Services, Nairobi)
 Section 29 (Conference and library services)
 Section 30 (United Nations bond issue)
 Section 31 (Staff assessment)
 Section 32 (Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance of premises)
 Section 33 (Grant to the United Nations Institute for Training and Research)
 Estimates of income:
 Section 1. Income from staff assessment
 Section 2. General income
 Section 3. Revenue-producing activities

A/40/260 and Corr.1

Drug abuse control activities in the United Nations system: note by the Secretary-General

- A/40/262 Experience gained in the provision of statements of the programme budget implications to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session: report of the Secretary-General
- A/40/284-E/1985/71 Reporting to the Economic and Social Council: Further comments of the Secretary-General
- A/C.5/40/1 Revised estimates under section 17, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, section 31, Staff assessment, and income section 1, Income from staff assessment: report of the Secretary-General
- A/C.5/40/2 Revised estimates under section 7, Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, section 31, Staff assessment, and income section 1, Income from staff assessment: report of the Secretary-General
- DP/1983/67 Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on field offices of the United Nations Development Programme: note by the Administrator
- DP/1983/68 Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the evaluation system of the United Nations Development Programme: note by the Administrator
- DP/1984/7 Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on field offices of the United Nations Development Programme: comments of the Secretary-General
- DP/1984/9 Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the evaluation system of the United Nations Development Programme: comments of the Secretary-General
- E/1985/53 Cross-organizational programme analysis of the activities of the United Nations system in the area of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries: report of the Secretary-General
- E/1985/57 Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination for 1984/85
- E/AC.51/1985/1 Provisional agenda
- E/AC.51/1985/2 Areas for future cross-organizational programme analyses: report of the Secretary-General
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E/AC.51/1985/11	Aspects of co-ordination and rationalization of the activities of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization: report of the Secretary-General
E/AC.51/1985/12	Agenda for the twenty-fifth session of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination: note by the Secretariat
E/AC.51/1985/13	Implementation of General Assembly resolution 37/214: report of the Secretary-General
E/AC.51/1985/14	Recurrent publications of the United Nations: report of the Secretary-General
E/AC.51/1985/CRP.1	Prior consultations on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987: note by the Secretariat
E/AC.51/1985/CRP.2	Section 24. Regular programme of technical co-operation; Advisory services provided under the regular programme of technical co-operation in 1984: note by the Secretariat

E/AC.51/1985/CRP.3	Section 11. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific: note by the Secretary-General
E/AC.51/1985/CRP.4	Joint meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination: note by the Secretariat
E/AC.51/1985/INF.1	List of delegations
E/AC.51/1985/L.1	Report on the state of preparedness of documentation for the session: note by the Secretariat
E/AC.51/1985/L.2/Rev.1	Programme of work: note by the Secretariat
E/AC.51/1985/L.3 and Add.1-59	Draft report
E/AC.51/1985/L.4	Draft provisional agenda for the twenty-sixth session of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination: note by the Secretariat

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