

United Nations
**GENERAL
 ASSEMBLY**

TWENTY-SECOND SESSION

Official Records

**FIFTH COMMITTEE, 1193rd
 MEETING**

Tuesday, 7 November 1967,
 at 11 a.m.



NEW YORK

CONTENTS

	Page
<i>Fiftieth anniversary of the October Socialist Revolution</i>	117
<i>Agenda item 77:</i>	
<i>Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations: report of the Committee on Contributions (continued)</i>	118
<i>Agenda item 74:</i>	
<i>Budget estimates for the financial year 1968 (continued)</i>	
<i>General discussion (continued)</i>	121

Chairman: Mr. Harry MORRIS (Liberia).

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OCTOBER SOCIALIST REVOLUTION

1. The CHAIRMAN congratulated the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the fiftieth anniversary of the October Revolution and paid a tribute to the social and economic progress which the USSR had achieved.
2. Mr. TARDOS (Hungary), speaking also on behalf of Bulgaria, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Romania, congratulated the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic on the fiftieth anniversary of the Revolution. The movement of liberation from capitalist oppression had been launched on 7 November 1917. The heroism of the Soviet people, who had experienced the ravages of civil war and two world wars, had made the Soviet Union one of the greatest Powers in the world. His own country was proud to have taken its place in the revolutionary ranks, and his delegation was grateful to the Soviet Union for having helped to build socialism in Hungary. It was in socialist society that the principle of peaceful coexistence and of the elimination of colonialism had originated.
3. Mr. GANEM (France) addressed his delegation's warmest congratulations to the USSR delegation on the fiftieth anniversary of the October Revolution, which, one century after the French Revolution, had made a profound mark on the modern world. France and the Soviet Union had different political systems but they were united by solid ties of friendship.
4. Mr. GINDEEL (Sudan) congratulated the USSR delegation on the fiftieth anniversary of the October Revolution, which was a significant landmark in mankind's history. The Revolution had endowed the Soviet Union with new principles of equality and justice and had transformed it into a highly industrial and powerful country dedicated to the cause of peoples fighting

for their freedom. The technical accomplishments of the Soviet Union testified to the vitality of its Revolution which, although fifty years had passed, continued to be a stimulating force. He wished the Soviet Union new success in its struggle against imperialism.

5. Mr. CHULUUNBAATAR (Mongolia) congratulated all the socialist countries and particularly the Soviet Union, the Byelorussian SSR and the Ukrainian SSR on the anniversary of the event which had seen the birth of the first socialist State, and he wished those countries every success in their endeavours. The glorious October Revolution had ushered in a new era for mankind and had taken on special meaning for Mongolia by showing it the way to liberation from oppression. The Mongolian People's Republic had always turned to the first socialist country when it had needed assistance, and Soviet Russia had been the only country to recognize, in 1921, the independence and sovereignty of Mongolia. The friendship uniting them, founded upon equality and co-operation, had steadily grown in the course of common struggles for freedom and independence. It was partly because of the friendship of the Soviet people that Mongolia had been able to pass from feudalism to socialism, avoiding capitalism.

6. Mr. KOUYATE (Guinea) also congratulated the Soviet Government and people on the fiftieth anniversary of the October Revolution, which had opened up for all peoples the path of national dignity and sovereignty. He expressed his gratitude to the Soviet people for the practical support it had consistently given to the Guinean people in the building of a new land.

7. Mr. KULEBYAKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) expressed his warm thanks to the Chairman and to all delegations which had paid tributes to his country, his Government and the Communist Party. The great strides made in the Soviet Union were the culmination of the efforts of several generations of working people. The fiftieth anniversary of the great October Revolution was not only being celebrated by all Soviet citizens, it was being marked abroad by the representatives of the world's progressive forces. The Soviet Union had always viewed the United Nations as an important instrument in the fight to ensure the security of peoples and it hoped that the Organization would become an effective means for world co-operation and peace.

8. Mr. BYKOV (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) expressed his deep appreciation to the delegations which had congratulated his country. He was proud of his homeland and he wished all peoples fighting for their independence the same success as that achieved by the October Revolution, which had ushered in a new life based on equality and fraternity.

9. Mr. MARTYANOV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) thanked members of the Committee for their cordial congratulations on the fiftieth anniversary of the October Revolution.

