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COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

RECORD OF THE THIRTIETH MEETING

Held at the Neue Hofburg, Vienna,
on Thursday, 23 September 1982, at 3.45 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. COPITHORNE (Canada)

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*/ A provisional version of this document was issued on 30 September 1982.

**/ GC(XXVI)/662.

The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document GC(XXVI)/INF/208/Rev.4.

82-6958

THE AGENCY'S PROGRAMME FOR 1983-88 AND BUDGET FOR 1983 (GC(XXVI)/COM.5/20/Rev.1) (resumed)^{1/}

1. The CHAIRMAN said he understood the Committee wished to recommend the General Conference to adopt the draft resolution contained in document GC(XXVI)/COM.5/20/Rev.1.

2. It was so decided.

STAFFING OF THE AGENCY'S SECRETARIAT (GC(XXVI)/672 and Add.1; GC(XXVI)/COM.5/21) (resumed)^{2/}

3. The CHAIRMAN explained that the wording of the second line of the title to document GC(XXVI)/COM.5/21, which had been circulated shortly before, should be amended to read "Draft resolution sponsored by Mexico on behalf of the Group of 77".

4. Mr. BELOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) proposed that the words "in accordance with the Statute of the Agency" should be inserted after the phrase "from all Member States" at the end of operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution.

5. Mr. HAWAS (Egypt) said he did not see why it was necessary to emphasize that point since all action that might be taken pursuant to the resolution would have to be in accordance with the Statute. If that fact were mentioned explicitly in the present resolution, the same would have to be done in all similar cases. As a compromise, he would propose an alternative amendment to the end of operative paragraph 2, reading "in accordance with General Conference resolution GC(XXVI)/RES/386 and the Statute of the Agency".

6. Mr. RUGGIERO (Italy) said that he had no objection to the amendment proposed by the Soviet Union as modified by the Egyptian delegation.

7. Mr. BIRIDO (Sudan) stated that he shared the concern expressed by the Egyptian delegation. The Director General was obliged to abide by the Statute. Furthermore, in its present form the operative paragraph faithfully reflected United Nations General Assembly resolution A/RES/33/143.II.4, the text of which made no reference to the Charter of the United Nations. He was therefore strongly opposed to the Soviet proposal.

^{1/} See GC(XXVI)/COM.5/OR.29, paras 33-42.

^{2/} See GC(XXVI)/COM.5/OR.28, paras 17-40.

8. Mr. KHAN (Pakistan), supported by Mr. KOREF (Panama), said that he wished to associate himself with the statement by the Sudanese delegation. The operative paragraph corresponded to the wording of resolution GC(XXV)/RES/386 and should not be changed.

9. Mr. POPOV (Bulgaria) expressed his support for the proposal by the Soviet delegation.

10. Mr. RUGGIERO (Italy) said that he did not see why there should be problems in making an explicit, rather than an implicit, reference to the Statute. He saw the wisdom in the compromise suggested by the Egyptian delegation.

11. Mr. BIRIDO (Sudan) recalled that the steps taken by the Director General to implement resolution GC(XXV)/RES/386 had been commended by a majority of delegations. Since the present draft was no more than a follow-up to that resolution, its implementation should present no dangers.

12. Mr. HAWAS (Egypt) said that, in the spirit of consensus which had led to the adoption of resolution GC(XXV)/RES/386, he would appeal to the Soviet delegation to reflect again on its proposal. In the same spirit, and since the sense of the amendment was conveyed implicitly in the draft resolution, he stood ready to withdraw his own proposal.

13. Mr. MAPARA (Zambia) said that he strongly supported the view expressed by the Sudanese delegation.

14. Mr. GHEZAL (Tunisia), also associating himself with the Sudanese delegation, stated that an explicit reference to the Statute might be misconstrued as meaning that the Director General could also take action which fell outside the Statute.

15. Mr. HERNANDEZ MATA (Mexico) proposed that the Committee should take a decision on the draft recommendation as it stood.

16. Mr. BELOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) stated that his delegation would withdraw its proposal but wished to stress that the selection of staff should be fully in accordance with the Statute.

17. The CHAIRMAN said that he took it that the Committee wished to recommend adoption by the General Conference of the draft resolution set out in document GC(XXVI)/COM.5/21, subject to the amendment to the title.

