

General Conference

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Committee of the Whole

Record of the First Meeting

Held at the Austria Center Vienna on Tuesday, 27 September 2005, at 10.50 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. STRATFORD (United States of America)

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The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document GC(49)/INF/10/Rev.1.

¹ GC(49)/20.

Abbreviations used in this record:

TCF Technical Cooperation Fund

Election of Vice-Chairmen and organization of work

1. The CHAIRMAN, having expressed appreciation for the confidence which the General Conference had placed in him, said that, as provided for in Rule 46 of the Rules of Procedure and following group consultations, it had been proposed that Mr. Poptchev of Bulgaria and Mr. Eloumni of Morocco serve as Vice-Chairmen of the Committee. He took it that the Committee wished to endorse their nominations.
2. It was so agreed.
3. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to document GC(49)/COM.5/1, which listed the agenda items referred to the Committee of the Whole by the General Conference. He proposed that, in line with past practice, he report orally on the Committee's deliberations at a plenary meeting of the Conference. He took it that the Committee wished the practice of clustering, to the extent practicable, the draft resolutions recommended to the Conference by the Committee for adoption to be continued.
4. It was so agreed.

10. The Agency's Accounts for 2004 (GC(49)/7)

5. The representative of SWITZERLAND, having expressed support for the External Auditor's recommendations regarding extrabudgetary funding, called for the formulation of rules on conditions for the acceptance of extrabudgetary funds.
6. The CHAIRMAN, noting that no other Committee members wished to take the floor, took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it adopt the draft resolution on page I of document GC(49)/7.
7. It was so agreed.

11. The Agency's Budget for 2005 — supplementary appropriation (GC(49)/8)

8. The CHAIRMAN recalled that in December 2004 the United Nations General Assembly had approved a US \$7.6 million package to finance Phase II security enhancements at the Vienna International Centre. The Agency's share amounted to some \$4 million.
9. With the expenditure on corresponding security enhancements at the Agency's regional offices and laboratory sites, the total security enhancement costs for the Agency amounted to approximately

\$7.1 million. The Committee had before it, in the Annex to document GC(49)/8, a relevant draft resolution recommended by the Board for adoption by the Conference.

10. The representative of SWITZERLAND, noting that the draft resolution envisaged the use of the cash surplus for 2003, said that his delegation had in the past called for the costs of the Phase II security enhancements at the Agency's Headquarters to be met from the Regular Budget. It was opposed to the use of cash surpluses for such purposes.

11. The CHAIRMAN said that the Board, which had considered various ways of meeting the Phase II security enhancement costs, had agreed to recommend adoption of the draft resolution contained in the Annex to document GC(49)/8 despite the fact that cash surpluses should as a rule be returned to Member States. He urged the representative of Switzerland to go along with the Board's recommendation.

12. Noting that no further Committee members wished to take the floor, he took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it approve the supplementary appropriation to the Regular Budget for 2005 as set out in document GC(49)/8 and, accordingly, adopt the draft resolution contained in the Annex to that document.

13. It was so agreed.

12. The Agency's Programme and Budget for 2006–2007 (GC(49)/2 and GC(49)INF/8)

14. The CHAIRMAN, drawing attention to the Agency's Programme and Budget for 2006–2007 contained in document GC/(49)/2, recalled that in July 2003 the Board had approved a "Package Proposal" setting the budgetary envelopes for 2004–2005 and 2006–2007.

15. In June 2005, the Board had agreed to recommend to the General Conference for approval: (a) a total Regular Budget for 2006 of €273 619 000; (b) a target figure of \$77 500 000 for the TCF in 2006; and (c) maintenance of the Working Capital Fund at the level of the euro equivalent of \$18 million. The corresponding draft resolutions were contained in the Annex to document GC(49)/2.

16. The Committee also had before it, in document GC(49)/INF/8, an updated report on the progress being made in the acceptance by Member States of the amendment to Article XIV.A of the Agency's Statute approved by the General Conference in order to permit biennial budgeting.

17. Expressing the hope that the Committee would recommend to the Conference that it urge Member States to help speed up the acceptance process, he drew attention to a draft recommendation which had been prepared by the Secretariat and was currently being circulated. The draft recommendation read as follows:

"The Committee of the Whole recommends that the Conference take the following decision:

"The General Conference recalled its resolution GC(43)/RES/8, which approved an amendment to Article XIV.A of the Agency's Statute permitting the establishment of biennial budgeting.

"The General Conference noted that, in accordance with Article XVIII.C (ii) of the Statute, two thirds of all the members of the Agency will have to accept the amendment in order for it to enter into force, but also noted that as of 15 September 2005 only

38 Member States had deposited instruments of acceptance with the depositary Government. For this reason, the General Conference encourages and urges Member States that have not yet deposited instruments of acceptance of this non-controversial amendment to do so as soon as feasible in order to allow the benefits of biennial budgeting to be attained. This would permit the Agency to come in line with the virtually universal practice among UN organizations of biennial budgeting.”

18. The representative of FRANCE asked whether the wording of the decision recommended in the draft text just circulated was in line with similar decisions which the General Conference had taken in previous years.

19. The DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR MANAGEMENT said it was the first time that a decision relating to Article XIV.A of the Statute had been drafted, so there had been no prior language to refer to.

20. The SECRETARY OF THE COMMITTEE said that the format of the draft text was generally along the lines of the decisions which the Conference had taken in recent years regarding the amendment to Article VI of the Statute.

21. The representative of SWITZERLAND, accepting the draft text, said it would be simpler for everyone if the Agency moved to biennial budgeting.

22. The representative of FRANCE, while expressing support for the draft text, suggested that “non-controversial” be deleted.

23. The CHAIRMAN, noting that there appeared to be no more speakers, took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it approve a total Regular Budget figure for 2006 of €273 619 000 on the basis of an exchange rate of €1.00 to \$1.00, and accordingly that it adopt draft resolution A in the Annex to document GC(49)/2, entitled “Regular Budget appropriations for 2006”.

24. It was so agreed.

25. The CHAIRMAN further took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it approve a target for voluntary contributions to the TCF for 2006 of \$77 500 000, and accordingly that it adopt draft resolution B in the Annex to document GC(49)/2, entitled “Technical Cooperation Fund allocation for 2006”.

26. It was so agreed.

27. The CHAIRMAN then took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it approve maintenance of the level of the Working Capital Fund in 2006 at its current level of the euro equivalent of \$18 000 000, and accordingly that it adopt draft resolution C in the Annex to GC(49)/2, entitled “The Working Capital Fund in 2006”.

28. It was so agreed.

29. The CHAIRMAN asked, with regard to document GC(49)/INF/8 on the amendment to Article XIV.A of the Statute, whether the Committee agreed to recommend to the Conference that it take the decision drafted and circulated by the Secretariat, with the deletion of “non-controversial” in the penultimate sentence.

30. The representative of CHINA requested more time to study the draft decision.

31. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee return to the matter at a later meeting.
32. It was so agreed.

14. Scale of assessment of Members' contributions towards the Regular Budget (GC(49)/16 and Corr.1)

33. The CHAIRMAN, noting that there were no speakers, took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it adopt the draft resolution on page 3 of document GC(49)/16.
34. It was so agreed.

The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.