AGENDA ITEM 77

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations: report of the Committee on Contributions (continued) (A/6710 and Add.1)

10. Mr. RHODES (United Kingdom) associated his delegation with the tributes paid to the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions, who, at the 1192nd meeting, had presented the report of the Committee (A/6710 and Add.1) with great clarity. It was only natural that some Members, particularly those whose assessments were open to substantial increases, should feel the need to ask for some further elucidation.

11. His delegation would be the last to claim perfection for the statistics; in particular it wondered whether true comparability had yet been achieved between the two systems of national accounts mentioned in paragraph 8 of the Committee's report (A/6710). Nevertheless it believed, with the Committee on Contributions, that the statistical data were constantly improving, thanks largely to the work of the United Nations Statistical Office and the co-operation of Member States. Each year, therefore, the margin of error in the statistical data decreased and, if some unpalatable results had emerged from the current revision, the main reasons must be looked for elsewhere.

12. Considering the question whether the Committee on Contributions had failed to take account of the criteria laid down by the General Assembly, he thought that it had certainly not ignored the injunction that capacity to pay should be the prime consideration. Indeed, some of the suggestions made in the Fifth Committee at the 1192nd meeting had apparently been designed to ensure that the Committee on Contributions would give less regard to capacity to pay; that would certainly be the effect of artificially limiting the size of any increase or decrease irrespective of a Member State's growth record. Again, it had certainly not failed to give due attention to the special position of the developing countries. Countries with low per capita income were automatically given relief, and as was clear from paragraph 18 of the Committee's report, that relief was supplemented by adjustments.

13. Perhaps the Committee on Contributions had been a bit slow in meeting the wish of the General Assembly that the contribution of any one Member State should not exceed 30 per cent. But the criticism at the previous meeting had seemed to be, on the contrary, that it was moving too quickly.

14. If then that Committee was in general obeying the rules and the result was not to everybody's liking, it was tempting to argue that the rules should be amended, as in fact some delegations had advocated. He believed that it was wise to move cautiously in that respect. It might well be that no set of rules could please everyone all the time, but complaints should at least be diagnosed more accurately before drastic treatment was recommended. Care should be taken to

see that the side effects of the treatment were not going to be worse than the complaint itself.

15. It was, of course, desirable and indeed essential that all shades of opinion should find expression in the Fifth Committee and that they should be recorded so that the Committee on Contributions might take them into account when formulating its future recommendations.

16. One of the points made by some delegations was that several developed countries, including the United Kingdom, were to get large decreases. Some had seemed to feel that there was something wrong about that. But when 10 per cent of the membership bore 80 per cent of the costs, variations of that kind between the assessments of the developed countries became inevitable. When there were large contributions, large changes must be expected from time to time. He would have felt diffident about referring to that matter had it not been for the sentence in paragraph 17 of the Committee's report which read: "In order to soften the impact of these changes the Committee considered that it would be necessary to adjust some of the larger increases and decreases". He left it to members to decide which countries might have gained or suffered by that process.

17. Mr. VIAUD (France) said that the assessments proposed for certain Member States might seem surprising, particularly in the absence of all the necessary background data. The contributions of the Member States to the United Nations budget were based on the national income figures which their statistical services transmitted to the Organization. In some cases, the statistics might be adjusted in the light of the national accounts figures used by the Organization, in order to achieve uniformity, but usually the Committee on Contributions based its calculations on the data provided by the Member States themselves. The scale of assessments was the result of the application of objective rules to the national income figures. The only subjective aspect of the Committee's work was that it made allowances for Member States with an annual per capita income below \$1,000, granted deductions to States with an annual per capita income below \$300 and adjusted unduly pronounced changes resulting from the strict application of mathematically obtained results.

18. In addition, the General Assembly laid down certain principles for the Committee on Contributions to follow, such as the "ceiling" principle, the "per capita ceiling" principle and the "floor" principle. When 122 States had to be fitted into a pre-established framework and each given an assessment, whose total should not exceed 100, any changes made within the scale inevitably had very considerable repercussions on the assessments of certain States. A variation of 0.3 per cent, for example, had hardly any repercussions, but a change of 1 per cent had a noticeable effect on quite a number of assessments. The application of the rules had effects which it was difficult to measure mathematically and might introduce into the scale of assessments distortions which would not reflect the intentions of the General Assembly.

