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Summary record of the first part* of the 43rd meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 22 December 2000, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Park Hae-yun (Vice-Chairman) (Republic of Korea)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Mselle

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* The summary record of the second part of the meeting, to be reconvened on Saturday, 23 December 2000, will appear as document A/C.5/55/SR.43/Add.1.

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In the absence of Mr. Rosenthal (Guatemala), Mr. Park Hae-yun (Republic of Korea), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 11.55 a.m.

Agenda item 117: Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (continued)

Agenda item 153: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (continued)

Implementation of the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (continued) (A/C.5/55/L.32)

Draft resolution A/C.5/55/L.32

1. **Mr. Schlesinger** (Austria) introduced draft resolution A/C.5/55/L.32.

2. *Draft resolution A/C.5/55/L.32 was adopted.*

3. **Mr. Thapa** (Nepal), speaking in explanation of position, said that Nepal was deeply committed to the Charter of the United Nations; indeed, its Constitution referred to the Charter as one of its fundamental guiding principles. In its 45 years of association with the United Nations, his country had always been guided by the conviction that the Organization was dedicated to global peace and the socio-economic betterment of the peoples of the world. Nepal, moreover, had been participating in United Nations peace operations since 1958.

4. His delegation agreed that there was a need to strengthen the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and would have been pleased to endorse even more additional resources than the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) had requested if a comprehensive review of the structure of the Organization were to indicate that such additional resources were justified. Even national Governments embarked on restructuring exercises only after a comprehensive review had been conducted. In the absence of such a review, the additional posts requested for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations should be considered as an interim relief rather than an emergency measure.

5. It was also essential to involve troop-contributing countries in the work of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, particularly in the area of

mission-specific planning; that would enable the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to benefit from the experience of troop contributors. Such an approach would also promote greater team spirit among military planners and greater understanding of each other's cultures, and command and control structures. While the draft text did contain references to consultations with troop-contributing countries, his delegation would have preferred more elaboration of the concept of involving troop contributors in mission-specific planning whenever peacekeeping operations were launched. Despite those reservations, however, his delegation had decided to go along with the draft resolution in order to respect the consensus.

6. **Mr. Lamek** (France), speaking on behalf of the European Union, welcomed the adoption of the draft resolution. The implementation of the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations was a step towards the fulfilment of the mandate given by the Heads of State in the United Nations Millennium Declaration. While even greater progress could have been achieved, the European Union was nevertheless pleased with the positive spirit that the Committee had displayed and hoped that efforts would continue to implement the Panel's recommendations.

7. **Ms. Isser** (United States of America) welcomed the adoption of the draft resolution, which approved emergency resource requirements for the implementation of the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations. The resources approved represented a critical first step towards heeding the United Nations Millennium Declaration, which was aimed at giving the United Nations the tools it needed for peacekeeping. Her delegation would have liked to see additional resources provided, including resources for the upgrading of the post of Civilian Police Adviser and the establishment of a criminal advisory unit and a public information capacity in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The creation of an Office of the Assistant Secretary-General was also essential to ensuring an effective senior management structure that was responsive to the needs of troop contributors, the Security Council and operations in the field. Considerable support had been expressed for that position and her delegation looked forward to its further consideration by the Committee.

8. While the draft resolution was an important step towards the implementation of the Panel's recommendations, her delegation nevertheless attached

great importance to the comprehensive review and looked forward to further consideration of those resource proposals that had not been approved in the context of the next support account submission and the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

9. **Ms. Sánchez Lorenzo** (Cuba) said that her delegation welcomed the adoption of the draft resolution, but regretted the Secretary-General's failure to comply with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. Many of the posts requested by the Secretary-General were not in fact emergencies. Her delegation hoped that the comprehensive review to be carried out the following year would fully respect the procedures and rules governing the Committee's work.

Agenda item 117: Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (continued)

Conditions of service and compensation for officials, other than Secretariat officials, serving the General Assembly: full-time members of the International Civil Service Commission and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (continued) (A/C.5/55/L.35)

10. **Mr. Ramos** (Portugal), Rapporteur, introduced draft decision A/C.5/55/L.35 and recommended that it be adopted without a vote.

