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## Fifth Committee

### Summary record of the 28th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 12 March 2019, at 10 a.m.

*Chair:* Ms. Bird ..... (Australia)  
*Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative  
and Budgetary Questions:* Mr. Terzi

## Contents

Agenda item 148: Financing of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal  
Tribunals (*continued*)Agenda item 136: Programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 (*continued*)*Organizational resilience management system**Standards of accommodation for air travel*

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*The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.*

**Agenda item 148: Financing of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals**

(continued) (A/73/718 and A/73/763)

1. **Mr. Elias** (Registrar of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals), introducing the eighth progress report on the construction of a new facility for the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, Arusha branch (A/73/718), said that the facility's courtroom building had successfully hosted the Arusha branch's inaugural judicial proceedings, with the initial appearance of five accused in Case No. MICT-18-116 in September 2018, followed in December 2018 by a status conference relating to the same case. In March 2019, the courtroom building had hosted the first plenary of Mechanism judges held in Arusha.

2. The construction project, which was nearly complete, had remained within its approved budget of \$8.8 million, inclusive of the contingency provision. The contingency provision had a final projected balance of approximately \$200,000, and any unused sums would be returned to the Member States. The current report covered the project close-out period, encompassing the defects liability period, which had expired on 30 April 2018. The Mechanism had progressed towards the final completion of the premises and, in particular, the settlement of final accounts. To that end, it had continued to assess potential contractual remedies regarding design defects and delays, while still focusing on the timely and efficient remediation of the outstanding issues related to the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system presently installed in the archives building, with expected completion by the end of 2019. The outstanding punch-list rectification following the re-engagement of the contractor onsite in early 2018 were complete.

3. The final balance owed to the contractor under the contract, taking into account a valuation of pending punch-list items, amounted to \$499,152, reflecting the completion of work on the punch list, but not the outcome of ongoing negotiations on amounts to be recouped by the Mechanism as a result of delays. In that regard, the Mechanism had reaffirmed to the contractor that the United Nations had not excused any delay in the timely completion of the works, and that it reserved its contractual rights and remedies. The project team continued to pursue its search for the most efficient solutions to properly commission the entire heating, ventilation and air conditioning system upgrade, and had identified the main contractor as the most suitable partner to undertake that work, given the contractor's

detailed knowledge of the project. The Mechanism was currently assessing and negotiating a renewed contractual framework, within which to give effect to that partnership.

4. In addition, the architect, after providing a new design input for the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system in the cold vault at no additional cost to the United Nations, had undertaken to supervise and certify the remediation works, in line with the obligations in the contract. The project team estimated that remediation would be completed later in 2019, and the Mechanism expected that a portion of the contingency provision could be used to achieve that goal, with final figures expected to be known once negotiations regarding the actual costs of the remediation were complete.

5. **Mr. Terzi** (Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/73/763), said that the Advisory Committee had noted with concern the renewed project delays incurred during the closeout phase, and the failure, for the second consecutive year, to bring the project to completion. It wished to emphasize the importance of proactive and sustained project ownership and management, and recommended that the General Assembly should request the Secretary-General to ensure closer and more proactive monitoring of the closeout phase of the project, so that outstanding remediation and other activities were implemented without further delay and within the revised timelines and approved resources.

6. The Advisory Committee trusted that the next progress report of the Secretary-General would be the final report for the project. It recommended that that final report should include comprehensive information on accountability for delays, on the contractual remedies exercised, and on the costs recouped from the project architect and contractor. The Advisory Committee stressed again that the United Nations should not bear responsibility for paying any direct or indirect costs resulting from design defects and delays attributable to its contractual partners.

7. **Ms. Tarbush** (Observer for the State of Palestine), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group, noting that the progress report had indicated positive steps in terms of quality and transparency, including the disclosure of a number of challenges, appreciated what had been achieved in connection with remediation works and the completion of rectification of the punch list items. Noting also that uncertainties stemming particularly from the need to remedy the heating, ventilation and air conditioning

system design error made by the architectural firm had prevented the Secretary General from being able to submit the expected final progress report for the project, the Group trusted that the final progress report would be presented as soon as the remedial work was complete.