19. The representative of Mexico (1192nd meeting) had made a most thorough study of the subject and

had drawn very interesting conclusions which deserved mention but which he personally could not entirely endorse. If, in order to remove certain disparities, the General Assembly tried to amend principles which it had already established, it might resolve the cases of inequality that had been brought to the attention of the Fifth Committee but it would create others. The system evolved from the recommendations of the General Assembly might not be quite satisfactory at first sight but there was no guarantee that another system would be preferable. If the expenses of the Organization were to be shared more fairly, there would have to be a review of all the principles applied **and not only some of them, or a still more paradoxical situation would result.** His delegation supported the draft resolution submitted by the Committee on Contributions (see A/6710, para. 36) and, while it understood the criticisms and suggestions made **about that Committee's work, it wished to warn the members of the Fifth Committee that it would be dangerous to engage in a partial review of the situation.**

20. Mr. ZIEHL (United States of America) commended the Committee on Contributions and its Chairman on their excellent report, which should greatly facilitate the consideration of the scale of assessments. His delegation would support the draft resolution on that subject.

21. **The work of the Committee on Contributions** was highly technical. It could best be done by a small group of experts able to use the statistics provided to construct the scale of assessments and to take the underlying economic concepts duly into account.

22. According to the terms of reference of the Committee on Contributions, the expenses of the United Nations should be apportioned broadly according to capacity to pay. It had not been easy, however, to measure capacity to pay. In some of its earlier reports, the Committee on Contributions had recognized that there were anomalies in the scale, some of which were inherent in the statistics used. It had worked to improve the quality of the statistics and, in the scale it was recommending, capacity to pay was measured by Member States' net national products (at market prices) for the period 1963-1965. It had thus been possible to eliminate an important element of incomparability in the statistical data.

23. It had been generally recognized that other **factors should be taken into account in determining** capacity to pay. For example, the General Assembly had decreed that the per capita contribution of any Member should not exceed the per capita contribution of the Member that bore the highest assessment. In addition to that per capita ceiling principle, there was the ceiling principle, whereby the contribution of any one Member State should not exceed 30 per cent of the total. It was also recognized that countries with a low per capita income should be given special **consideration. Accordingly, they were given an allowance.** The Committee on Contributions had made some additional small downward adjustments for countries whose per capita income was less than \$300.

24. In the scale recommended, there were some 57 countries whose contribution would be 0.04 per cent

of the total, in accordance with the "floor" principle. In its report to the General Assembly at its twenty-first session,^{1/} the Committee on Contributions had expressed the view that the grounds for maintaining the minimum rate in the past were still valid. The last factor which the Committee on Contributions took into consideration was the ability of the Members to secure foreign currency.

25. It was important to bear in mind that the assessment for each Member State was based on the relationship between its adjusted net product and the total adjusted net national product of all Member States. In other words, each Member shared in the Organization's expenses in direct proportion to its share of the total adjusted net national product. It was therefore possible for a country with a growth rate higher than the average rate of growth of the other countries to have a sizable increase in its assessment. The converse was also true. The change in a country's assessment reflected the relative change in its net national product compared with the change in the net national product of the other Member States.

26. Mr. Amjad ALI (Chairman of the Committee on Contributions) said that the Committee on Contributions had carried out its work in accordance with the principles laid down by the General Assembly, which were summarized in the annex to the Committee's report. The severity of the principle of capacity to pay, which the Committee on Contributions measured by comparing estimates of net national product, was tempered by the downward adjustments for countries with a low per capita income. There was a ceiling for the assessment of the largest contributor and a "floor" for the assessments of 57 countries. When the ceiling and floor had been fixed, therefore, the variables in the system consisted of the assessments of 64 Member States and any change in the assessment of one of them automatically involved opposite changes for the others. Consequently, the discretion of the Committee on Contributions to alter assessments was very limited.

27. The representative of Italy, who, at the 1192nd meeting, had emphasized the brevity of the report of the Committee on Contributions, appeared to feel that the data on which the Committee based its conclusions should be given in its report. But it had never been the practice of the Committee to publish such data. The reason was that in its work it used a large volume of statistical data drawn from publications and documents of the United Nations Statistical Office. Those data were published in considerable detail in the Yearbook of National Accounts Statistics, the Statistical Yearbook and the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics. Of course, they originated in the national statistical offices of the Member States and the Committee on Contributions had to evaluate them in the light of the directives given to it by the General Assembly. Although, in accordance with a decision of the Assembly, it did not reproduce those data in its report, the Committee could give any Member State the data which concerned it. The representative of Italy had also drawn attention to an apparent con-

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-first Session, Supplement No. 10, para. 8.

tradition in the figures published by the United Nations and those used by the Committee on Contributions. In fact, the figures published by the United Nations had subsequently been revised by the Italian statistical service, in accordance with the usual practice, and the revisions would in due course appear in the United Nations publications.