11. *Draft decision A/C.5/55/L.35 was adopted.*

Contingency fund: consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates (A/C.5/55/34)

12. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), orally presenting the Advisory Committee's report, said that the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/55/34) provided information on programme budget estimates and revised estimates charged to the contingency fund. The items were listed in the annex to the report. The total amount to be charged to the contingency fund was approximately \$16.1 million and the Committee was asked to request the General Assembly to note that a balance of \$224,300 would remain in the fund. In the past, the Advisory Committee had from time to time drawn attention to the need to monitor the adequacy of the

fund. If the experience of the current year were to continue in the future, then a review of the adequacy of the fund should be carried out by the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee. He wished to draw attention to two items that had been included in the report, namely, an amount of \$517,600 for jointly financed administrative activities and an amount of \$8 million for construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance. Those amounts had been included in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 42/211.

13. **The Chairman** proposed that the Fifth Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that it should note that a balance of \$224,300 remained in the contingency fund.

14. **Mr. Nakkari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the Committee should consider the report in informal consultations before it adopted the proposed draft decision.

15. **Mr. Acakpo-Satchivi** (Secretary of the Committee) said that, in his experience, the item had never been the subject of informal consultations, especially since its consideration came during the final hours of the Committee's work and the amounts indicated had already been approved. The Committee, however, was master of its own procedure.

16. **Mr. Nakkari** (Syrian Arab Republic) agreed that the Committee was indeed master of its own procedure. Enough time was available and the item should be taken up in informal consultations.

17. **Ms. Sánchez Lorenzo** (Cuba) asked whether the draft text should not also reflect the Committee's earlier decision on the revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its 2000 substantive session.

18. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Committee had already approved the amounts indicated in the annex to the report. That approval had been preceded by extensive informal consultations on some of the items. The Committee was now being presented only with an indication of how those amounts were going to be charged to the contingency fund and the balance that remained in the fund. The Advisory Committee had considered the report and had concluded that the Secretary-General had followed the proper procedure,

including the proper interpretation of the use of the fund for the amounts in question. If any question remained as to whether or not an amount should be charged to the fund, he or the representative of the Secretary-General would be happy to respond.

19. **Mr. Sach** (Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division) said, with reference to the contingency fund, that he considered the matter to be one of record keeping. The items that were listed against the fund were ones on which the Committee had already taken action. On the question of why the commitment authority of the Economic and Social Council was not reflected in the draft decision, he said that charges against the contingency fund were listed only at the point of appropriation; in the Council's case, therefore, the charges would be included in the second performance report.

20. **Mr. Nakkari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that, while there might be no practical need for informal consultations, he wished to reiterate that the Committee must not adopt unwritten and untranslated documents that were not on the table. The Secretariat must be given sufficient time to prepare draft decisions so that the Committee could adopt them in all languages. He hoped that there would be no need in future for him to keep reaffirming that point.

21. **Mr. Acakpo-Satchivi** (Secretary of the Committee) said that the Committee would shortly begin consideration of its draft report (A/C.5/55/L.29). Consideration of the draft text was timed to permit the Committee to review all the decisions on the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 that had been taken thus far in the session. He wished to draw the attention of the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to section XI of draft resolution I, in which the General Assembly would note that a balance of \$224,300 remained in the contingency fund.

22. **The Chairman** said that the Committee would return to the item later in the meeting.

Recosting of outstanding statements of programme budget implications and revised estimates
(A/C.5/55/35)

23. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), orally presenting the report of the Advisory Committee, said that, in his report (A/C.5/55/35), the Secretary-General presented the result of the recosting

of estimates that had not been covered in the first performance report (A/55/645 and Corr.1 and Add.1). Those estimates were related to a number of decisions which the Committee had taken. The Advisory Committee recommended that the Committee should take the action that was proposed in paragraph 2 of the Secretary-General's report.

24. **The Chairman** proposed that the Fifth Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that it should take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the recosting of outstanding statements of programme budget implications and revised estimates and decide that the recosting and the related adjustments should be reflected in the revised appropriation for the biennium 2000-2001.

25. **Mr. Nakkari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said he hoped that the Committee would treat that draft decision in the same way as it had decided to deal with the previous draft decision.

26. **The Chairman** said that the text of the draft decision was contained in document A/C.5/55/L.29, which was available in all the official languages.

Draft report of the Fifth Committee
(A/C.5/55/L.29) (continued)

Draft resolution I

27. **The Chairman** drew attention to draft resolution I: Questions relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001, contained in the draft report of the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/55/L.29). As Committee members would recall, all sections of draft resolution I had been adopted at previous meetings of the Committee or earlier during the current meeting.