8. The Group wished to emphasize the need for the Secretary-General and his team, particularly the Office of Legal Affairs and the Office of Central Support Services, to carefully examine the contractual arrangement with the architectural firm responsible for the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system design errors and subsequent project close-out delays and to take appropriate action to address the matter in a timely fashion. It would follow that matter closely during the Committee's informal consultations. It also wished to stress the need for facilities-management arrangements to be put in place to oversee the facility after completion of the construction project.

9. Lastly, recalling the position expressed by the Group at the main part of the seventy-third session (see [A/C.5/73/SR.22](#), para. 5), she said that the different functions of the President, Prosecutor and Registrar of the Mechanism, as codified in its Statute, existed in order to ensure the efficient implementation of its mandate. Each of those officials must act within the scope of his or her individual mandate.

10. **Ms. Nalwanga** (Uganda), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that the Group welcomed the progress made on the construction project, including the review and rectification of the punch list. It had noted the Advisory Committee's indication that an estimated \$80,100, representing the value of the outstanding punch-list work, would be deducted from the amount owed to the contractor, and that formal closure of the punch list was expected to take place. The Group would seek updates in that connection during the Committee's informal consultations.

11. The Group was concerned that the remediation of the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system design error by the project architect was taking longer than expected, and was delaying the close-out of the project. It had noted that the remediation work had resulted in a charge of \$280,000 from the contingency provision, and would like to know what action had been taken against the architect pursuant to the obligations in the contract. In the light of the information on project expenditure, the use of contingency funds and the recovery of direct and indirect costs, the Group wished to encourage the Secretary-General to continue efforts to ensure that the project was completed within the approved overall resources.

12. Having noted the frequent changes in the project management team, and the need for the Mechanism to acquire temporary expert assistance from the Economic Commission for Africa to support the project, the Group trusted the cause of that high turnover would be investigated, and that lessons learned and best practices would be documented and applied in the appropriate manner to other capital projects.

13. **Mr. Mero** (United Republic of Tanzania) expressed sympathy in connection with the recent aircraft accident in Ethiopia.

14. His Government, which had been working hand in hand with the United Nations from the project pre-construction phase to the current stage of substantial completion, reiterated its appreciation for the excellent cooperation with the Mechanism. It was concerned that the Secretary General had been unable to submit the final progress report as expected, for reasons including the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system rectification work, and called for all those involved to ensure that the project closeout took place without further delays. His delegation also wished to echo the call made by the Group of 77 and China for the establishment of a facility-management arrangement to oversee the new facility beyond the project completion.

#### **Agenda item 136: Programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 (continued)**

##### *Organizational resilience management system ([A/73/666](#) and [A/73/775](#))*

15. **Ms. de la Piedra** (Director of the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of the organizational resilience management system ([A/73/666](#)), submitted in response to the request of the General Assembly contained in its resolution [70/248 B](#), said that the organizational resilience management system provided clear guidance on how efforts focusing on business continuity, crisis management, emergency medical support, information and communications technology disaster recovery, support to staff and families, security, and crisis communications must combine in a coordinated approach to ensure the Organization's resilience when facing crises. The individual accounts of progress in Secretariat entities, contained in section III of the report, confirmed the involvement of host countries in preparation efforts and in simulation exercises to ensure coordinated management in emergencies affecting United Nations entities. The report also provided information regarding costs relating to awareness raising and coordination and

training on the holistic approach to emergency management.

16. Achievements in the previous three years had included constant improvement in the management of global insurance arrangements thanks to the new practice of soliciting broker services for insurance policies on a regular basis. The inter-agency community of practice had developed guidelines for the effective use of automated emergency notification systems, and had identified 92 skills-improvement courses covering the different areas of the organizational resilience management system and targeting diverse audiences. At the first inter-agency community conference on organizational resilience, held in New York in March 2018, participants had shared good practices and learned from academic circles and the private sector about current concepts of organizational resilience and business continuity.