28. The representative of Spain and other representatives had drawn attention to the reductions proposed in the assessments of a number of developed countries. Excluding the United States of America, the assessments of the countries with a per capita income of over \$1,000 had decreased by 0.79 per cent in the scale. That decrease affected the countries in that category whose national product had increased less than the average national product of all Member States. In addition, as income rose in all countries, the total downward adjustments for countries with low per capita incomes tended to drop, which affected all Member States in proportion to their capacity to pay. **Nothing in the directives of the Committee on Contributions** required it to keep the level of the contributions of the developed countries at a given percentage of the total.

29. The representative of Japan had **drawn** attention to the unusually large increase in his country's assessment. The Committee on Contributions was aware of the budgetary difficulties increases of that magnitude could cause for the countries concerned. However, the remarkable rise in Japan's national product in the period 1963-1965, compared with the years 1960-1962, had been so much higher than the world average that an increase in its assessment had been unavoidable. That was one of the cases in which the Committee on Contributions would have found it difficult to make a smaller increase if it was to observe the basic criterion of capacity to pay and avoid subsequent difficulties. The same considerations had prevailed in the cases of Italy and Spain.

30. Some delegations had proposed that increases in assessments should be limited to a maximum of 15 or 20 per cent. The Committee on Contributions would certainly consider that suggestion in the future, but it should be borne in mind that such a measure would alter the very principle of cost distribution according to capacity to pay based on net national product.

31. One of the points raised by the representative of Mexico had been the limit of \$1,000 per capita income below which an allowance was made. At its twenty-fifth session in 1966, the Committee on Contributions had considered the possibility of changing that limit, but had decided not to recommend a change as it would not have brought much benefit to most developing countries. The Committee had also considered at its twenty-fifth session the suggestion that the low per capita income allowance be increased for all countries with an income of less than \$1,000 and had decided not to make such a recommendation. The allowances for Member States with a per capita income of less than \$1,000 were at present as follows: 2 countries were allowed a reduction of 47 per cent, 12 countries 40 per cent or more, 15 from 30 to 40 per cent, 9 from 20 to 30 per cent, 5 from 10 to 20 per cent and 6 less than 10 per cent. Thus 49 countries were allowed a more or less substantial reduction,

while 57 others paid the minimum contribution of 0.04 per cent.

32. The representative of Mexico had also mentioned certain claims on his country's net national product as a factor which warranted consideration. The Committee on Contributions recognized that problem and had discussed it, but thought that it was very difficult to make distinctions between countries at the same level of income but with different claims on their resources. Consideration of those aspects of countries' economies was not within that Committee's mandate, although it was aware of the problem.

33. Lastly, he emphasized that, in considering the question of the allowance, the Committee on Contributions continued to give particular attention to developing countries and took their special economic and financial problems into account. It had also decided to give special consideration to countries with a per capita income of less than \$300 and had made small reductions in their assessment.

34. Mr. MEYER PICON (Mexico) said that the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions seemed to have slightly misunderstood the statement he had made and had mentioned two points he had not raised. Regarding the allowance for countries with a per capita income of less than \$1,000, he had only said that according to his calculations, the countries to which the provision applied had not benefited from the full 50 per cent allowance laid down by the General Assembly in 1952. Nor had he referred to certain special features of his country's economy in an attempt to get a reduction in its assessment. He had only once mentioned Mexico's net national product, and that had been for purposes of comparison with certain other countries. He had not sought a special reduction in Mexico's assessment, but had asked the Committee on Contributions to review the reductions it had made in the case of certain countries.

35. Referring to the comments made by the representative of France, he admitted that the study he had made was incomplete. That was because Member States did not have at their disposal all the necessary facts for a proper assessment of the work of the Committee on Contributions, which did not publish the documents on which it based its calculation of the scale of assessments. The General Assembly had **authorized the Government of every Member State** to ask that Committee for the statistical data relating to its own country, and it alone, but the full significance of such data could only be assessed if they were compared with the data for other countries. Comparison alone would show whether or not the scale of assessments was fair. He had therefore tried to obtain as much information as possible, and had thus been able to establish that the developing countries were not benefiting in full from the deduction to which they would have been entitled if the directives of the General Assembly had been strictly applied. In short, the main **purpose** of his statement had been to suggest that the Committee on Contributions should revise the criteria at present applied in the calculation of the scale of assessments, to ensure that they still corresponded to existing conditions in the United Nations and in the world economy.