18. It was so decided.

THE FINANCING OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (GC(XXVI)/669; GC(XXVI)/COM.5/22)
(resumed)^{3/}

19. The CHAIRMAN explained that the title of document GC(XXVI)/COM.5/22, which had been circulated shortly before, should be amended to read "Draft resolution sponsored by Mexico on behalf of the Group of 77".

20. He took it that the Committee wished to recommend the General Conference to adopt the draft resolution contained in document GC(XXVI)/COM.5/22, with the title as amended, and that it wished the summary record of its discussion concerning the financing of technical assistance to be transmitted to the Board of Governors and to the Board's Technical Assistance and Co-operation Committee.

21. It was so decided.

AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE VI.A.2 OF THE STATUTE (GC(XXVI)/670; GC(XXVI)/COM.5/23)
(resumed)^{4/}

22. The CHAIRMAN noted that the title of document GC(XXVI)/COM.5/23, which had been circulated shortly before, should also be amended to read "Draft resolution sponsored by Mexico on behalf of the Group of 77".

23. Mr. SUAREZ de PUGA y VILLEGAS (Spain) stated that he wished to table a minor amendment to the draft resolution which would not affect the spirit of the text and would take into account the opinions expressed by delegations from both developing and other countries in the discussions on the item under consideration. He proposed that the words "this matter" in the operative paragraph of document GC(XXVI)/COM.5/23 be replaced by "Article VI".

^{3/} See GC(XXVI)/COM.5/OR.29, paras 1-4.

^{4/} See GC(XXVI)/COM.5/OR.29, paras 5-32.

24. Mr. MAFARA (Zambia) observed that, since the proposed amendment was only of a minor nature, he would much prefer to retain the present text, which was in keeping with the previous resolutions on the amendment of Article VI.A.2. If there was a need to bring forward other views, that would best be done when the Board resumed its discussion of the matter.

25. Mr. RUGGIERO (Italy) recalled that some delegations had suggested extending the discussion in the Board to cover Article VI in its entirety in order to achieve a constructive exchange of views. He could agree to that suggestion provided the balance of the Board membership was not affected and the efficiency of the Agency not impaired. His delegation was not opposed to the amendment tabled by the Spanish delegation, which deserved careful consideration.

26. Mr. OYEGUN (Nigeria), associating himself with the statement by the Zambian delegation, explained that the draft resolution had been carefully worded in a neutral manner in order to provide for flexibility in the ensuing discussions and to reflect the concern previously expressed by the Spanish delegation.

27. Mr. IBRAHIM (Egypt) suggested that, in a spirit of compromise, the Committee should follow the same procedure as for the previous resolution, namely that it should approve the draft resolution as it stood without amendment except to the title, and that the Committee's discussions on the draft resolution should be fully reflected in the records.

28. Mr. KHAN (Pakistan), supported by Mr. RUGGIERO (Italy), Mr. WILMSHURST (United Kingdom), Mr. COUSINS (Australia), Mr. HOSSAIN (Bangladesh) and Mr. MAHMOUD (Iraq), proposed that the Egyptian suggestion should be followed, with the records of the Committee's discussions on the resolution being transmitted to the Board of Governors.

29. Mr. SUAREZ de PUGA y VILLEGAS (Spain) said that the discussion on his proposal showed that speakers were moving in the direction of support for it. He was, however, prepared to accept the proposal by the delegate of Pakistan on the understanding that the records to be transmitted to the Board included those parts of the discussions which related to the amendment of Article VI as a whole.

30. The CHAIRMAN asked whether the proposal by the delegation of Pakistan as qualified by the Spanish delegation was acceptable to the Committee.

31. Mr. KHAN (Pakistan), supported by Mr. MAPARA (Zambia) and Mr. IBRAHIM (Egypt) said that it was not acceptable that reference should be made to particular points in the Committee's discussions on the draft resolution when deciding to transmit the records of those discussions to the Board.

32. Mr. BARUTÇU (Turkey), agreeing with the delegate of Pakistan, said that it would be illogical if the operative paragraph of the draft resolution were understood to refer to matters with which the report and the resolution mentioned in the preambular paragraphs were not concerned.

33. Mr. SUAREZ de PUGA y VILLEGAS (Spain) said that, if the Committee was not willing to accept a reference to Article VI as a whole when transmitting the records of its discussions on the draft resolution to the Board, his delegation would be obliged to express its reservations in that respect.