17. The organizational resilience management system framework had been promulgated globally across the Secretariat through two communications campaigns. At Headquarters, collaboration in the key disciplines of the system had become routine. The same was true of collaboration among the various bodies specifically created for crisis management, namely the Senior Emergency Policy Team, the Crisis Operations Group and the Emergency Operations Centre. Offices away from Headquarters and the Regional Commissions, had indicated that the framework had created an opportunity for joint emergency management among United Nations organizations located at the same duty station, representing an achievement in synergies and quality of the efforts undertaken. The report had also demonstrated the importance of working closely with field missions. Initiatives in that connection had included individualized support and training, contributing to strengthening the implementation of a coordinated organizational resilience management system approach to emergency management.

18. While the implementation of the organizational resilience management system in the United Nations had so far concentrated on managing emergencies, the international standards on organizational resilience encouraged a broader definition that strengthened the Organization's ability to adapt to changing environments. Aligned with that broader understanding of resilience, the interagency community of practice intended to work on integration of the system with other disciplines, such as enterprise risk management.

19. **Mr. Terzi** (Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee

(A/73/775), said that the Advisory Committee welcomed the efforts made to apply the principles of organizational resilience management across the United Nations system, and looked forward to an update on the situation in the next progress report.

20. The Advisory Committee welcomed the intention of the inter-agency community of practice to review current policy, while noting the need to develop guidelines on organizational resilience. It trusted that the Secretary-General would develop clear rating scales for the key performance indicators in order to ensure consistency and coherence in implementation. The Committee also recommended that future policy guidelines integrate maintenance and practice exercises through information, briefings and use of regular practice drills.

21. In terms of the governance structure at United Nations Headquarters, the Advisory Committee trusted that the Secretary-General would continue efforts to strengthen the coordination and planning functions of the Senior Emergency Policy Team and the Crisis Operations Group in the light of the redistribution of responsibilities regarding the management of emergency and crisis situations between the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance and the Department of Operational Support, and the incorporation of the resident coordinator system within the Secretariat. The Advisory Committee took the view that strategic and operational roles and responsibilities pertaining to emergency response requirements should be clarified further to ensure a full and effective response to arising critical situations, considering that the response to crises had previously been unified under one department in the Secretariat.

22. With regard to future developments, the Committee trusted that best practices and experience in risk management and organizational resilience management would be consolidated and applied by the United Nations Secretariat. The Committee reiterated its recommendation that efforts continue to be made to coordinate and integrate the organizational resilience management system with the overall risk management framework of the Organization. It also recommended that the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, continue efforts to harmonize policies and strengthen coordination of the organizational resilience management system across the system. Given the importance of training core staff on matters relating to organizational resilience, while acknowledging the efforts to develop a joint learning programme, the Committee recommended that critical training courses

such as business continuity be prioritized in training programmes from within existing resources.

23. **Ms. Tarbush** (Observer for the State of Palestine), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that having an effective organizational resilience management system strengthened the Organisation's ability to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from, an emergency. The system must address all core elements, including crisis management, security management, business continuity, information and communications technology disaster recovery, medical emergency response, crisis communication and support to staff, survivors and families. The Group had noted the provision of information regarding the level of compliance with the agreed key performance indicators, as well as the increased number of agencies, funds and programmes self-reporting during the period 2016–2018; it would seek further information during the informal consultations on the criteria and methods for determining compliance, as well as the development of future indicators to measure the organisation's capabilities in emergency management. The Group further looked forward to information on the revised draft policy plan and guidelines on organizational resilience to be submitted to the Chief Executives Board for Coordination in the first half of 2019.

24. The organizational resilience management system required a strong governance structure guaranteeing coordination, integration and harmonization. The Group had noted that the Sustainability and Resilience Management Unit in the Business Transformation and Accountability Division in the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance would continue to coordinate and promote the implementation of the organizational resilience management system within the United Nations system. The Group would seek further information on the redistribution of responsibilities for the headquarters governance structure in connection with the management of emergency and crisis situations between the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance and the Department of Operational Support, as well as the incorporation of the resident coordinator system, as the response to crises had previously been unified under one department in the Secretariat. The Group had noted the information on the implementation of the organizational resilience management system in offices away from Headquarters, regional commissions, field missions and the participating specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system. It believed that further progress could be made in harmonizing plans and initiatives in entities operating in the same facilities, or in similar environments. It emphasized the

importance – in all emergency and security risk management efforts – of collaboration with Host Government authorities.

