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Item 21 of the provisional agenda  
(GC(41)/1)

**APPOINTMENT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR****Note by the Secretariat**

1. In September 1995 the General Conference, on the recommendation of the Board of Governors, appointed the Comptroller and Auditor General of the United Kingdom as the Agency's External Auditor to audit the Agency's accounts for the financial years 1996 and 1997.<sup>1/</sup>
2. In bringing this matter to the attention of the Board the Chairman noted that, because of the uniqueness and complexities of the Agency's activities, it is useful if the External Auditor serves for a period of at least four years; this makes for more thorough and efficient auditing and follow-up on recommendations. In this connection, attention is drawn to the fact that the previous two External Auditors (from Kenya and Canada) served for eight years (1982-89) and six years (1990-95) respectively.
3. The External Auditor's staff has indicated that the expected costs of auditing the Agency's accounts for the years 1998 and 1999 would be consistent with the current annual auditing fee of US \$265 000, adjusted as necessary for inflation and/or any changes in audit scope that might be deemed necessary.
4. On 10 June 1997, the Board of Governors recommended that the General Conference appoint the Comptroller and Auditor General of the United Kingdom as the Agency's External Auditor to audit the Agency's accounts for the years 1998 and 1999.

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<sup>1/</sup> See General Conference decision GC(39)/DEC/17.

