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BUDGETARY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
Thirty-fourth session
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Item 10 of the agenda of the
Budgetary and Finance Committee

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE BUDGETARY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE TO
THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

Draft report of the Budgetary and Finance Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Hans OLSSON (Sweden)

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE BUDGETARY AND
FINANCE COMMITTEE

Addendum

Attached are amendments to:

DP/1987/BFC/L.2/Add.11 and Corr.1
DP/1987/BFC/L.2/Add.15
DP/1987/BFC/L.2/Add.16

DP/1987/BFC/L.2/Add.11

1. In paragraph 8, line 5, after UNDP insert headquarters
2. Also in paragraph 8, line 12, delete did not agree with this recommendation and insert would not agree with this approach and he
3. In paragraph 11, line 2, for Revolving Fund read United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration
4. In paragraph 14, line 2, for discuss the Group of 18 recommendations read discuss the recommendations of the Group of 18

5. Also in paragraph 14, line 7, for volunteer read voluntary
6. In paragraph 15, the last sentence, for be better handled read better be handled initially
7. In paragraph 16, the second sentence, delete Most before delegates.
8. Also in paragraph 16, line 4, delete document; nevertheless, they insert process. While some
9. Also in paragraph 16, line 6, after transparency insert others emphasized the importance of a full, readily understandable text to the work of the Committee.
10. In paragraph 19, line 3, after space insert One delegation stated that it supported the recommendation of the ACABQ because the practice of amortization was not, in its view, compatible with the UNDP accounting system, but that such a practice did have certain advantages and could be considered within the framework of a review of the accounting system.
11. In paragraph 19, sixth line, after EDP expenditure insert and office automation
12. In paragraph 20, line 2, after budget insert On the other hand, some delegates questioned whether it was really a zero-growth budget, considering that volume increases were included in it.
13. Also in paragraph 20, line 2, for However, they read Some delegations
14. Also in paragraph 20, line 3, after situation delete and, insert especially in the field and wondered about the administration's strategy for delivering a growing programme with less rapidly growing administrative resources. Some delegations questioned
15. Also in paragraph 20, line 6, for One delegate read Some delegates
16. Also in paragraph 20, line 13, for One delegate read Some delegates
17. Also in paragraph 20, line 13, for 55 posts at the NO level read 55 national officer posts
18. Also in paragraph 20, line 14, after whether delete this would be a remedy to the problem of under-staffing at the field level insert incumbents would be promoted or new staff recruited, and if so, what was UNDP policy with respect to this recruitment.
19. In paragraph 21, line 1, delete On the other hand, some delegates questioned whether it was really a zero-growth budget, considering the volume increases were included in it.
20. In paragraph 22, line 1, delete Some insert Many

21. Also in paragraph 22, line 13, delete Did the requirement for proficiency in at least two United Nations languages inhibit recruitment for some regions?
22. Also in paragraph 22, after the last sentence add At the same time, some delegations made a proposal on a more flexible set of rules for recruitment of personnel, which would provide for the knowledge of one working language and for the recruitment of outside candidates to work in the organization at posts at all levels.
23. In paragraph 23, line 1, delete Most
24. In paragraph 25, delete first sentence insert Many delegations welcomed the proposal to establish a post for a second Deputy Director in the Regional Bureau for Africa while others questioned the need for it.
25. In paragraph 26, line 2, for proposal read decision
26. In paragraph 28, first line, delete expressed concern at insert questioned
27. Also in paragraph 28, line 5, after Geneva delete but it resulted in there being less knowledgeable staff members at hand to answer delegations' more detailed questions insert but it sometimes resulted in the appropriate staff members not being at hand to respond to questions of delegations.
28. Also in paragraph 28, after the last sentence, add Another delegation indicated that the question of the venue of the Council's meeting should be considered in a comprehensive fashion and in connection with the regular budgets of the United Nations and specialized agencies.
29. In paragraph 31, line 4, for excellent read important
30. In paragraph 32, line 10, after report insert of the Administrator on the follow-up of the recommendations in the study
31. In paragraph 36, line 2, underline zero-growth
32. In paragraph 48, line 1, delete Finally,
33. Paragraph 49 should be renumbered paragraph 50 and subsequent paragraphs renumbered accordingly.
34. New paragraph 49 should read Finally, as regards UNDP recruitment to professional and higher level posts, including employment of women, the Associate Administrator assured the Committee that it is UNDP policy to recruit personnel on a wide geographical basis, with special attention to developing countries. He furthermore stated that all recruitment within UNDP takes into account the necessity of securing highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity.
35. In paragraph 52, line 6, for PCP read Division for Policy Co-ordination and Procedures

36. In paragraph 56, line 4, for staff members residing read field offices

37. In paragraph 60, line 4, for he read she

38. After renumbered paragraph 63, insert new paragraph 64:

64. As to the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO), the Associate Administrator responded that the staffing of that office would be reviewed both at headquarters and in its regional office.