36. Mr. VIEIRA (Brazil) thought that perhaps the scale of assessments proposed for 1968-1970 would not have aroused so much criticism on the part of many delegations if the report of the Committee on Contributions had been less concise. That Committee had a difficult task and his delegation was aware of the ingenuity needed to reconcile the interests of all Member States in a matter which had direct repercussions on their national budgets. It therefore appreciated the efforts made by the Committee to draw up an equitable scale and avoid drastic fluctuations in the rates of assessment. It believed that in the few cases where considerable changes had occurred, they had been genuinely unavoidable and had resulted from sharp increases in the per capita income of the countries involved.

37. That did not mean that the work of the Committee on Contributions could not be further improved. His delegation believed that the principles and procedures applied in drawing up the scale of assessments should be interpreted in the light of, and adapted to, the world economic situation. All countries should have equal opportunities for economic and social progress; that was one of the basic principles in the Charter of the United Nations. Unfortunately, the less developed countries were progressing much more slowly than the highly industrialized ones and were thus becoming relatively poorer. That situation must of necessity affect the apportionment of the financial obligations that Member States were called upon to discharge. Those in need of assistance should not be overburdened by increasing contributions to the international machinery of economic development. The General Assembly had therefore repeatedly urged the Committee on Contributions to give additional recognition to countries with low per capita income and had asked it to give due attention to the situation of the developing countries in view of their special economic and financial problems. What did that mean? It clearly meant giving the developing countries more than the general allowance granted them under the so-called "low per capita income" allowance system.

38. In drawing up the scale of assessments for 1962-1964, the Committee on Contributions had duly made additional downward adjustments in the rates of countries with a per capita income of less than \$300. Those adjustments had been approved by the General Assembly at its twentieth session, thus confirming the interpretation that the attention to be given to developing countries was something more than just that given to low per capita income countries. However, paragraph 18 of the report of the Committee on Contributions showed that that Committee had confined itself to making small downward adjustments in the assessments of countries whose per capita income did not exceed \$300. That Committee was therefore not yet fully applying the principle that due attention should be given to the position of developing countries in general. His delegation hoped that the Committee on Contributions would adopt a more systematic approach in its next review of the scale of assessments.

39. The Committee on Contributions had rightly made a careful study of the possible effects of variations in the present system of allowances for low per capita income countries. He agreed with that Committee's decision not to make radical changes in the basic

rules at that time, as they would have further emphasized the changes in Member States' relative capacity to pay, changes that in some cases were very pronounced. His delegation nevertheless believed that the Committee on Contributions should in future try to comply fully with the directives given by the General Assembly in its resolution 1927 (XVIII) and 2118 (XX), bearing in mind that the developing countries were to be given more attention than was involved in the system of allowances for countries with low per capita income. It should also be borne in mind that that system, which at present benefited all countries with a per capita income of less than \$1,000, might be reviewed in the light of the fact that a per capita income of less than \$1,000 was not necessarily low and that "low per capita income country", for the purposes of the scale of assessments, was not necessarily synonymous with "developing country".

40. Subject to those considerations, his delegation supported the observations and recommendations in the report of the Committee on Contributions and would therefore vote in favour of the draft resolution contained in paragraph 36 of the report.

41. In conclusion, he said that the statement made by the representative of Mexico at the 1192nd meeting had contained many interesting suggestions, which the Committee on Contributions should weigh carefully when it next reviewed the scale of assessments.

42. Mr. FERNANDEZ MAROTO (Spain) said that he would like more time to study the statement made by the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions and also to receive instructions from his Government. He therefore suggested that the conclusion of the discussion on the scale of assessments be postponed until the following day.

43. The CHAIRMAN said that if there were no objections, the Fifth Committee would complete its discussion of agenda item 77 the following day.

It was so decided.

Mr. Esfandiary (Iran), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 74

Budget estimates for the financial year 1968 (continued)* (A/6705 and Corr.1, A/6707 and Corr.1 and 2, A/6854, A/6861, A/6878, A/C.5/1113 and Corr.1 and 2, A/C.5/1114 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1115 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1118, A/C.5/1123 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1124, A/C.5/1126-1129, A/C.5/1132, A/C.5/L.901, A/C.5/L.908)

General discussion (continued)*

44. Mr. LOQUMAN (Mauritania) said that his delegation realized how concerned the Secretary-General was about the financial situation of the United Nations. He noted with satisfaction the results obtained by the Secretary-General with regard to the implementation of the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies^{2/} and wished

*Resumed from the 1191st meeting.

