



Seventh session
Agenda item 50

MEASURES TO LIMIT THE DURATION OF REGULAR SESSIONS
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Financial implications of paragraph 47 of the memorandum by the
Secretary-General (A/2206)

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. K.G. BRENNAN (Australia)

1. Pursuant to rule 152 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the Fifth Committee, at its 367th meeting held on 1 December 1952, considered the financial implications of paragraph 47 of the memorandum presented by the Secretary-General on the item "Measures to limit the duration of regular sessions of the General Assembly" (A/2206).
2. In paragraph 47 of his memorandum, the Secretary-General had proposed: (a) that arrangements should be made for the simultaneous meeting of five Main Committees of the General Assembly; and (b) that the number of representatives or alternate representatives of each Member State whose travel expenses are reimbursed by the United Nations in accordance with resolution 14 D (I) of 13 February 1946 should be increased from five to seven.
3. The Fifth Committee had before it a statement of financial implications of these two proposals prepared by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/514) and a report on the Secretary-General's statement by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/2269).
4. It was estimated by the Secretary-General that adoption of the two proposals in question would require the provision of additional funds under section 1 of the budget in the maximum amount of \$69,700 on the basis of a

session of nine weeks, or of \$41,000 on the basis of an eight-week session. The Secretary-General pointed out however that, against these increased costs in section 1, the situation in other sections of the budget would be improved, in addition to which savings would, no doubt, accrue to Member States as a result of their having to maintain their General Assembly delegations in New York for a shorter period.

5. The view was expressed by the Advisory Committee that the financial implications of paragraph 47 of the memorandum (A/2206) had been reasonably estimated by the Secretary-General subject, however, to the following reservations:

(i) It considered that, while a precise estimate could not be made, an over-all economy would on balance result from a session two weeks shorter, that is to say, of eight weeks duration;

(ii) It considered further that no expenditure for additional staff or for the conversion of existing accommodation should be contemplated unless and until existing facilities had been used to full capacity, and that any enlargement of such facilities and services could usefully be undertaken only if linked to a definite objective in the form of a target date for the closing of the session at which the General Assembly would aim each year. It was suggested that, to this end, the possibility of convening certain Main Committees with heavy agendas in advance of other Committees within the period of the session should not be overlooked in the interests of the economic utilization of personnel and services;

(iii) Finally, the view was expressed that, should the General Assembly decide to increase the number of delegation members in respect of whom travel reimbursement is to be made, consideration might be given to limiting such increases to one additional member, with a consequent reduction of \$37,200 in the estimate. In this event, and on the basis of an eight-week session involving the provision of additional conference facilities, the necessary budget expenditure would remain virtually unchanged; expenses for representation would, however, probably show a significant reduction.

6. The Fifth Committee accordingly decided, by 37 votes to none, with 3 abstentions, to inform the General Assembly that, subject to the reservations indicated above, adoption of the proposals contained in paragraph 47 of the Secretary-General's memorandum (A/2206) would involve the provision of additional funds under section 1 of the budget in a total maximum amount of \$69,700 for a General Assembly session of nine weeks, or of \$41,000 for a session of eight weeks.

1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. It emphasizes that this is crucial for ensuring the integrity of the financial statements and for providing a clear audit trail. The text notes that any discrepancies or errors in the records can lead to significant complications during an audit and may result in legal consequences for the company.

2. The second part of the document outlines the specific procedures that should be followed when recording transactions. It details the steps from identifying the transaction to the final entry in the accounting system. Key points include the need for proper documentation, such as invoices and receipts, and the importance of double-checking all entries for accuracy. The document also mentions the role of the accounting department in ensuring that all transactions are recorded in a timely and consistent manner.

3. The third part of the document addresses the challenges associated with maintaining accurate records. It highlights the potential for human error, such as misreading figures or entering data incorrectly. To mitigate these risks, the document suggests implementing internal controls, such as regular reconciliations and the use of automated accounting software. Additionally, it stresses the importance of training staff on the correct procedures and the need for a strong internal control environment.

4. The final part of the document concludes by reiterating the overall goal of maintaining accurate records: to provide a reliable and transparent view of the company's financial performance. It encourages the company to adopt a proactive approach to record-keeping and to regularly review and update its procedures to ensure they remain effective and compliant with applicable regulations.