28. **Mr. Acakpo-Satchivi** (Secretary of the Committee) pointed out that that was not exactly the case. At the request of the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic, action on section XI (Contingency fund) and section XII (Recosting of outstanding statements of programme budget implications and revised estimates) had been deferred for lack of documentation. Section VI of the draft resolution (Revised estimates of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2000) should be deleted, since it was reproduced as draft decision I at the end of the report. All subsequent sections should be renumbered accordingly.

29. *Section XI of draft resolution I was adopted.*

30. *Section XII of draft resolution I was adopted.*

31. **Mr. Nakkari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that, although he had no objection to section XI, he wondered why the Committee was now adopting a section which it had not adopted earlier.

32. **Mr. Sach** (Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division) explained that sections XI and XII both dealt with matters which the Committee had addressed prior to its consideration of the draft report but had not adopted at the time for lack of documentation in all six official languages. The Committee had therefore taken action on the basis of the relevant sections of the draft report (A/C.5/55/L.29), which was available in all the official languages.

33. *Draft resolution I was adopted.*

34. **Mr. Nakkari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation had agreed to the ad hoc procedure on an exceptional basis. In future, however, it would not take action on provisions that were presented orally; the necessary documentation should be available in all six official languages 24 hours in advance.

Draft resolution II

35. **The Chairman** drew the Committee's attention to draft resolution II: Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001, which was divided into three sections: section A on revised budget appropriations for the biennium 2000-2001; section B on revised income estimates for the biennium 2000-2001; and section C on financing of the appropriations for the year 2001.

36. **Mr. Acakpo-Satchivi** (Secretary of the Committee) corrected a number of figures in part C of the draft resolution. In paragraph 1 (a), the amount should be 51,899,313 dollars; in paragraph 1 (a) (i), the figure should be 21,193,700 dollars; and the amount in paragraph 1 (b) should be 1,213,381,487 dollars.

37. *Draft resolution II was adopted.*

38. **The Chairman** noted that draft decision I: Revised estimates of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2000, which, in fact, reproduced section VI of draft resolution I just adopted, and draft decision II: The critical situation of the International Research and

Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, had already been adopted by the Committee.

Agenda item 176: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (*continued*)

(A/C.5/55/L.26)

39. **Mr. Kandanga** (Namibia) introduced draft resolution A/C.5/55/L.26 and recommended its adoption without a vote.

40. **Mr. Yeo** (Director of the Peacekeeping Finance Division) provided the figures for the blank portions of paragraphs 15 and 16 of the draft resolution following the Committee's adoption of draft resolution A/C.5/55/L.32 on the implementation of the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations, in particular paragraph 5 thereof. In paragraph 15, the second line should read "additional amount of 9,190,200 dollars gross (8,741,600 dollars net) for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 ...". The seventh line of the paragraph should read "4,595,100 dollars gross (4,235,800 dollars net) ...", and the ninth line should read "to be applied against the balance, that is, 4,595,100 dollars gross (4,235,800 dollars net)". Paragraph 16, beginning with the first blank in the fourth line, should read "448,600 dollars approved for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 January to 30 June 2001, 224,300 dollars being the amount pertaining to the period ending 31 December 2000 and the balance, that is, 224,300 dollars ...".

41. *Draft resolution A/C.5/55/L.26 was adopted.*

Agenda item 118: Programme planning (*continued*)

(A/C.5/55/L.18)

42. **Mr. Chandra** (India) introduced draft resolution A/C.5/55/L.18, which was divided into three sections: section I on the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005; section II on the programme performance report for the period 1998-1999; and section III on other conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination. The consensus text on programme 19, human rights, was the product of joint consultations between the Fifth Committee and the Third Committee. He expressed thanks to the representative of France for having acted as coordinator of the joint consultations and for ensuring that documentation had been available on time. He

recommended the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus.

43. *Draft resolution A/C.5/55/L.18 was adopted.*

44. **Ms. Dantoine** (France), speaking in explanation of position on behalf of the European Union, thanked the Third Committee for four weeks of intensive deliberations on programme 19, which had been particularly difficult without the participation of either the Committee for Programme and Coordination, or the Economic and Social Council. Agreement must be reached on the medium-term plan, particularly with respect to human rights, a major priority. Negotiations between the Third and Fifth Committees had been characterized by an outstanding spirit of cooperation, despite the difficulties created by the new concepts linked to programme planning. Although the new version of the medium-term plan had been adopted by consensus, it was not more uniform as a result. The European Union had made major concessions in order to support it, in the belief that the Organization must have a budgetary tool that was agreed to by consensus.

The meeting was suspended at 1 p.m.