25. The ultimate test of the organizational resilience management system would be its ability to respond to an emergency situation. In that regard, the Group would reflect on the training of staff; the identification of staff to implement the plans; progress in establishing emergency notification systems; regular practice drills; implementation of information and communications technology disaster recovery plans; the effective integration of risk management plans; and the harmonization of plans across the United Nations system.

*Standards of accommodation for air travel*  
([A/73/705](#) and [A/73/779](#))

26. **Mr. Carey** (Director of the Division of Administration (New York), Department of Operational Support), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on standards of accommodation for air travel ([A/73/705](#)), which provided information relating to the two-year period ending 30 June 2018, comparative statistics for the previous two-year period and a ten-year trend analysis, said that the report was being submitted in response to the request made by the General Assembly in its resolution [72/262](#) B. Recalling that the General Assembly had also requested that the Secretary-General continue to limit the use of exceptions from the standards of accommodation for air travel, he indicated that the overall number of requests for exceptions had decreased from 1,293 for the period from July 2014 to June 2016 to 1,204 for the period from July 2016 to June 2018. Detailed analyses of the variation in the number of exceptions, and the related additional costs, could be found in sections II, III and IV of the report. Section V of the report presented Secretariat-wide travel statistics for the two-year period ending June 2018, using data extracted from the Umoja travel module by means of business intelligence reporting, and reflecting the travel types and categories as defined in Umoja.

27. Sections VI to VIII of the report presented information responding to further requests made by the General Assembly in the same resolution: to monitor industry best practices regarding frequent flyer miles and report any new trends in the use of those frequent flyer miles to improve the administration of travel; to present the results of the comprehensive analysis by the Secretary-General of the implementation and rate of acceptance of the home leave lump-sum payment option, including collection and analysis of Umoja travel information; and to provide an analysis and



recommendations concerning a single threshold for the use of business class by staff below the level of Assistant Secretary-General (and eligible family members) that should, in most years, be expected to maximize the use of limited travel budgets.

28. With regard specifically to the use of business class, the Secretary-General was proposing to further simplify and improve the existing Secretariat travel policy by implementing a single-threshold, total-travel-time model for the use of business class. Based on the Secretariat's historical travel pattern over the previous two years, the detailed data analysis demonstrated that the overall impact (measured by several factors including estimated costs) of a single threshold model, set at 10 hours, was essentially cost-neutral, while still achieving significant process efficiencies and simplification. If adopted, that change would enable the Secretariat to further streamline the travel administration process, thus paving the way for the Organization to more fully utilize the enabling nature of technology and benefit from the efficiencies that it brought. The related proposal had been supported by substantial analysis and data modelling.

29. **Mr. Terzi** (Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/73/779), said that the Advisory Committee recommended the adoption of the proposal of the Secretary-General for a single threshold for the use of business class by staff below the level of Assistant-Secretary-General and their eligible family members, but also recommended that the proposed threshold of ten hours of travel time should be implemented on a pilot basis. During that pilot exercise, the Secretary-General should make full use of the available Umoja data and assess the qualitative and quantitative benefits and cost efficiencies of the proposal, and then determine conclusions and lessons learned. The Advisory Committee recommended that the Secretary-General present the results of the pilot exercise for consideration by the Member States at the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly.

30. The Advisory Committee trusted that the authority to approve exceptions, which was delegated by the Secretary-General to the Under-Secretary-General for the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance, would not be decentralized under the new system of delegation of authority. The Advisory Committee welcomed the downward trend in the granting of exceptions and trusted that additional efforts would be made to encourage staff members to downgrade voluntarily and where possible from the class of travel to which they were entitled.

31. In connection with the updates on the various aspects of air travel provided in the report of the Secretary-General, the Advisory Committee emphasized that full use should be made of Umoja capabilities, including the capability to extract separate data on the cost for travel on commercial aircraft, in order to improve the quality and transparency of the information provided to Member States.