39. The renumbered paragraph 64 should be renumbered paragraph 65.

DP/1987/BFC/L.2/Add.11/Corr.1

40. Before paragraph 5 insert subheading Response of the Administrator

41. Before paragraph 6 insert Further discussion of the Committee

42. In paragraph 7, line 2, for temporarily strengthened by one Professional read strengthened by one temporary Professional

43. Also in paragraph 7, line 3 after one insert temporary

44. In paragraph 8, line 1, before a number insert In the discussion of various budget items,

45. Also in paragraph 8, line 1, for also expressed concern read expressed general concern

46. After paragraph 8 add the following:

9. As regards the issue of comparative costs associated with holding the sessions of the Governing Council at headquarters or in Geneva, several delegations questioned whether the information provided to the Committee was sufficient to conclude that there would be any savings for the United Nations regular budget by holding Council sessions in Geneva. However, these delegations noted that savings would be made by UNDP by holding its annual Council session at headquarters. Several other delegations welcomed the information provided, which showed clearly the global savings in the United Nations system due to the 1986 meeting held in Geneva. They also recalled that the Committee was not in a position to deal with the substance of this question, and that only the plenary was competent to decide this issue.

Response of the Administration

10. In response to the queries of delegations, the Associate Administrator stated that the figures in respect of the costs of conference services to the United Nations had been provided by the United Nations Budget Division and therefore any detailed questions would have to be addressed to the staff of that division. He also indicated that he could not speak for the direct costs of UNFPA and DTCD but that he would be prepared to provide the information to interested delegations. His response would therefore be confined to the direct costs of UNDP itself.

11. He indicated that the number of UNDP participants varied slightly depending on the agenda of the Council in a given year. However, every effort was made to limit the duration of participation, as well as to combine staff participation with other duty travel and thus reduce the costs. Overtime was paid in New York but not in Geneva since General Service staff on Daily Subsistence Allowance were not entitled to overtime, although the hours worked were comparable. Apart from the cost of staff travel, the major additional cost of working in Geneva therefore was for telephone calls in order to enable UNDP managers to maintain contact with their offices in New York and to obtain detailed information in response to queries of delegations.

Further discussion in the Committee

12. One delegation raised a problem experienced in referring to relevant previous Governing Council decisions and reports in consideration of issues before the Council. The delegation referred to a previous paper (DP/481) put to the Governing Council in 1980 and to decision 80/33 of 27 June 1980 authorizing the Administrator to prepare a subject index of all UNDP decisions, and enquired whether a subject index had been prepared, and if not, whether the Secretariat could either undertake such a subject indexing before the thirty-fifth session or report or present an updated version of document DP/481 to that session.

Response of the Administration

13. In response to the question on subject indexing, the Deputy Assistant Administrator stated that as a result of decision 80/33, all decisions taken by UNDP and predecessor Organizations have been numbered and catalogued in calendar order. No further work had taken place on this project since 1980. He stated that the administration saw value in compiling a decision subject index not only for delegates but for the Secretariat as well. He felt that the project could be accomplished on a personal computer and offered a rough estimate of \$50,000 to \$100,000 to accomplish the task.

Further discussion in the Committee

14. One delegation believed the projected level of UNIFEM operational activities for 1988-1989 did not appear to be, in its view, sufficient to justify the request for additional permanent staff at this time. Further, it believed it was premature for the Administrator to request additional staff prior to the completion of the review of the Fund's operations requested by the Council.

DP/1987/BFC/L.2/Add.15

47. In paragraph 3, line 4, delete equitable

48. Paragraph 4 should be renumbered paragraph 5 and subsequent paragraphs renumbered accordingly.

49. New paragraph 4 should read Endorses the endeavours of UNDP to secure a world-wide representation in its staff and urges that continued efforts be given to this aspect of the recruitment process.

50. After the renumbered paragraph 13, add the following:

14. Requests the Administrator to prepare a subject index of all Governing Council decisions, financed by savings from the administrative budget line, for distribution prior to the thirty-fifth session (1988).

15. Further requests the Administrator to report on progress on the subject index at the special session of the Governing Council in February 1988.

DP/1987/BFC/L.2/Add.16

51. In paragraph 1, line 3, for triennial read biennial

52. In paragraph 2, line 2, for intense discussion read extensive discussions

53. Also in paragraph 2, line 5, after therefore insert not

54. Also in paragraph 2, line 7, for triennial read biennial

55. Also in paragraph 2, line 8, delete and expansion

56. Also in paragraph 2, line 10, after (1986) insert, which in his view needed to be expanded for 1988.

57. In paragraph 3, line 3, after administration insert In this connection, reference was made to the considerable fluctuation in the total number of volunteers in preceding years.

58. Also in paragraph 3, line 5, after warranted insert and whether such an increase in staff should not await the overall review to be presented to the Council at its thirty-fifth session (1988).

59. In paragraph 5, line 2, after and insert, as appropriate, flexible