34. The CHAIRMAN asked whether the Committee was prepared to approve the text of the draft resolution contained in document GC(XXVI)/COM.5/23 as it stood, with the title amended as agreed, on the understanding that the records of the Committee's discussions on the draft resolution would be transmitted to the Board and that those records would contain a reference to the reservations of the delegation of Spain with regard to the procedure followed.

35. It was so agreed.

REVIEW OF THE AGENCY'S ACTIVITIES (GC(XXVI)/COM.5/24)

36. Mr. IBRAHIM (Egypt), referring to the draft resolution in document GC(XXVI)/COM.5/24, said that it had been put to him by some delegations that the words "... of directing these activities to fields more responsive to the ..." in operative paragraph 1 should be replaced by "... to respond to the ...". Supported by Mr. MAPARA (Zambia), Mr. MAHMOUD (Iraq) and Mr. BIRIDO (Sudan), he requested the Committee, in a spirit of compromise, to approve the draft resolution with that amendment.

37. Mr. PIÑEIRO RIVERA (Ecuador) said that his delegation approved the draft resolution but considered that its implementation - which would necessarily have financial implications - should not be considered a matter of priority.

38. Mr. KHAN (Pakistan) supported the draft resolution but wondered whether the sponsor's intentions might not be more clearly spelt out if operative paragraph 1 were first to request the Director General to prepare a report on the Agency's activities over the past 25 years and then to request the Board to review that report and recommend the best ways and means of responding to the growing needs of the developing countries.

39. Mr. IBRAHIM (Egypt) said his delegation had an open mind about the way in which the Board should proceed when conducting its review. In reply to the delegate of Ecuador, he said that the draft resolution did indeed have financial implications and that the Board would be the appropriate forum for discussion thereof.

40. Mr. KHAN (Pakistan) proposed that the words "... and recommend ..." should be added after the words "... to study ..." in operative paragraph 1.

41. Mr. IBRAHIM (Egypt) said he would have no difficulty with the wording suggested by the delegate of Pakistan.

42. Mr. HAMAMOTO (Japan) suggested that the effect of the amendment proposed by Pakistan had already been achieved in operative paragraph 2 since certain conclusions would of necessity be formulated in the Board's report to the General Conference.

43. The CHAIRMAN suggested that operative paragraph 1 could ask the Board "to study and recommend the best ways and means" and "to report to the General Conference", thereby rendering operative paragraph 2 superfluous.

44. Mr. IBRAHIM (Egypt) said that, although he had no objection to proceeding as the Chairman had suggested, he felt that that suggestion might make the provisions of the draft resolution appear more specific than in its original form.

45. Mr. HOFLAND (Netherlands), supported by Mr. WILMSHURST (United Kingdom), Mr. GABBERT (United States of America) and Mr. SPILKER (Federal Republic of Germany), said that he was uneasy about the proposal that the Board should make recommendations, and proposed that the words "... to consider the best ways and means" should appear after "... the past 25 years". It would thus be open to the Board to make recommendations if it wished.

46. Mr. KHAN (Pakistan), supported by Mr. BIRIDO (Sudan) and Mr. MAPARA (Zambia), said that in his view operative paragraph 2 should not be dispensed with and that the Board should be asked to make recommendations. Otherwise the review might not lead to the desired results.

47. Mr. IBRAHIM (Egypt), supported by Mr. BIN DA'AR (United Arab Emirates), suggested that the Board could be asked "to consider and recommend" the best ways and means.

48. Mr. GOUSINS (Australia), supported by Mr. ASSI (Lebanon), said that the text as originally submitted and amended by the delegation of Egypt would be acceptable.

49. Mr. HOFLAND (Netherlands) said that, although his suggestion had been aimed at finding a compromise between asking the Board to make a study and asking it to make recommendations, he was prepared to accept the draft as originally proposed by Egypt.

50. Mr. GABBERT (United States of America) proposed that the draft resolution should be adopted and that the records of the Committee's discussions on the draft should be transmitted to the Board, as with the previous two texts.

51. The CHAIRMAN asked whether the Committee wished to adopt the draft resolution contained in document GC(XXVI)/COM.5/24, with the amendment suggested by the delegation of Egypt while introducing the draft, and desired that the records of its discussions thereon should be forwarded to the Board.

52. It was so decided.

TRIBUTE TO THE CHAIRMAN

53. Mr. KOREF (Panama) paid a tribute to the Chairman, Mr. Copithorne, who was leaving Vienna.

The meeting rose at 5.20 p.m.