32. The Advisory Committee continued to express disappointment at the persistent low overall level of compliance with the advance-purchase policy and reiterated the need for stronger efforts in that area. The Committee expected that efforts to increase the awareness of staff and management would be made.

33. **Mr. Bamyia** (Observer for the State of Palestine), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that, in the light of the significant budget constraints that the Organization had faced in recent years, and in the context of the ongoing management reform, the Group would examine the Secretary-General's proposals regarding standards of accommodation for air travel with a view to empowering the Secretariat to deliver on all of its mandates in a cost-effective manner, ensuring the effective and efficient use of resources allocated to air travel.

34. The Group attached great importance to benefit realization with regard to the implementation of Umoja in travel administration, particularly in providing the necessary comprehensive analysis of travel data and improving transparency and accountability. It was crucial to make full use of the Umoja business intelligence module and the related online dashboard to improve the quality and transparency of information provided to Member States. The Group would be interested to learn about progress in that regard.

35. Welcoming the downward trend of exceptions to the standard of accommodation for air travel authorized by the Secretary General during the period 2016–2018 compared to the preceding two-year period, in line with relevant General Assembly resolutions, the Group encouraged the Secretary General to further intensify his efforts to minimize the use of exceptions. Furthermore, the Group shared the view of the Advisory Committee that the approval process for exceptions regarding air travel should not be decentralized as part of the new delegation of authority system being implemented in the context of the management reform.

36. The Group reiterated its disappointment at the low rate of compliance with the advance purchase policy, particularly with regard to travel which could be easily planned in advance by the staff concerned, because of the purpose to which it was linked. Low compliance was

particularly regrettable in the case of entitlement travel. Furthermore, the Group echoed the call of the Advisory Committee for increased efforts in that regard; it would seek clarification in the informal consultations on the matter regarding the challenges which had prevented the Secretariat from being able to implement the General Assembly resolutions in full.

37. The Group attached great importance to ensuring that the procurement process for all air-travel management services contracts was fully compliant with general procurement principles. The Group would seek detailed information during the informal consultations regarding the specific measures taken by the Secretariat to achieve that objective. Noting the Secretary General's proposal regarding the threshold for the use of business class by staff below the level of Assistant Secretary-General, the Group would seek further information on that matter during the informal consultations, and wished to emphasize that any new system should not impose an additional burden on the Organization's or have a negative impact on staff productivity.

38. The Group reiterated that any policy changes or new formulations in the area of standards of accommodation for air travel remained the exclusive prerogative of the Fifth Committee and the General Assembly.

39. **Mr. Christiane** (Observer for the European Union) speaking also on behalf of the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia; the stabilization and association process country Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova, said that the Member States of the European Union continued to support the Secretary-General's efforts to strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of the Organization, and in that connection wished to see substantive progress in adjusting and improving the Secretariat's policies and practices in the management of air travel, joining the Advisory Committee in believing that resources for official travel should be used more judiciously.

40. Noting with concern that the overall costs related to air travel had increased year after year, the European Union welcomed the Organization's efforts to reverse that trend for the period January-June 2018, and encouraged every United Nations entity to continue to strive for greater discipline. Promoting a culture of accountability at the United Nations was key to guaranteeing more prudent use of travel resources, as was considering, case-by-case, the question of whether travel was necessary at all, given the opportunity to

make more use of modern information and communications technology.

41. The European Union encouraged more transparent sharing of comprehensive information on air travel. It had noted in particular the clearly uneven access to such information in Umoja, and believed that more transparency in travel costs could be achieved by making more effort to widen the implementation and use of that application. Such action would help to produce more comparative data showing effectiveness, cost efficiencies or impact on staff productivity. That was particularly important in the light of the recurring issue of over-expenditure in travel budgets.

42. The European Union remained concerned at the low level of adherence across the Organization to the advance purchase policy for travel, and believed that including the level of compliance with that policy as a performance measurement in managerial evaluations would help to reverse that trend. It wished to reiterate that permitting travel in first class ran counter to the spirit of a modern, accountable, effective and efficient United Nations. That practice should be abolished entirely across the Organization. The current business class was the functional equivalent of the first class of the past. Pending the formal abolition of the practice, incentives should continue to be given across the Organization for voluntary downgrades of the class of travel. The European Union reaffirmed the need for a single-threshold total-travel-time model for business-class travel, and regarded the Advisory Committee's comments and recommendations as forming a good starting point to refine the implementation and future use of that model.

