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APPOINTMENT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR

Note by the Secretariat

1. In September 1995 the General Conference, on the recommendation of the Board of Governors, appointed the Comptroller and Auditor General of the United Kingdom as the Agency's External Auditor to audit the Agency's accounts for the financial years 1996 and 1997¹; in September 1997 the appointment was extended for the financial years 1998 and 1999.²
2. This matter was considered by the Programme and Budget Committee of the Board at its meetings in May 1999. The Chairman of the Board noted that, because of the uniqueness and complexities of the Agency's activities, it was useful if the External Auditor were to serve for a period of several years, as this made for more thorough and efficient auditing and follow-up on recommendations. In this connection, attention was drawn to the fact that the previous two External Auditors (from Kenya and Canada) served for eight years (1982-1989) and six years (1990-1995) respectively.
3. The Comptroller and Auditor General of the United Kingdom expressed his willingness to continue with this appointment and indicated that the expected costs of auditing the Agency's accounts for the years 2000 and 2001 would be consistent with the current annual auditing fee of US \$273 800, adjusted as necessary for inflation and/or any changes in audit scope that might be deemed necessary.
4. At the recommendation of the Programme and Budget Committee, on 8 June 1999 the Board of Governors agreed to recommend that the General Conference extend the period of appointment of the Comptroller and Auditor General of the United Kingdom as the Agency's External Auditor by a further two years, in order that he may audit the Agency's accounts for the years 2000 and 2001.

Conclusion

5. The General Conference may wish to endorse the recommendation of the Board as set out in paragraph 4 above.

^{1/} See General Conference decision GC(39)/DEC/17.

^{2/} See General Conference decision GC(41)/DEC/12.

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