^{2/} Ibid., Twenty-first Session, Annexes, agenda item 80, document A/6343.

to congratulate that Committee on its work, which would undoubtedly contribute to the efficient administrative functioning of the United Nations family. Budgetary audits and service controls were, of course, necessary in such a complex organization, but bureaucracy, with its notorious tendency to proliferate, should not be allowed to impede the attainment of the objectives recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee.

45. Before commenting on certain issues related to the United Nations budget, his delegation wished to state that its remarks did not imply any diminution in his Government's support for the Secretary-General, to whose untiring and unbiased efforts it wished to pay a tribute.

46. Encouraging progress had already been made, but his delegation hoped that achievements in the field of economic and social development would be commensurate with the efforts made. In his foreword to the budget estimates for the financial year 1968 (A/6705 and Corr.1), the Secretary-General pointed out that the funds available fell short of the Organization's actual needs, and expressed the hope that the General Assembly would, at an early date, give some clearer guidance as to the rate of growth that it would be prepared to support in regard to those activities.

47. The Secretary-General had thus reminded the Committee of one of the cardinal principles in the Preamble of the United Nations Charter, which spoke of employing international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples. Respect for that principle required that each Member State should contribute to the best of its ability to the attainment of economic and social objectives. However, the gap between rich and poor countries had not narrowed since the United Nations was established.

48. That problem raised the important question of the rate of growth of the Organization's activities. In that connexion, it should be recalled that the Ad Hoc Committee had not suggested curtailment or limitation of their growth but had recommended effective planning and co-ordination. The increase in the budget affected economic and social development activities. His delegation felt that the budget deficit would have been less serious if the Organization had not been obliged to incur heavy expenditures in connexion with peace-keeping operations undertaken as a result of armed aggression and subversive activities carried out by mercenaries to defend the interests of certain great Powers. That was the reason why the Member States were being asked to bear the financial burden resulting from the latest aggression, the colonialist invasion by the forces of Israel. Such aggression was the cause of international tension and the United Nations deficit. United Nations activities should no longer be motivated by political interests, for the Preamble to the Charter called upon Member States to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.

49. Although economic and social development activities benefited to a certain extent from the increased allocations requested in the budget estimates, it was still necessary to say that United Nations action in those areas must be firmly supported. The Secretary-General had stressed the vast needs of the developing countries. His Government would spare no effort within its power to further the growth of United Nations economic and social activities and would not subscribe to any arbitrary measures tending to impede the attainment of that objective. Long-term planning of United Nations activities should be designed solely to provide the Secretary-General with the necessary funds. The planning period, whether annual, biennial or of any other length, should be considered only as an instrument to that end. In that connexion, his delegation associated itself with the Indian representative's comments (1185th meeting) regarding the long-term planning of the United Nations budget. It suggested that consideration of the question should be postponed until the twenty-third session of the General Assembly.

50. Because the Secretary-General had not yet obtained the necessary personnel, UNIDO and UNCTAD were not yet functioning properly. The allocations requested in section 3 (Salaries and wages) should enable those bodies to begin their important work without prejudice to the principles governing budgetary controls in the United Nations.

51. With regard to the proliferation of conferences and documents, his delegation felt that some conferences could perhaps be avoided through better co-ordination between United Nations organs and the specialized agencies. The reduction of expenditure in those two areas would depend largely on the decisions taken by those organs. The amount of proliferation depended, moreover, on the number of organs and subsidiary bodies. Consequently, it would be advisable to limit the number of commissions established, so long as that did not hamper the Organization's work.

52. His delegation wished to commend the Secretary-General for his excellent report on the form of presentation of the United Nations budget (A/C.5/1121). The form of presentation suggested was simple and effective.

53. With regard to staff questions, his delegation, like some members of the Ad Hoc Committee, felt that recruitment on a permanent basis was the best and most economic method of creating an efficient Secretariat.

54. He paid a tribute to the Government of Zambia for helping the refugees from Rhodesia and drew attention to the gravity of the refugee problem in the Middle East, which had been aggravated by Israel's aggression. He urged the General Assembly to consider as soon as possible ways of improving the lot of the refugees in those two areas.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.