43. Lastly, the European Union wished to invite the Secretary-General to undertake a long overdue comprehensive review of the policy for air travel also for members of organs, subsidiary organs, committees, councils, commissions and conferences of the United Nations.

44. **Mr. Conroy** (United States of America) said that an organization's approach to travel policies and the implementation of those policies was an indicator of its approach to planning and using resources. An effective approach to travel required well-managed and mission-essential resource utilization based on organizational priorities. Conversely, travel luxuries limited the availability of funds for essential travel and risked harming the organization's reputation.

45. In 2018, the Committee had agreed on a sensible and responsible resolution that halted first class travel for United Nations staff. His delegation shared the view, expressed in previous reports of the Advisory

Committee and Joint Inspection Unit, that modern business class was equivalent to the first class of the past. The time had come to consider broadening the categories of United Nations personnel included in that prohibition. On a related matter, while his delegation valued the Secretary-General's concrete proposal on the use of a single threshold for business class travel, it was disappointed that cost saving was not one of the primary goals of the proposal. It therefore looked forward to finding common ground on a single threshold that ensures mandate implementation and was cost-effective.

46. His delegation welcomed the efforts to decrease the use of exceptions to the standard of accommodation for air travel and to promote voluntary downgrades, but remained disappointed that the only decrease in travel volume had been in the use of economy class, while the use of business and first class travel had increased during the 2018 reporting period. Additionally, as the data provided did not allow for a direct comparison of expenditure, and presented information on all modes of transportation, his delegation looked forward to clarification of that comparison with regard to air travel. Furthermore, as only 35 percent of official travel conformed to the current advance-purchase policy, the Organization could and must do more to address the challenge of compliance.

47. Many Member States, including his own, had adjusted their travel policies to reflect modern-day travel alternatives and budgetary realities. The United Nations, whose travel costs were met by the Member States' taxpayers, must also adapt and update its approach, and focus its resources where they could have the most positive effect on the delivery of mandates. His delegation would continue to advocate cost-conscious, mission-essential travel, and believed that comprehensive travel rules for United-Nations-related personnel at all levels should be considered.

48. **Mr. Yamaguchi** (Japan), recalling the briefing given by the Secretary-General at the informal plenary meeting of the General Assembly on 1 March 2018 regarding the financial situation of the Organization, said that, in the view of his delegation, more judicious use of funds, including funds for air travel, would result in a more resilient Organization.

49. While the report of the Secretary-General had reflected the progress made in the previous several years, particularly the welcome decision in 2018 to eliminate first class travel for United Nations staff, further changes should be considered. Overall air-travel-related costs had increased year after year, so consideration must be given to ways of reversing that trend while ensuring the smooth operation of the Organization, including through

making better use of information and communications technology.

50. One of the issues for discussion during the current session was the proposed single threshold for business class travel. In that connection, his delegation believed that it would be productive to discuss that proposal, with the aim of simplifying and increasing the efficiency of procedures. On the other hand, it wished to emphasize that further savings could be achieved by standardizing economy-class travel for the United Nations, as many Member States had done. In that connection, his delegation wished to examine in detail whether a standard for business class solely based on travel time was adequate.

51. **Mr. Woldeyes** (Ethiopia) said that he wished to thank the Chair and the Member-State representatives who had expressed sympathy at the preceding and current meetings of the Committee in connection with the recent crash of Ethiopian Airlines flight 302. His Government shared the grief of every affected family. The airline was known for its excellent service and high levels of safety and security, but human talent and knowledge had their limits. An investigation into the accident was under way, in cooperation with all stakeholders, including the aircraft manufacturer. Reception centres had been established and assistance was being provided at the international airports in Addis Ababa and Nairobi, and the Permanent Mission of Ethiopia to the United Nations stood ready to render services as needed.

*The meeting rose at 11.05 a.m.*